

"It takes strength to make your way through grief, to grab hold of life and let it pull you forward."

— Patti Davis



TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

August 2023

ACT



Window for Retroactive PACT Act Benefits Closes August 9

Illness-loss survivors: Your family at TAPS and supporters, like toxic-exposure advocate Jon Stewart, are urging you to apply for retroactive PACT Act benefits by August 9. This is your chance to qualify for benefits backdated to the PACT Act signing on August 10, 2022 — those funds could be significant. It's time to act. Call our 24/7 Helpline at 800-959-TAPS (8277) or visit taps.org/pactact for filing assistance.

[Act Now](#)

HEAL



Renewed Hope from the Massachusetts Men's Retreat

Chris did not expect to come away from his first TAPS Men's Retreat with a renewed sense of hope and an expanded support system, but that is exactly what he found. Follow his experience at the Massachusetts Men's Retreat earlier this summer to see how a group of strangers used the power of peer support to make big strides toward healing.

[**Experience the Retreat**](#)

LEARN



Finding Comfort at the TAPS College Experience

Preparing for college comes with a lot of pressure, excitement for the future, and so many questions. The TAPS College Experience guides both students and guardians through this time of anticipation and transition.

Rising senior, Maxx, shares how the College Experience eased stress, answered questions, and helped bring goals and financial assistance within reach.

Keep Learning

GROW



Returning to Routine When Nothing is Routine

Rachel Kodanaz, TAPS Advisory Board

For TAPS families with school-aged children, August is a natural time of transition and new routines as summer slides into another school year. In this TAPS Institute webinar, Advisory Board Member Rachel Kodanaz gets real about the challenges you might face when returning to routines while grieving, and she shares the 3 Cs — *continuity, commitment, and community* — that you can carry with you as you transition to new routines.

Gain Tools for Transition

REFLECT



Northwest Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp

We were honored to spend a healing July weekend in Spokane, Washington with so many members of the TAPS family. Survivor attendees learned from experts in grief and made peer connections that will continue to support them now that they have returned home. Learn more about regional seminars at taps.org/seminars.



Las Vegas Peer Mentor Experience Presented by the Robert Irvine Foundation

In partnership with the Robert Irvine Foundation, TAPS Peer Mentors spent four days in the City of Lights. Survivors made incredible memories with Chef Irvine and each other while celebrating the lives and service of their fallen heroes. Visit taps.org/entertainment for more unique survivor experiences.



Montana Romantic Partners Retreat

TAPS welcomed surviving romantic partners — widows, widowers, significant others, fiancés, and partners — for a week of healing at West Creek Ranch in Emigrant, Montana. Under Montana's characteristic big sky, attendees participated in exciting outdoor activities and had time to relax, reflect, and make connections to carry forward. TAPS provides many opportunities to connect with survivors who have a similar grief experience. Begin by finding your online community at taps.org/onlinegroups.



Young Adults Pacific Northwest Experience

Young adults — ages 18-30 — journeyed to Portland, Oregon, to experience growth and self-discovery in the great outdoors. In addition to scenic hikes, waterfall viewing, and zip-lining, attendees were able to focus on their own self-care and emotional well-being in a safe, supportive space. Visit taps.org/youngadults to get involved with the program.



Los Angeles Galaxy Hosts teams4taps

The Los Angeles Galaxy welcomed TAPS families for a two-day event, including a behind-the-scenes tour of their practice facility, some quality time with Cozmo — the team's mascot — and even a little playing time. On day two, TAPS was honored as the community partner of the match at Rose Bowl Stadium in front of a record-setting Major League Soccer crowd of over 82,000 fans. For a chance to honor your fallen hero through sport, send your story to teams4taps@taps.org.

PLAN



15th Annual National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp

October 6-8, Boston, Massachusetts
Suicide Loss Survivors of All Ages

[**Register**](#)

Northeast Regional Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp
August 25-27, Buffalo, New York

Southern Regional Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp
September 15-17, San Antonio, Texas

Western Regional Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp
October 27-29, Long Beach, California

[**View Seminars**](#)



Online Groups

By Relationship, Peer Group, &
Type of Loss

[Find a Group](#)



Community Events

TAPS Together, Care Groups, & Events
Happening Nationwide, Year-Round

[Find an Event](#)



Team TAPS Events

Honoring Loved Ones at Events
Nationwide

[Join the Team](#)



Retreats

Healing Getaways Happening Around
the Country

[Find a Retreat](#)



Young Adults Events

In-Person & Online Events
Survivors 18 to 30

[Find an Event](#)



Youth Programs

In-Person & Online Events
School-Aged Survivors and Parents

[Browse Events](#)

HONOR



Thank You, Chevrolet and Major League Baseball

TAPS relies on the generosity of individuals and organizations who are dedicated to honoring America's fallen heroes and caring for their surviving loved ones.

We want to send a special thank you to Chevrolet and Major League Baseball for their support of one of our TAPS families during MLB All-Star Week in Seattle last month and their continued support of TAPS. As TAPS Vice President of Sports & Entertainment Diana Hosford shared, "MLB All-Star Week recognizes some of the very best in baseball, and it also shines a light on the sport and the good being done in the community by MLB and its partners. It was moving to see Chevrolet and MLB team up to honor a surviving family — another lovely way to define 'All-Star.'"

Compassionate TAPS support is available 24/7 via our National Military Survivor Helpline: **800-959-TAPS** (8277).



[Donate](#)

