



Survivor Outreach Services
Serving Survivors of Illinois' Fallen Soldiers
"Never Forgotten.....Never Alone"
November 2011 Bulletin – 19th Issue

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

SOS was created to embrace and reassure Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire.

The SOS program continuously strives to provide the highest quality of services to surviving Family members of fallen Warriors. As such, we want to provide you with information on the SOS program in your area. We stand ready to serve you and answer your questions.

Services Available:

- Provide Expertise on State & Federal Survivor benefits
- Arrange for estate and financial advice
- Connect Survivors with mental health support/counseling
- Provide assistance in obtaining military reports
- Provide Survivors with resource referrals for:
 - Peer Support
 - Bereavement Counseling
 - Emergency Financial Services
 - Military Legal Assistance
 - TRICARE
 - Educational Benefits
 - Benefits Assistance

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(217) 761-3382 office, (217) 316-1191 cell, email: bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil

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(404) 784-1603 cell, email: latanya.r.yarbrough@usar.army.mil

Check us out online at:

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/family/survivoroutreach>

Connection in Southern Illinois

EXTENDED REGISTRATION TO NOVEMBER 3, 2011

November 5, 2011



ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS FOR FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN (ICFF)

November 5, 2011 • 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Registration begins at 9:00 am • Southwestern Illinois College

2500 Carlyle Avenue • Room 2320, Main Complex, 2nd floor • Belleville, Illinois 62221

Connections in Southern Illinois: Bringing Families of the Fallen Together

- **Designed for all ages and relationships** – Children, Teens, Siblings, Spouses, Parents and others
- **Share ideas for future events**
- **Create a traveling memorial**
- **Counselors & child care will be available**



Customize your day by selecting the activities that you wish to participate in. Three helpful programming tracks are available to choose from:

- 1) Resources** – Participate in sessions that will help you “Reach your financial goals”, “Establish Peer Networks”, “Restart your career”, and “Make your voices heard and find resources via the internet”.
- 2) Groups/Workshops** – Participate in interactive group and workshops that will help you “Finding Strength in Family and Community”, aid in “Handling stress, coping & healing”, and “Talking to Children about Loss and Grief”, and provide assistance to cope “One Year and Beyond: Holidays, Anniversaries, and Memories”
- 3) Creative Arts** – Participate in family friendly activities including art, music & wellness. Activities include:
 - “Long May it Wave” a therapeutic art project for the whole family
 - “Layers of Life” an opportunity to create and experience music through the use of instruments, body percussion and voice. (No musical abilities required)
 - “Our Journey Together” **Please bring your personal token of remembrance** to this activity which will be used as a symbol of strength in combination with pictures, words, thoughts, feelings, and actions. The group will interact with each other as they problem solve and offer suggestions as to how to face various challenges and obstacles on this journey.
 - “Garage Band” - will provide an opportunity for adolescents to come together in a non-threatening environment with garage band type instruments (drums, guitar, vocals, keyboard, and percussion) No prior instrumental experience required

This is the third in a series of events around the state and an opportunity to tell us what would be helpful for your family at future events.

Register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/3gz47vc> (Space is limited) For questions, contact Bob Gillmore at 217.761.3382

**Complimentary for all attendees: Lunch, Child Care, Parking (Parking will be in lots M-3 & M-4)
See reverse side for map of college and parking locations**

 Find us on Facebook • www.facebook.com/ILCFF

Check out the Illinois Families of Fallen Service Member Task Force “Community Connections” Resource Guide!

http://www.nchsd.org/libraryfiles/HDAFiles/Veterans%20Project/IN7511_Resourcesguide.pdf

Survivors Present Issues to Leadership at Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Summit

Survivors outlined their top recommendations to Army leadership in October at the conclusion of the Survivor Outreach Services Army Family Action Plan Summit.

LTG (3-star) Rick Lynch, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (in photo-graph) participated in the 13 October event, along with his wife, Sarah. Also in attendance and delivering remarks were Linda Odierno, wife of the Chief of Staff of the Army GEN (4-star) Raymond Odierno.



