



TAPS

Bonnie Carroll

THE MISSION

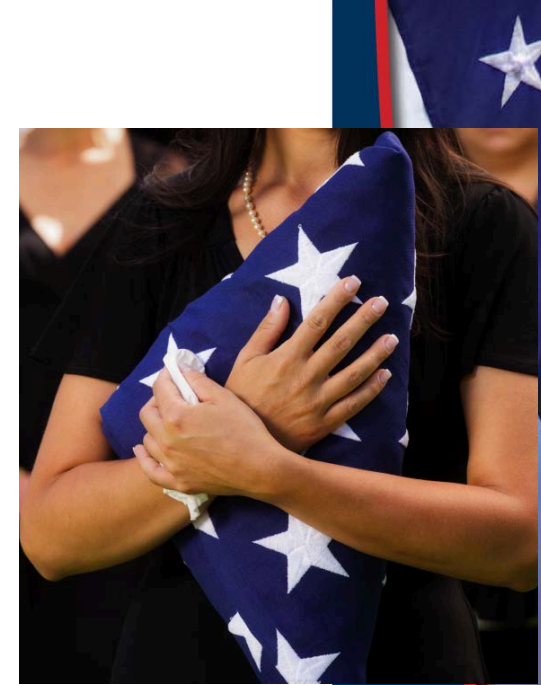
Caring for the Families of America's Fallen Heroes

- TAPS provides comprehensive, compassionate peer based emotional support and services to all who are grieving the death of a military loved one.
- Since 1994, TAPS has provided care to 60,000+ survivors; each day, an average of 13 newly bereaved survivors enter TAPS care and receive services.
- TAPS is the frontline organization meeting the unique needs of traumatically bereaved military survivors, including:
 - Peer based support
 - Case work assistance
 - 24/7 Helpline
 - Community based care



A SACRED HONOR

Caring for the Families of America's Fallen Heroes



➤ Why do we do what we do?

- Honoring America's fallen heroes
- Creating a living legacy
- Healing broken hearts

➤ Why does the peer connection work miracles?

- It normalizes unbearable emotional pain and offers a pathway to relief and resolution
- In the isolating experience of loss, it brings a community of empathetic care



THE MAGIC

Empowering Peers

- TAPS trains service members to become **Military Mentors** who help surviving children while healing themselves.
- TAPS trains survivors to become **Peer Mentors**, giving meaning and purpose to their loss and offering normalization and validation to the newly bereaved.



HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2015, 4,462 new military survivors came to TAPS for care
- 15,394 calls to the 24/7 TAPS National Military Survivor Helpline – 25 with suicidal ideation
- Received the Defense Department's highest Civilian Humanitarian Award.
- Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Launched an Expeditions program with summit of Kilimanjaro
- Highest rating by Charity Navigator.
- Received the Association of Death Education and Counseling Clinical Practice Award



What You May Not Know

Peers Speak a Common Language

- TAPS is connecting the war widows of Afghanistan with the war widows of America, to grieve together *and heal together*.
- Grief is a universal language which peers speak fluently – no translation necessary.

