



Survivor Outreach Services
Serving Survivors of Illinois' Fallen Soldiers
"Never Forgotten.....Never Alone"
September 2011 Bulletin – 17th 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

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

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

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

Latanya Yarbrough, SOS Support Coordinator
10 S 100 South Frontage Road, Darien, IL 60561-1780
(404) 784-1603 cell, email: latanya.r.yarbrough@usar.army.mil

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

Illinois Gov. Signs Law to Protect Military Funerals

August 15, 2011

Chicago Tribune | by Brian Slodysko

As the U.S. continues to mourn the deaths of 30 Americans killed Aug. 6 when their helicopter crashed in Afghanistan, Gov. Pat Quinn signed a law Sunday that seeks to insulate grieving families from vitriolic anti-gay protests sometimes held alongside military funerals.

"Every family has a fundamental right to conduct a funeral with reverence and dignity," Quinn said in a statement. "This law ensures that the families of those who have given their lives for our country can grieve without harassment."

The measure updates the Let Them Rest in Peace Act, spearheaded by Quinn while he was lieutenant governor and enacted by former Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2006. Keeping with the spirit of the old law, it bans picketing 30 minutes before and after military funerals, but it keeps protesters farther at bay by increasing the distance they must maintain from 200 to 300 feet.

Mentioned nowhere in the new law is the Westboro Baptist Church, an independent Kansas-based congregation that initially forced the issue. Members of the church protest at service members' funerals, bearing signs that said "Thank God for IEDs" and "God Hates Fags." The church contends a wrathful God is punishing America with war casualties for the country's embrace of "the mentality that it is OK to be gay," said Jonathan Phelps, an attorney and member of the church.

Quinn's signing of the measure comes on the heels of an 8-1 Supreme Court decision in which justices reaffirmed the First Amendment right of the group to protest, overturning a lower court ruling that awarded \$5 million to the father of a Maryland Marine whose funeral the church picketed.

The decision does not appear to affect the laws in 43 states that seek to keep the protesters away from military funerals.

The heightened level of protection in Illinois was applauded by Dan Hough, assistant state captain of the Illinois Patriot Guard, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who attend military funerals on roaring bikes to drown out the sounds of church protesters.

"To add another hundred feet, yes, that will help put that buffer between (them)," said Hough, a fourth-generation funeral director from Raymond. Given the extremism of the church's statements, he said, the protesters have been given more than enough leeway to exercise their First Amendment right of making "disrespectful and vulgar" comments.

Hough lamented the spotlight put on the protest group. Phelps at least partially agrees.

"We say Mr. Quinn ... you keep up the good work," Phelps said. "God is not going to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah, and (this) will put a larger megaphone to it."

Jim Frazier, of Lake in the Hills, whose son Jacob was killed in Afghanistan in 2003, praised Quinn for the new law but said even 1,000 feet of distance from a funeral wouldn't be enough.

"We do have a Constitution but we also have common sense, and when it causes that much harm and that much pain and anguish, then we have to group together and say, 'Wait a minute this is far too harmful.'"

Hope For The Warriors Spouses Scholarship Spring 2012 is Released

Spouse/Caregivers Spring 2012 Scholarships Available

Five total awards will be given. The winners of The Shannon Maxwell Award, The Bonnie Amos Award, The Karin Dickerson Award and The Robin Kelleher - New Beginnings Award, the last of which is awarded specifically to the spouse of a KIA, will each receive \$5,000.

Additionally this spring, at the request of Mr. Ivins "Itchy" Popkin, a fifth scholarship, The Sidney Popkin Memorial Scholarship, this \$1,250 award memorializes the values he held dear.

For eligibility requirements click here<<http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/scholarelign.html>>. Please note this is an advanced copy of the application. Website may not be completely updated till a later next week.

Selection Process:

Applicants must complete and submit the attached application/certification forms along with proof of service, proof of injury/death, original essay, two-page questionnaire and two letters of recommendation. Incomplete packages will not be accepted. Incomplete packages received before the deadline will be mailed back to individual with checklist to ensure the proper documents can be added and resubmitted before deadline. Updated documents that are received after deadline has expired will not be accepted.

