



**Survivor Outreach Services**  
Serving Survivors of Illinois' Fallen Soldiers  
“Never Forgotten.....Never Alone”  
February 2011 Bulletin – 10th 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

Bobby Gillmore, SOS Support Coordinator  
Joint Forces Headquarters, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702-2399  
(217) 761-3382 office, (217) 316-1191 cell, email: [bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil)

Jim Frazier, SOS Support Coordinator  
Woodstock Armory, 1301 Sunset Ridge Road, Woodstock, IL 60098  
(708) 646-5933 cell, email: [james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil)

Robert Sheahan, SOS Support Coordinator  
East St. Louis Armory, 2931 State Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205-2233  
(618) 558-4196 cell, email: [robert.sheahan@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.sheahan@us.army.mil)

Dollie Carpenter, SOS Support Coordinator  
Building 110, East Avenue, Rock Island, IL  
(309) 782-8253 office, email: [dollie.carpenter@us.army.mil](mailto:dollie.carpenter@us.army.mil)



# Illinois Families of Fallen Service Member Task Force

in partnership with Survivor Outreach Services

---

## **About the Illinois Fallen Service Member Task Force**

The Fallen Service Member Task Force is the collaborative effort of over 15 different local and national service systems dedicated to helping Illinois Families of Fallen Service Members. The goals of the Task Force are to organize events and coordinate resources to assist those Family members who have suffered a military loss.

---

### Illinois Families of Fallen Service Member Task Force Agencies Include:

Barr-Harris Children's Grief Center  
La Rabida Children's Hospital Chicago Child  
Trauma Center  
The Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis  
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology  
Health & Disability Advocates

Children's Research Triangle  
Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition  
IDHS, Division of Mental Health  
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral  
Agencies, (INCCRRA)  
Institute for Therapy Through the Arts

McCormick Foundation  
Michael Reese Health Trust  
National Child Traumatic Stress Network  
Northwestern University  
Survivor Outreach Services  
Zero to Three

## 'Hero Miles' Program Supports Families of Fallen, Wounded

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=62333>

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

BETHESDA, Md., Jan. 5, 2011 - A popular program that turns donated frequent-flyer miles into free airline tickets for wounded warriors receiving medical care as well as their families will expand this year so families of the fallen and combat wounded can participate in two upcoming events.

The Fisher House Foundation, which administers the "Hero Miles" program, plans to offer airline tickets so grieving families needing assistance can fly to Washington, D.C., this Memorial Day weekend to participate in the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors seminar, foundation President Dave Coker told American Forces Press Service.

The annual conference, to run May 27 to 30, offers a camp for children, a workshop for adults and comfort for families whose military member died in service to the nation, regardless of the cause.

"We will use Hero Miles to bring in any families that need assistance, and eliminate the cost of getting to [Washington,] D.C. as a barrier," Coker said.

In addition, the Hero Miles program will help families to attend the second annual Warrior Games held in the spring in Colorado Springs, Colo., Coker said.

Some 200 disabled active-duty servicemembers and military veterans will compete in the second annual Warrior Games, scheduled for May 16 to 21 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. Participants will put their long recuperations and months of training to the test as they go for the gold in events to include shooting, swimming, archery, track and field, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball, officials said.

Coker called it fitting that the Hero Miles program helps families who might otherwise not get the opportunity to participate in these events.

"Our goal is to eliminate the barriers to participation, and make sure that families who wish to attend these events can do so," he said.

The Fisher House Foundation has been underwriting all administrative costs and ticketing charges for the Hero Miles program since 2005. The Hero Miles program provides a way for passengers of participating airlines to donate their unused frequent-flier miles to reunite military men and women undergoing treatment at a military or Veterans Affairs medical center with their families.

The program provides free round-trip airline tickets to two categories of passengers. Servicemembers on at least five days of approved leave from their medical center who don't

qualify for government-funded airfare can receive tickets home and back. In addition, qualified servicemembers may receive tickets to enable their family or close friends to visit them while they're treated at the medical center.

To date, the program has provided more than 21,000 airline tickets -- valued at more than \$27 million -- to combat veterans of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families, Coker said.

Coker marveled at the generosity of people who donate their frequent-flyer miles to support the program.

"The miles have no intrinsic value, and [donors] aren't getting a tax deduction for donating the miles," he said. "They are doing it because they want to support the military."

For as little as \$5, or more typically, \$10, the program can provide free airline tickets to servicemembers or families that otherwise might cost them about \$1,400, Coker said.

"So this is a tremendous way that we can have a huge impact," he added.

Related Sites:

Fisher House Foundation <http://www.fisherhouse.org/>

Hero Miles <http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heromiles.html>



 **FREEDOM ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund was the vision of founders LtCol Oliver L. North, USMC (Ret.) and the late LtGen Edward J. Bronars, USMC. The Scholarship Fund honors Americans in our Armed Forces who have sacrificed life or limb defending our country by providing educational scholarships for their children.

The mission of the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund is two-fold. First, it helps offset the high cost of a college education for the sons and daughters of American heroes. Second, it is a reminder to the recipient that their parents' sacrifice will never be forgotten by a grateful nation.

The dependent children of U.S. military personnel who have been killed or permanently disabled in an operational mission or training exercise are eligible to apply. Also eligible are children who have a parent classified as a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action.

