

"Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories."

— Ronald Reagan

**T A P S**

**TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS**

**FAMILY NEWSLETTER**

**June 2023**



### **Announcement from the White House**

On June 9th, the White House issued an Executive Order recognizing and addressing the unique challenges faced by military-connected families, including survivors, with a set of nearly 20 actions aimed at enhancing career stability and expanding employment resources and support for our community. These bold actions are a salute to the sacrifices made by military families and represent the commitment of Dr. Biden's Joining Forces initiative to meet the economic, social, and emotional needs of our nation's military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors.

**[Read the Fact Sheet](#)**

# HEAL



TAPS was honored to spend Memorial Day weekend with so many of you at the **29th Annual National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp** in Arlington, Virginia. This significant weekend was full of peer connections, enlightening, expert-led workshops, TAPS traditions, and support from military and government leaders and members of the entertainment industry. But most of all, it was full of healing, honoring your hero, and incredible experiences. Thank you for trusting us with your loved one's legacy and your own grief.



We were an undeniable presence in and around our nation's capital throughout Memorial Day weekend, and our powerful stories of love, loss, hope, and healing were shared with the nation. **NBC Nightly News** and **Scripps News** gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp, and our own Bonnie Carroll sat down to discuss TAPS and the meaning of Memorial Day with **iHeart Radio**.





Listen as **General Dempsey leads the TAPS kids** in his annual tradition of singing The Unicorn Song at Good Grief Camp!

Visits from our friends — General Dempsey and so many others who lead our nation — throughout the weekend served as a reminder to us all that our leaders stand behind TAPS, and they stand behind you, the living legacies of service and sacrifice.



As we gathered to honor our fallen loved ones, grow with grief, and make lasting connections with peers and experts, we couldn't help but notice all the Godwinks throughout the weekend, signaling that our loved ones are still with us. If you have a Godwink story to share, from Nationals or another TAPS event, we want to hear about it. Email [editor@taps.org](mailto:editor@taps.org) to share, and your story could be featured in an upcoming blog post.

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# LEARN



## **Partnering to Support Caregiver Survivors and Suicide Loss Survivors**

TAPS is proud to partner with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and the Red Cross Military and Veteran Caregiver Network to form the Caregiver to Survivor (C2S) Partnership, a group dedicated to understanding and supporting the unique needs of caregivers who become survivors and survivors of suicide loss in the military and veteran communities. On May 11, C2S rolled out a years-long study addressing the needs of military and veteran caregivers before, during, and after the death of their loved one in hopes of ensuring the right support is accessible at the right time.

Visit our **updated Caregiver to Survivor page** to see all the ways TAPS can support during this unique grief journey.

**Find Support**



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# GROW



## Sowing Seeds of Remembrance

Each June, surviving military family members, battle buddies, and veterans come from across the country to gaze upon a field of poppies that is the living tribute to SGT Mateo Donaldson. After seeing the peace this field has brought to so many navigating grief and wounds visible and invisible, Mateo's mother, Joan Donaldson, shares her step-by-step guide to planting poppies in hopes of sowing seeds of remembrance across her TAPS family.

**Plant Poppies**

*Joan's article, "**Poppy Field**," appeared in the spring issue of TAPS Magazine.*

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# REFLECT



TAPS survivors and supporters participated in 27 **Carry the Load** walks nationwide throughout "Memorial May" in this coast-to-coast mission to honor all those who have sacrificed for our country.



The **TAPS Young Adults Program** received a one-of-a-kind Disney SALUTE welcome to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World. Thanks to the NFL, attendees spent a weekend making core memories and peer connections.





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# PLAN



**15th Annual National Military Suicide Survivor  
Seminar and Good Grief Camp  
October 6-8, Boston, Massachusetts  
Suicide Loss Survivors of All Ages**

[Register](#)

**Northwest** Regional Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp  
**July 7-9, Spokane, Washington**

**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](#)

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# HONOR



**At TAPS, we are dedicated to helping you honor the life and service of your fallen hero.**

If you are looking for a special way to honor the life and service of your hero that also supports the TAPS mission, consider purchasing a tribute tile to be displayed prominently and permanently on the **TAPS Honor Wall** at our national headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

[Order a Tile](#)

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



[Donate](#)



If you no longer wish to receive the TAPS Family Newsletter, please email [info@taps.org](mailto:info@taps.org).