The top five recommendations made to leadership were:

- Establish face-to-face training for Soldiers about the importance of a last will and testament
- Refine the Casualty Assistance Officer Selection method to include the Casualty Assistance Centers in the screening process
- Remove time restrictions for Survivors to contribute to tax-free growth accounts
- Create a dedicated Survivor resource website
- Mandate the stability of active duty Survivors for a minimum of one year

According to Lynch, some topics identified as issues, including Web resources, may be handled rather quickly by enhancing existing sites and making sure people are aware of them.

According to organizers, the event served as a mid-level AFAP summit. Issues presented at the conference, which cannot be resolved at a local level, will be forwarded to the AFAP summit in January held by the Department of the Army.

Speaking of the nation's fiscal situation, Lynch acknowledged that not every issue will be attainable, but it is important to identify the ones that will better serve the Army community.

Other topics discussed during the summit, but not included in the top five issues, ranged from replacing vehicle stickers for Gold Star Families with portable identification cards to the addition of training to ensure awareness of the meaning behind the Gold Star lapel button and service banners.

In her remarks, Linda Odierno thanked all Survivors who participated in the summit for their insight and recommendations, saying their feedback was critical to better serving the Army and all Survivors of the Fallen.

The summit drew from the experience of 50 Survivors. Fort Leavenworth had several Family members who participated.

Following the conclusion of the summit, participants laid a wreath in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknowns (see photograph).



Source: www.army.mil

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) Survivor Benefit Enhancements as of 11/1/2011

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) survivor benefits have changed as a result of legislation that has recently been approved by the U.S. Congress. As a result, the TDP survivor benefit is now available to a larger segment of the military population and provides extended care to children of survivors. Current TDP enrollees do not have to take any action for the new benefits to take effect. Beneficiaries not currently enrolled in the TDP can [enroll online](https://secure.ucci.com/tdptie/secure/home/home.jsp) (<https://secure.ucci.com/tdptie/secure/home/home.jsp>) now for coverage to be effective as early as November 1, 2011.

Key changes include the following:

1. Survivors do not need to have prior enrollment in the TDP at the time of the sponsor's death to receive the TDP Survivor Benefit. In the past, enrollment was required to be eligible for benefits.
2. Surviving children are eligible to receive survivor benefits through the end of the month in which they turn age 21, or 23 if enrolled in a full-time accredited college or university. Additionally, incapacitated children are eligible to receive TDP coverage for the greater of: 1) three years from the sponsor's date of death, 2) the date which the dependent turns 21, or 23 if enrolled in a full-time accredited college or university. This is an increase in coverage from the three years children received prior to legislation.
3. Eligible surviving family members not enrolled in the TDP at the time of the sponsor's death will be notified by the Government of their eligibility for enrollment in the TDP. The surviving spouse, parent, or dependent 18 years of age or older may [complete the enrollment process](https://secure.ucci.com/tdptie/secure/home/home.jsp) (<https://secure.ucci.com/tdptie/secure/home/home.jsp>) for the TDP Survivor Benefit to take effect*.

To review the survivor benefit in its entirety, visit the [Benefits section](http://www.tricare dental program.com/tdptws/enrollees/benefits/survivor_benefits.jsp) (http://www.tricare dental program.com/tdptws/enrollees/benefits/survivor_benefits.jsp) of the TDP website.

*Legal guardians & custodial parents of Survivors may download the [paper enrollment form](http://www.tricare dental program.com/tdptws/priv_stmts/privacyAct-11.jsp) (http://www.tricare dental program.com/tdptws/priv_stmts/privacyAct-11.jsp) and complete as a New Enrollment. The form can then be mailed or faxed with a copy of proof of custody or guardianship, including applicable signature/notary pages of the court order. (For survivor enrollments please do not include an initial payment.)

You may fax documents to 1-888-734-1944 or mail to the following address:
United Concordia/TDP PO Box 827583, Philadelphia, PA 19182-7583



SOS Financial Counseling Services

John Cook
Rock Island, IL
(309) 782-7400

Mark Dunlop
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
(573) 596-0153
mark.dunlop1@us.army.mil

Identity Theft Minimization Techniques Teleconference.

Nov 2, 1800-1900 (6PM - 7PM) Central:

Call in to talk with some of the SOS Financial Counselors about how to minimize you and your Service member's risk of identity theft.

Contact Mark Dunlop (573-596-0153) if you want to participate.

The call in number is 573-563-9001. (This will be a toll call.)

