

# Wounded Warrior FAMILY NEWSLETTER



August 2014



## NATIONAL NEWS



### PEER SUPPORT FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR CAREGIVERS



First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden launched the Joining Forces PEER Initiative to support military caregivers.

The families and close friends of our Sailors and Coast Guardsmen often step in as caregivers when those service members become seriously wounded, ill and injured. Without a second thought, they leave behind the life they knew – abandoning their careers, adopting new living arrangements, falling out of touch with social contacts – to assist their loved one. That is why it's so important for Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) – Safe Harbor to connect with and listen to the caregivers of those enrolled in the program, and to take every measure to support them.

In April 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden announced the launch of the Department of Defense's Military Caregiver PEER Forum through Joining Forces. NWW has been intimately involved in the planning and roll out of this initiative, and its launch represents a tremendous opportunity for the caregivers of the program's enrollees to connect with one another.

NWW is working with Military and Family Life counselors to execute a series of caregiver forums at 125 military installations that serve wounded warriors. During the forums, caregivers will meet with families like their own – from every branch of service – to share stories and learn new coping and self-care strategies. The first forum was held June 19 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and subsequent forums will be held this month and in September at Naval Medical Center San Diego; Kitsap Naval Base, Wash.; San Antonio Military Medical Center; and Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla. Learn about future dates and locations of the forums at [warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources/](http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources/).

### SCHOLARSHIP ALERT!!

**H&R  
BLOCK**

H&R Block partners with each military branch to offer a scholarship for military spouses and wounded warriors interested in enrolling in an income tax course. In many cases, completion of the course will result in employment at a local H&R Block office (course graduates are evaluated individually). Prospective students can obtain the scholarship certificate and a valid code from the employment services office on their installation. They should then call 1-800-HRBLOCK (472-5625) and enter a zip code when prompted; they will be routed to an operator who will assist with registration for classes in their area. For more information, visit [hrblock.com/class](http://hrblock.com/class) or call NWW at 855-NAVY WWP (628-9997).



### A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As we continue our focus on timely resources that might be useful to the families of our enrollees, I would like to highlight the White House's Joining Forces effort to host forums at military installations across the country. This exciting initiative directly addresses an issue that enrollee families have shared with me time and time again. All too often, I hear from caregivers who feel isolated, burned out, lonely and frustrated, and they regularly express a desire to connect with others who share their struggles. These peer-to-peer forums will provide them an opportunity to meet families similar to their own, exchange stories and tips and, hopefully, form meaningful new relationships. I urge you become informed and get connected today!

Also, this edition of the Wounded Warrior Family Newsletter does not feature region-specific information, but it does include a spotlight on the great work being done on behalf of wounded warriors in Naval District Washington. We plan to highlight best practices and good news in other regions in forthcoming newsletters. Keep an eye out!

Sincerely,  
Capt. Brent Breining



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## FISHER HOUSES OFFER CRITICAL SUPPORT TO WOUNDED WARRIORS



Fisher Houses provide a home away from home for wounded, ill and injured service members – both active duty and retired – and their families. These facilities enable family members to be close to a loved one at an extremely stressful time – during their hospitalization for an unexpected illness or injury. Currently,

Fisher Houses are located on four Navy and Marine Corps bases: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.; Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.; Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Naval Medical Center San Diego. In the future, there will be a Fisher House at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif. To learn more about the Fisher Houses and resources they provide, visit [fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/](http://fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/).

### IS YOUR FAMILY READY? VISIT [READY.NAVY.MIL](http://READY.NAVY.MIL)!



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCES FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR FAMILIES



In even the best circumstances, the start of a new school year can be a stressful time of transition for children. For the families of wounded warriors, these stressors often are multiplied. Below are

several resources that NWW enrollees and their families might find useful.

- **Operation Homefront:** The Back-to-School Brigade is a Dollar Tree-sponsored program that collects donated school supplies and furnishes them to military families via Operation Homefront. To learn more about the assistance provided by this program, visit [dollartree.com/custserv/custserv.jsp?pageName=OperationHomefront](http://dollartree.com/custserv/custserv.jsp?pageName=OperationHomefront).
- **Our Military Kids:** The organization provides grants to children of Reserve and active-duty service members for sports, fine arts, camps, and academic tutoring programs. Learn more at [ourmilitarykids.org/how-we-help-families/wounded-program/](http://ourmilitarykids.org/how-we-help-families/wounded-program/).
- **Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families:** This 24/7 service is free for service members in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force, as well as deployed civilians. For more information, visit [military.tutor.com/](http://military.tutor.com/).



## REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT: NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON



*A proud Campbell (left) takes part in a re-enlistment ceremony.*

The NWW team in Naval District Washington (NDW) took part in a re-enlistment ceremony July 25 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) for Navy Information Systems Technician 1st Class Eric Campbell, who was enrolled in NWW in August 2012. Campbell suffered a severe head injury from an accident that took place while he was stationed at National Naval Medical Center in Naples, Italy. During the past two years, he has been fully dedicated to making a complete recovery, always maintaining a positive attitude. His only goal was to return to active duty, and his team of NWW non-medical providers gathered to witness him finally achieve that goal. The NWW NDW regional director, Cmdr. Dante Terronez, said: "IT1's story has really been one of perseverance and teamwork. You have a smart and driven young

Sailor who spectacularly worked to overcome his injuries so he could return to the fleet. NWW provided experienced and committed advocates to mentor him through the process." Campbell currently works in the information and technology department at WRNMMC as the work center supervisor at the local area network desk.

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