Applicants will be selected for scholarship award recommendation based on their eligibility, their commitment to succeed as indicated by academic achievement, personal goals, letters of recommendation and resume, and their original essay response. Scholarship award recommendations and final selection will be at the discretion of the Hope For The Warriors(r) Scholarship Committee. Applicant anonymity will be preserved during the selection process. All members of the Scholarship committee are ineligible for scholarships.

TIME TABLE

August 2011

Spring 2012 Application released

October 13, 2011

Deadline for applications to Hope For The Warriors(r)

November 16, 2011

Scholarship Award Notification

Please submit all questions to

Scholarships<<mailto:scholarship@hopeforthewarriors.org>>

Kathi Delay | Scholarship Director | Hope For The Warriors(r) | PMB 48, 1335 Suite E, Western Blvd.,
Jacksonville NC 28546 | c. 910.546.1166 | f.

910.401.1245 | www.hopeforthewarriors.org<<http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org>>

Follow us on Twitter<www.twitter.com/hope4warriors>.

Join us on Facebook<<http://www.facebook.com/HopeForTheWarriors>>.



SOS Financial Counseling Services

Erik Johnson
Darien, IL
(404) 729-6940
erik.d.johson3.ctr@us.army.mil

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

Financial Resiliency

As we read the August 2011 headlines in the news about the uncertainty of the financial markets, many individuals have expressed some concern. Financial Counselors remind them that markets experience some level of volatility and even the best theorists cannot predict how markets will react in the future. That being said, it is appropriate to look beyond the short term (less than 2 years) headlines and review the basics of a short term savings and long term investment strategy. Naturally short term savings is traditionally focused on low risk liquid assets. Granted, in many cases, due to this conservative nature, the return on those assets may not keep pace with inflation, but it meets their designed need.

For many people long term (more than 8 years) investing does not traditionally focus on isolated short term factors. Long term investment strategy looks at a long term perspective and focuses on long-term goals and maintaining a balanced asset allocation.

Recovery from the severe downturns do not occur as quickly as we would like, and in some cases there is no guarantee it will occur at all. For example, last year, investors celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Nasdaq's (a popular financial index) all-time high. This year the index is less than half that value. Will that index ever get back to where it was? Probably -- inflation alone will eventually see to that. The real question is: How long will it take? The take away is that that recoveries from severe downturns are not always steady and upward, and there are setbacks. However, with all the doomsday news articles, Financial Counselors often remind folks that most of the financial market indexes are up over 50% as compared to March 2009 and many disciplined and systematic investors took advantage of having a long term strategy that included the ability to seize opportunities to purchase investments at lower price levels. But, here is the heartbreaking news: if the market goes down 1/3, it then needs to double from that level to recover (and that does not take into account inflation.) Likewise, if a financial index goes down 60%, it needs to increase by 150% for it to break even.

That brings us to the key lesson. This is a lesson taught in high school finance classes today. Any time is a good time to review your current situation and how you are invested in order to evaluate if it is appropriate for your long term needs and goals. Having broadly diversified assets is a viable option for making sure you are diversified across and within asset classes. A Financial Counselor can assist you to establish goals and help asses if your objectives remain on track.

Most Financial Counselors believe in the resiliency of the financial markets and can assist clients in being educated on tools to assist you with your objective, and then to stay focused to meet your long term goal. Financial Counselors can help you develop an investing strategy and assist in providing you the information you need to make decisions based on relevant and appropriate information. A Financial Counselor can be a great sounding board to help think though and help make non emotional and focused strategies and action plans.

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:

CHUCKS RIDE POKER RUN (See attached flyer for Details)

September 10, 2011

Sign up at Kuhn's Saloon in Casey, IL from 10:30 TO 12:00

\$10 PER PERSON (fee includes entrance to after party)

ALL BIKES WELCOME VEHICLES AT THE BACK OF PACK

For questions contact: 217-273-6665

DISCUSSION/SUPPORT GROUP (See attached Flyer)

An Illinois Connections for Families of the Fallen (ICFF) Initiative

****NEW MEMBERS WELCOME****

Saturday, September 17, 2011 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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

Gold Star Mother's Day

September 25, 2011

9th Annual Ssgt Jacob Frazier Memorial Golf Outing (See attached flyer for Details)

Saturday October 1, 2011

Hughes Creek Golf Club

1749 Spring Valley Drive

Elburn, IL 60119

National Wreaths Across America Remembrance Ceremony

December 10, 2011; 12 Noon EST

www.wreathscrossamerica.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/>