Useful Financial Tools

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/general/gen14.shtm>:

This is a short read of 66 Ways to save money.

<http://publications.usa.gov/USAPubs.php?NavCode=R&PageButton=1&PageCatID=9&PageCatName=Money&BegPub=20&PubsPerPage=10&selPubFormatID=0&LanguageID=0&searchText=&QueryType=category> : This is a comprehensive list of (mostly free) Money Publications.

<http://www.moneymanagement.org/Budgeting-Tools/Credit-Webinars.aspx>:

This is not a governmental entity, but is the largest nonprofit, full-service credit counseling agency in the United States. Their free web based resources are popular.

www.Powerpay.org: PowerPay tools help develop personalized, self-directed debt elimination plans.

www.controlyourcredit.gov: This is a creative way to explain how to maintain good credit.

www.choosetosave.org: These resources include the *Ballpark E\$timate®* which is an easy to use interactive tool on how much one needs to save to fund a comfortable retirement.

www.saveandinvest.org: This is free unbiased information for military families and older individuals.

www.consumer.gov: This is a Resource to help people make decisions on using money

Budget and Spending Plan Worksheets.

http://turbotap.org/portal/transition/resources/Financial_Calculators: This is a collection of financial calculators, plus budget and spending plan worksheets.

www.financialpro.org; <http://www.thewealthchannel.com/pages/About-The-Wealth-Channel> ; <http://www.designationcheck.com>; <http://www.designationcheck.com/resources>: These are respected websites in the financial counseling industry .

<https://www.checkingfinder.com>; <http://www.highyieldcheckingdeals.com>; www.Bankrate.com: These are sites to assist in getting a pulse on current interest rates and terms.

www.annualcreditreport.com: This is the truly no cost way to get a current credit report.

The below is for informational purposes only, and is not intended to imply endorsement by the Illinois National Guard or Survivor Outreach Services Program of any event, organization, corporation, or product.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Please feel free to email me at bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil with any comments, information, or events that may benefit other Survivors. If you know other Survivors that would like to receive future additions of this bulletin, please have them send me an email with the following information:

Name:

Fallen Heroes Name & Branch:

Relationship:

EMAIL Address:

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Saturday November 5, 2011

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Belleville, IL

Please register by November 3, 2011

RSVP Online at <http://tinyurl.com/3gz47vc>

Or Call Bob Gillmore at (217) 761-3382

Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony

In honor of 2LT Derwin Williams (See attached Flyer)

Friday, November 11, 2011 - 11:00am

42 Chestnut

Glenwood, Illinois

Reception Immediately Following
Forest Park Fieldhouse
325 Center Street
Glenwood, Illinois

Please RSVP to Brenda at 708-757-2310

Support Group for Family Members of Fallen Service Members

An ICFF initiative (See attached Flyer)

Saturday, November 12, 2011

1:00-2:30 p.m.

A light lunch will be served

****NEW MEMBERS WELCOME****

Institute for Psychoanalysis

122 South Michigan Avenue

Room 1323

Chicago, IL 60603

RSVP to Polly Everett* 312-922-7474, ext. 309

or Judy Schiffman* 312-922-7474, ext. 310

National Wreaths Across America Remembrance Ceremony

December 10, 2011; 12 Noon EST

www.wreathsassamerica.org

877-385-9504

Helpful Contacts and Resources:

Military & Family Life Consultants

Central/South (217) 720-0268

North: 708-638-2068

Providing free, confidential problem solving to all service members and their families. MFLC's travel to your home town. (12 free sessions)

Military OneSource

12 free sessions per issue from a counselor in your area (no cost)

1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.com

Department of Veterans Affairs

Free counseling for all family members including spouses, children, parents and siblings (no cost)

1-800-827-1000 or <http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

Health and Dental Insurance

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil>

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

1-800-959-TAPS (8277) or www.taps.org

Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213 or <http://www.ssa.gov>

Defense Finance & Accounting Office

1-800-321-1080 or www.dfas.mil

National Military Families Association (NMFA)

<http://www.militaryfamily.org>

Gold Star Wives of America

1-888-751-6350 or <http://www.goldstarwives.org/>

American Gold Star Mothers

202-265-0991 or <http://www.goldstarmoms.com/>