

promise

January
February
March 2012

SOS Promise is a quarterly newsletter published quarterly by the Fort Bliss SOS Office to inform Survivor Families about news, activities, and upcoming events in our area.

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Fort Bliss, Texas



Dearest Families,

Welcome to another issue of the SOS Promise newsletter. We are excited to share with you that the SOS office will be moving into a facility that is designated especially for you and to honor your loved ones. We will be hosting a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening of the new Survivor Outreach Services Family Center. **We invite you to please join us on Friday, 24 February at 11am for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.** Several military leaders, civilians, and media will also be attending.

The Hall of Remembrance will be located in the new Survivor Outreach Services Family Center Building 241, Sheridan Road, Fort Bliss



The Fort Bliss Survivor Outreach Services will open the Hall of Remembrance for Surviving Family Members of Western Texas and New Mexico. This Hall is designed for Family members to have a place on Fort Bliss to honor their Hero. The Hall is also used for SOS activities, programs, and ceremonies. Many of you already framed your picture the evening of the Holiday Reception and your hero will be the first ones to go up on the wall.

We invite all of those Families who were not able to join us that evening to please mail us their picture. We encourage you to share your favorite photograph of your Hero. We ask the picture be of the Soldier only.

If you would like your Hero to be included in this special room, please forward a favorite, 8"x10", photograph, or artist's rendering of your loved one. We will have it framed and placed in the Hall of Remembrance with a brass plaque engraved with your Hero's rank, name (as you would like it to appear), date of birth and date of death. For more information, please call us at 915-568-5970 or 915-569-5287.

Send submissions by US Post office to:

ACS Survivor Outreach Services
1733 Pleasonton Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812

Federal Express to:

ACS Survivor Outreach Services
Building 241 Sheridan Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812



Upcoming Events

January 2012

SOS move into new Facility located at Building 241, Sheridan Road, Fort Bliss.

February 2012

SOS Ribbon Cutting

24 February, 11am at the SOS Family Center, Building 241, Sheridan Road.

March 2012

SOS Self Care

*Self Care Workshop
Thursday, 23 March, 9:30am*

The ending of the 2011 Tax Preparation is approaching quickly

The Fort Bliss Tax Center is here to assist your needs; saving you the time of preparing your own taxes and the cost of hiring commercial tax preparers. The Fort Bliss Tax Center offers **FREE** tax preparation to all ID card holders.

Fort Bliss Tax Center Bldg 2910 or Trailer 404 on East Bliss

Call for more Information 915-568-4999

You might be surprised to know that the last day to file taxes in 2012, for the 2011 tax year, is **April 17th, 2012**.

To check on your refund call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or www.irs.gov.

SOS Holiday Reception



Scholarships, Grants and other Educational Resources potentially available for Military Widows/Widowers and their Families (Dec2011 update)

As always, the VA www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap12.asp has educational assistance available for your needs. There are also scholarships that can be used in conjunction with those funds. Please keep in mind that some schools have rules/policies concerning the use of multiple scholarships and also be aware of potential tax issues regarding the tax situation when some cumulative scholarships are in excess of tuition costs. It is wise to check with your school's financial counselor as well as the tax center for scholarship use, age restrictions and guidelines.

Below is a reprint list of Scholarships, Grant and other Educational Resources that we have come across for Military Survivors and their families. We are not endorsing nor are we linked to the below organizations but hope that you find the information valuable. Please review each website for eligibility, deadline dates, scholarship amount and how to apply.

