

Survivor Outreach Services Wisconsin National Guard

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April 2011

Camp Serenity



Mark your calendar! Wisconsin National Guard Survivor Outreach Services Program with sponsorship from Wisconsin American Legion will be offering Camp Serenity September 23rd-25th at Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk, WI.

This free event will provide an opportunity to come together with other Survivors from Wisconsin. Your weekend will provide an opportunity to connect with other Survivors, share in family activities and fun in a natural serene setting, and provide resources and information. [Camp American Legion](#)

Same great
service, new logo.



Websites:

- www.TAPS.org
- wisconsinmilitary.org/survivor-outreach-services
- www.goldstarwives.org/index.htm
- www.wilegion.org
- [Camp Erin](#)

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

SOS was created to embrace and reassure Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire. The SOS program continuously strives to provide the highest quality of services to Surviving Family members of Fallen Warriors. As such, we want to provide you with information on the SOS program in your area. We stand ready to serve you and answer your questions.

Do you Facebook? Looking for more SOS connection? Click [here](#) for National SOS Facebook Page.

Survivor Outreach Services Coordinators Wisconsin

Kori Williams, MPSC
262-745-3283

kori.williams@us.army.mil

**Never Forgotten
Never Alone**

Tara Zarm, MPSC
715-252-0357

tara.zarm@us.army.mil

Dryhootch

The one person a veteran can count on is his/her fellow veteran, who had his/her back in the gravest of time. One who could finish his/her sentence, never question if their sacrifice was big enough, or tell them to get over something so big it invades their thoughts everyday. That place is Dryhootch. The early veterans of this nations wars understood that the camaraderie of veterans would serve them in war, and in their lives after. They formed organizations around bars and taverns, helping each other get through a bad day, a terrible dream, or deal with a reoccurring memory only they could understand. To the veteran suffering with PTSD comes high rates of alcoholism and addiction. With the knowledge of the need for camaraderie as a treatment for these horrors of war, and the destructive nature of alcohol and drugs was born the Dryhootch, a coffee house where veterans could meet, socialize, and seek treatment, peer to peer counseling, advise on how to apply for benefits, or find a company with a job who values their service.

Once a month Suicide Survivors (friends and families) can attend a Peer to Peer Support Group. Peers offer each other an understanding that comes from having experienced a similar situation or problem. Suicide Survivor Support Group will be held the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 1030 East Brady Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202. dryhootch.org

VA Awareness Bulletin

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. Websites with the name "VA services" immediately after the "www" ARE NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the real VA website ends in.gov. [VA Awareness Bulletin](#)

TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) Survivor Benefit

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2010 included language to change the Active Duty TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) Survivor Benefit. The current survivor benefit is 3-years for spouses and children, where the government pays 100% of all premiums for those enrolled in the TDP at the time of the sponsors' death. The NDAA 2010 will align the dental and medical survivor benefits, extending the coverage for children up to age 21, or 23 if enrolled in college full time. Before this can become a benefit, it has to go through the rule-making process. The Proposed Rule was published in the Federal Register for a 60-day comment period in AUG of 2010. The rule was being finalized when the NDAA 2011 was signed by the President which contained another change to the TDP Survivor Benefit. The NDAA 2011 change removes the requirement to have been enrolled in the TDP prior to the service members' death and also gives the benefit to all Ready Reserve survivors. The Final Rule for the NDAA 2010 changes was pulled to incorporate the 2011 changes. Currently, this is being staffed and is expected to be published in the Federal Register as a Final Rule in the next 3-6 months. This will become a benefit on the date of the publication of the Final Rule.

Camp Erin

Camp Erin, created and funded by The Moyer Foundation is the largest nationwide network of bereavement camps for children and teens ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of someone close to them.



It is a weekend-long experience filled with traditional, fun, camp activities combined with grief education and emotional support -- facilitated by grief professionals and trained volunteers. At Camp Erin, children are comforted knowing that there are other children who understand exactly what they are feeling and experiencing. At Camp Erin, grieving children have an opportunity to address their feelings and memorialize their loved ones. They are provided with tools and resources for use during and after camp, including memories and friendships that last long after camp is complete.

Memorial Day

Official Birthplace Declared In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays. [Full article](#)



- Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery– Ceremony May 29th, 11:00 a.m.
 - Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery-Ceremony May 29th, 1:00 p.m.
 - Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery-Ceremony May 30th, 9:30 a.m.
- Link to Cemetery information-[here](#)
- The Highground-Ceremony May 30th, 1:00 p.m. Highground Link- [here](#)
 - Capitol’s State Street Steps-Ceremony May 30th, 9:30 a.m.
 - Arlington National Cemetery, wreath laying ceremony– May 30th, 11:00 a.m.