

Survivor Outreach Services Wisconsin National Guard

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May 2012

Camp Serenity



Save the date!!

Wisconsin Survivor Outreach Services Program in conjunction with Wisconsin American Legion, and Military Support Unit will be offering Camp Serenity August 10th-12th, 2012 at Camp American Legion in Lake Tomahawk, WI.

This event will provide an opportunity to come together with other Survivors, share in family activities and fun in a natural serene setting, and provide resources and information.

Register now at: <http://campserenitywisconsin.eventbrite.com/>
Follow directions on website to register. All meals and lodging are provided free of charge. There are no registration or program fees. Breakout session will be offered on Saturday, see below for a description of breakouts.

Breakout sessions:

- Peer Support with a counselor:** This breakout offers a time to connect and share with others who are grieving in a safe, confidential environment.
- How Children Grieve:** This breakout offers parents and caregivers tools for assisting children at all developmental stages through the death of a loved one.
- Massage and Presence for Everyday:** You will learn easy, but powerful touch, presence, and massage techniques for both yourself and others. These techniques will contribute to your own self care and enhance your ability to help others.
- Grieving the Loss, Celebrating the Life:** This break-out will cover how to cope with life events and triggers, integrating the celebration of the life of your loved one.
- Help...Sometimes I Can't Live in My Own Skin:** Sometimes overwhelming feelings brought on by anxieties, traumas and grief seem to rule our life. Learn ways to gently manage your breath allowing you to use it as a tool for enhancing your emotional and physical well being.



Websites:

- [Wisconsin Survivor Support](#)
- www.snowballexpress.org/
- www.ourmilitarykids.org
- [American Legion](#)
- [Gold Star Mothers](#)
- [Gold Star Dads](#)
- [Gold Star Wives](#)

Tricare Changes



Effective May 1, 2012, MetLife will become the dental carrier for the TRICARE Dental Pro-gram (TDP). MetLife will begin providing dental coverage to over 2 million family members of uniformed service active duty personnel, members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve, their eligible family members, and Survivors. Beneficiaries will have access to MetLife's network with over 161,000 dentist access points, and this number continues to grow.

MetLife will manage enrollment, member utilization of diagnostic and preventive services, provider networks, claims processing and customer service and access to data, while providing beneficiary satisfaction at the highest level possible through the delivery of world-class dental care.

The new contract features several new and enhanced benefits including:

- An increase in the annual maximum to \$1,300
- An increase in the lifetime orthodontic maximum to \$1,750
- Coverage of posterior resin (white) fillings on back teeth
- Additional \$1,200 maximum per year for services related to accidents/injuries
- No cost shares for some periodontal services for diabetics
- Coverage of an additional cleaning for women during pregnancy
- First-year premiums below current rates

Photocopying of Military Identification Cards

Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel, family members and DOD employees are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of **Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701** and punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

It is recommended that military/DOD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of identification.

NOTE: This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor's offices, hospitals, etc.) who are allowed to take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.



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Timeline Concerns

Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance

The period of eligibility for spouses of Service members who died on active duty **expires 20 years** from the date of death.

http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap12.asp

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

The application for accrued benefits must be filed within one **(1) year of the death** to minimize the possibility of having back benefits retro to only 1 year.

Housing Programs

You are also authorized one relocation move at government expense. The movement of household goods must be completed within **three years following** the death of the Service member. A request may be made for an extension if necessary.

Heroes Earnings and Assistance and Relief Act of 2008

If you received a military death gratuity or SGLI payment with respect to a death while on active duty from injury that occurred after October 6, 2001, you can contribute (roll over) all or part of the amount received to your Roth IRA. The contribution is treated as a qualified rollover contribution. The rollover must be completed before the end of the **1-year period beginning on the date you received the payment.**

Tax Forgiveness for Combat Deaths

Prior Years: Section 692(a) abates tax liability for any tax year ending on or after the first day the person served in a combat zone. Because it says "a combat zone" rather than "the combat zone" if a Service member served in more than one combat zone or in the same combat zone in different years tax will not be imposed for years preceding the death, beginning with the tax year that the individual first served in any combat zone. However, tax abatement claims under section 692(a) are claims for refund which are subject to the statute of limitation provisions for refunds which means claims for refund must be filed **within 3 years from the date the return** was filed or two years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later.

Converting Spouse SGLI Coverage

Spouses who are insured under the Family SGLI program have the option to convert Spousal Coverage to an individual policy of insurance within **120 days from the date of the Service member's death.**—Mark Dunlop, SOS Financial Coordinator

Memorial Day

[History.com - Memorial Day](http://www.history.com) was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by deco-rating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to honor the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is pre-scribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Con-federate soldiers buried in the cemetery.