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News Release

USU Named One of Nation's Most Compassionate Employers

BETHESDA, Md. — The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or USU, was recognized on April 17 by The Compassionate Friends, or TCF, as one of 141 employers nationwide that show extra sensitivity to bereaved employees following the death of a child. TCF is the nation's largest self-help bereavement organization with more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states, Washington, D.C, and Puerto Rico.

USU was among those selected in 2009 "for going above and beyond the normal policies of most companies in helping their employees when the death of a child occurred." Air Force Tech. Sgt. Louella Campbell, who is assigned to the USU Department of Psychiatry, lost her daughter shortly after the child was born in November 2007. Campbell attended her first meeting the following year. TCF assists families seeking positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and provides information to help others be supportive. Campbell nominated USU for selection because the university made significant strides to ensure she had the resources and time needed to begin the healing process that follows grief.

"I had been pursuing individual counseling through Military One Source, then through Navy medical," said Campbell. But she needed something more personally satisfying.

"I thought maybe one-on-one counseling was not going to help me, and my husband had not been pursuing counseling either," said Campbell. "It sounds strange, but I was excited when we found that there was a monthly support group in the city of Frederick, where we live. I knew it was going to be helpful — it really was. We walked in and we were surrounded by people who were in the same boat, who had experienced the same thing."

Ms. Jo Ann Gellman, from TCF's Potomac Maryland Chapter and Mr. Robert Hahn of the Frederick Chapter of TCF bestowed USU the award, along-side Campbell.

Retired Army Brig. Gen. William Bester, acting vice president of external affairs, and Air Force Col. Dr. Kenneth Tashiro, commandant, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, accepted the award on behalf of USU.

"Speaking on behalf of USU president Dr. Charles Rice, we are honored to have been recognized by TCF for our response to employees dealing with difficult family issues," said Bester. "Our faculty and staff give everyday to ensure the safety and well being of their country and all U.S. citizens. For us to allow them the necessary time to grieve, when they are suffering such a personal loss, is simply one way we can demonstrate our appreciation for their commitment and service."

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Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

The Compassionate Friends (page 2)

The Uniformed Services University is located on the grounds of Bethesda's National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health. It is the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. Of the university's more than 4,200 physician alumni, the vast majority serve on active-duty and are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise.

For more information, contact the Office of External Affairs at 301-295-3578 or visit the USU Web site at www.usuhs.mil.

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