The Scholarship Fund is a program of Freedom Alliance - an educational and charitable 501(c)(3) foundation which supports our troops and their families.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.fascholarship.com](http://www.fascholarship.com) or call 800-475-6620



## SOS Financial Counseling Services

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

### IDENTITY THEFT RESOURCES AND TIPS

#### PERSONALLY VIEW YOUR CREDIT REPORT

Every 12 months you can order a report from each credit reporting agency for free. Most consumer experts suggest staggering your reports (ordering one every four months). Use the free, official government site only: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), NOT the freecreditreport.com website. Additional Identity Theft tips can be found at

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idt05.shtm>

Note: the fraud alert is a 'flag' you can place on your credit report after being victimized. This alerts potential creditors that you are a potential fraud victim. Unfortunately, creditors aren't required to abide by [or even check] the alert. Another tool is a credit freeze. This prevents creditors from issuing credit altogether and blocks others, including potential creditors, landlords and employers from viewing your credit report. Freezes are free for identity theft victims and available at a nominal cost for others. You can also place an "Active Duty Alert" to prevent identity theft if you are deployed. Call 888-766-0008 to set up a free "Active Duty Alert." For more information see [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt147.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt147.shtm) . One can also visit [www.consumerunion.org](http://www.consumerunion.org) or [www.financialprivacy.org](http://www.financialprivacy.org) for more specific information on credit reports.

#### OPTING OUT – PHONE & MAIL OFFERS

In order to prevent your personal information from unintentionally getting out, the National Do Not Call Registry allows you to register both land lines and cell phones online at <https://www.donotcall.gov> or over the phone 1-888-382-1222 - calling from the number you are registering. More information on the National Unwanted Telephone Marketing Call list can be found at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/tcpa.html> .

The National Do Not Call **Registry list** only applies to calls across state lines. Sales calls within a state will still be permitted unless you also opt out of solicitations through your state. It is important to understand that many states also have a state do not call list as well for companies calling within the state. In these states, one needs to ALSO opt out of the state list if they desire to do so. Information is at <http://www.the-dma.org/government/donotcallists.shtml>. For example, in Illinois, The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the state of Illinois each operate a No Call registry. In order to achieve maximum protection from unwanted calls **in Illinois**, it is best to sign up with both. To sign up for Illinois No Call:

<http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/donotcall/donotcall.htm>

Registration won't stop all nuisance calls. Banks, phone companies, airlines, insurance companies, nonprofit charitable organizations, and politicians are not under the jurisdiction of the FTC, and won't be impacted by the list.

### **OPTING OUT -- CREDIT OFFERS**

Here are two good ways to stop [or at least slow] offers for credit:

(1) Go to [www.OptOutPrescreen.com](http://www.OptOutPrescreen.com) (or call 888-5-optout). These are the credit reporting agencies opt in/opt out resources to stop the agencies from selling your information to direct marketers. You can opt out for a five-year period or permanently (*you can always opt back in if you decide you miss the mail!*). If you use the website provided, you can fill out a very brief, simple form to opt out. It will then provide a screen with the information you provided that you will need to print out, sign, and mail to the address provided in order to permanently opt out. If you don't do that last step (print and mail), it will opt you out for a 5-year period instead.

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre17.shtml> gives details on how to opt out of prescreened credit offers.

(2) Direct Marketing Association (DMA) Do Not Mail file: <https://www.dmachoice.org> . The site also shares information for getting off of commercial e-mail lists <http://www.ims-dm.com/cgi/optoutemps.php> .

---

*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:**

**Valentines for Veterans Concert**  
**UIC Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago**  
**Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 3 p.m**

The goals of the event are to recognize the sacrifices of our Gold Star Families and to provide Chicago area Veterans with an unforgettable experience with their loved ones. We also hope to raise community

awareness of the challenges facing our Veterans, severely wounded soldiers and their families and to encourage Chicagoans to visit hospitalized Veterans and become VA volunteers.

Please contact Voluntary Service at 708-202-2523 for your free tickets which will then be mailed to you.

Hines VAH, will be joining Jesse Brown VAMC, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) to host this exciting concert event that honors the men and women who have served our country.

### **Gold for Gold**

#### **“Leap of Faith Seminar”**

**Homestead, Florida (22-23 February 2011)**

A life enrichment seminar for those who have lost a loved one serving in the United States Armed Forces. (The day and a half seminar includes, and is built around a tandem jump with the US Army Golden Knights.) **Contact: Operation Support Our Troops at (630) 971-1150 or email [info@osotil.org](mailto:info@osotil.org)**

### **Connections in Chicago**

**Save  
the  
Date**

 **Illinois Families of Fallen  
Service Member Task Force**  
in partnership with Survivor Outreach Services

**Connections in Chicago!**  
Part of our continuing series of events for Families of  
Fallen Service Members.

**April 2, 2011 • 10:00 am - 4:30 pm**  
Registration begins at 9:00 am

**Downtown Chicago  
Details Coming Soon!**

 Find us on Facebook

## **Helpful Contacts and Resources:**

### **Military OneSource**

12 free sessions per issue from a counselor in your area (no cost)  
1-800-342-9647 or [www.militaryonesource.com](http://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](http://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](http://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/>

Please feel free to email me any 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: