

Wounded Warrior FAMILY NEWSLETTER



February 2015



NATIONAL NEWS



PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR CAREGIVERS



Do you provide care for a loved one who sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) after October 2001 while serving in the military? If so, researchers would like to talk to you about your health and well-being.

Wounded warrior caregivers nationwide are invited to take part in the Caregiver Quality of Life Study, which has been mandated by the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act. The study will measure the effect that caring for a service member or veteran with a TBI has on one's quality of life. It may eventually result in significant improvements to health care services pro-

vided to military caregivers. Eligible study respondents may be asked to participate in a small group discussion, a telephone interview, and Web-based, self-report measures. Respondents can participate in the study for up to 15 years (for approximately 1-3 hours each year), and they may be compensated for taking part in this important initiative.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please call 1-855 821-1469, email caregiver.study@dvbic.org or visit <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/caring-caregivers>.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SCHOLARSHIPS!

Many scholarship applications have closed in recent weeks, but below is a list of a few that remain open. Take some time today to fill out your applications, or to pass these links along to friends who might benefit from them.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship
<http://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

Heroes' Legacy Scholarship
<http://www.militaryscholar.org/legacy/index.html>

Tillman Scholars Program
<http://pattillmanfoundation.org/apply-to-be-a-scholar/>



Some scholarship applications are still open!



A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

I recently had the privilege to testify on behalf of Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) – Safe Harbor before the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee on Capitol Hill. I was joined by representatives from the other wounded warrior support programs, as well as Mr. James Rodriguez, deputy assistant secretary of defense for warrior care policy. We provided the committee with an update on the Department of Defense's (DoD) extensive efforts to support wounded warriors and those who care for them.

A common thread wove our testimonies together: Even as our nation reduces combat operations, wounded, ill and injured service members will continue to exist. The DoD remains committed to those service members, and to their families and caregivers. That message seemed to resonate with the lawmakers in attendance, who asked thoughtful questions that sparked productive conversations that continue to take place.

During my testimony, I highlighted the many services NWW provides the caregivers of wounded warriors, including this quarterly newsletter. This publication enables us to stay connected with and provide important resources to our enrollees and their families, long after they have separated from the military. It is just one of many ways we communicate our enduring, lifelong commitment to the wounded warriors and caregivers who inspire us every day.

Sincerely,
Capt. Brent Breining
NWW Director



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NAVY MOTION PICTURE ASSISTIVE DEVICES



Wounded warriors, retirees or other moviegoers will now be able to fully participate in the Navy's movie program, as part of the Navy Motion Picture Service's new initiative to provide base movie theaters with assistive devices for the hearing

and visually impaired. Each of the Navy's base theaters, which were converted to digital cinema technology within the past two years, have received closed captioning, descriptive narration equipment for the visually impaired and amplified sound equipment for the hearing impaired. For more information on the Navy Motion Picture Service, visit www.navymwr.org.

MARCH: BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH



Since 2000, more than 313,000 service members have been diagnosed with a TBI. The life-altering condition does not only affect the person who has been injured; it also has a profound impact on his or her family. Help us raise awareness! To learn more about TBI, visit <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/about/tbi-military>.

CHAPLAINS: RECONNECTING WITH HOPE



A Navy chaplain at the Team Navy Trials.

Chaplains work to build resiliency in the families who sacrifice in service to our country. They are committed to being where it matters, when it matters, with what matters. Chaplains help service members and families reconnect with hope and tap into their spiritual foundation – into that which keeps them grounded.

Navy chaplains are available 24/7 to make sure every service member and family member has a safe outlet that provides complete confidentiality, and allows them to share concerns or fears, or to simply talk. Spouses and family members can approach a chaplain with any concerns they have for themselves or their service member, without fear of judgment or an impact on their loved one's career. Chaplains are committed to your privacy, but, more importantly, they are committed to you.

Hear more from Navy Chief of Chaplains Rear Adm. Margaret G. Kibben on how chaplains offer complete confidentiality when you need a safe place to talk (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYQMKJRIJvM>).

Don't know a local chaplain? Request chaplain support in your area by calling **1-855-NAVY-311** or texting Navy311@navy.mil.

PEER SUPPORT COORDINATORS: THE FIVE WS



WHO: Peer Support Coordinators (PSCs) provide regionalized support to military caregivers.

WHAT: PSCs will help convene PEER forums; conduct outreach activities; identify and report on gaps in support; assist in locating regional caregiver support services; and serve as the regional point of contact for caregiver resources. They will be deployed and managed by the DoD's Office of Warrior Care Policy.

WHERE: PSCs will be based in 10 locations, and each will oversee their surrounding region. The locations include Fort Drum, N.Y.; Alexandria, Va.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; San Antonio, Texas; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; San Diego, Calif.; and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

WHEN: The PSCs have been fully mission capable since January 2015.

WHY: The PSCs will provide localized support to military caregivers in coordination with NWW care managers, ensuring they are aware of the resources available to them from the Office of Warrior Care Policy and other support programs.

Visit <http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/caregiver-resources/> to learn more!

NWW WEBSITE



NWW SOCIAL MEDIA