The following four links refer to lists that various organizations have compiled:

<http://www.ausa.org/resources/familyprograms/resources/InternetResources/Pages/ScholarshipInformation.aspx>

<http://www.goldstarwives.org/resources-military-family.htm>

<http://www.americanwidowproject.org/resources/scholarships/>

http://m.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/education_and_training/scholarships_and_other_financial_assistance/scholarships_and_grants_for_spouses_and_dependents

The following links are some of the scholarship websites that have been specifically shared with us during the year from fellow Survivors and others.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

American Patriot Freedom Scholarship www.homefrontamerica.org

Armed Forces Children's Education Fund www.afcef.org

Children of Fallen Soldier's Relief Fund www.cfsrf.org

Eknowledge www.eknowledge.com/default.asp?noRepeat=yes&first=no

Fallen Patriot Fund www.fallenpatriotfund.org

Fallen Warrior Scholarship www.patriotguard.org

Fisher House Scholarship <http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

Folds of Honor (Future & Immediate Use) www.foldsof Honor.org

Freedom Alliance Scholarship www.freedomalliance.org

Fry Scholarship www.gibill.va.gov

Got your Back Network www.gotyourbacknetwork.org

Heroes Legacy Scholarship Program www.militaryscholars.org

Higher Education Assistance Program www.americaschild.org

Hope for the Warriors Spouse Scholarship www.hopeforthewarriors.org

Joanne Holbrook Military Spouse Scholarship www.militaryfamily.org

MG James Ursano Scholarship www.aerhq.org

MOAA Scholarship Fund www.moaa.org

National Association of State Directors of Veterans www.nasdva.net

National Resource Directory www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov

Pat Tillman Foundation www.pattillmanfoundation.org

Patriot Guard Riders Fallen Warrior Scholarship

<http://www.patriotguard.org/FallenWarriorScholarship/tabid/236/Default.aspx>

Thanks USA www.thanksusa.org

Scholarships for Military Children www.militaryscholar.org

Scholarship Finder www.military.com/scholarship

Special Operations Warrior Foundation www.specialops.org



Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is a non-profit 501(c)3 veteran's service organization created in 1994 to provide support to anyone who died in military service to America regardless of branch of service. Vanessa (Gabrielson) Daley, a representative from TAPS is co-located with the SOS Team.

Vanessa is the daughter of SFC Dan H. Gabrielson, an Army Reservist who was killed by an RPG when his convoy was attacked on July 9th, 2003 in Baquba, Iraq. Vanessa leads the TAPS Regional Youth Programs that are held throughout the United States at military installations. Please help us welcome Vanessa to the team!

<http://www.taps.org>



Tell Your Hero's Story – The National Gold Star Family Registry

Throughout our nation's proud history, the men and women of our Armed forces have bravely sacrificed to defend our nation and advance the cause of freedom around the world. The National Gold Star Family Registry (www.GoldStarFamilyRegistry.com) is another great opportunity for Gold Star Families to tell their hero's story and to make a personal tribute. The goals of the Registry are to identify the men and women who defended our freedom, to acknowledge their selfless acts of service, to honor their solemn sacrifice and—most importantly—to acknowledge their life. Family members, friends and comrades are encouraged to tell their personal story of their hero by adding written tributes, which the Registry will preserve for future generations. *(Please remember that what you write is public and anyone can read it.)* The Registry is an opportunity for many people to share their stories and memories about our country's fallen Heroes. Therefore, if you discover other tributes on your Hero's page, please keep in mind that other people, like friends and fellow service members, also want to remember your Hero. And you might not know everyone who posts a tribute. *(If you are confident that someone posted a tribute in error, please contact the Registry).*



If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, would like to suggest or contribute information for future publications, or simply desire to talk to one of our staff, please contact us by calling 915-568-5970. Your opinions, interest, and well-being are important to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

SOS Office Information:

Building #241
Sheridan Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Phone:
915-568-5970
915-569-5287
915-568-4706

After hours:
915-203-6749

Fax:
915-568-4357

Office Hours:
7:30am-4:30pm
Monday-Friday

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

Mailing Address:
Army Community Service—SOS
1733 Pleasonton Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812

On the web at:
<http://www.blissmwr.com/sos>

Email:
janeth.lopez@us.army.mil
Lew.lewis2@us.army.mil
Michelle.k.jones@us.army.mil

Army Community Service (ACS) White Sands Missile Range (WSMR)

For general information at White Sands about programs and events provided by ACS, please call 575.678.6767 or visit the Moral Welfare and Recreation website at

www.wsmrmwr.com

Janeth Lopez

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915-569-5287

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