



Maine SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength built on
Sacrifice

February 2014

Volume 5, Issue 1

Drew Gooding synopsis	1
The Summit Project	2
Upcoming Events	3
Past Event	4
Taxes and Information	5-6
Chaplains Corner	7
Websites and Resources	8

YOUR Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator

Rachel Bosse

rachel.n.bosse.ctr@mail.mil
207-332-6804/207-430-5959

194 Winthrop St, Bldg 7,
Camp Keyes, Augusta, ME
04333-0033

Office hours: 8:00-5:00 M-F

Let me help you get your memorial events out to everyone. If you are having a memorial event let me know so I can put it in the newsletter, post it to facebook. I know there are many of us that would love to attend these memorials and help you honor your fallen hero.

I was on the Gold Star Dads website doing some research and came across the below written by a sixth grader. Some of you may have seen this but it struck and stayed with me. In the event you hadn't seen it I wanted to share it. I often think about the fact that, unless you live with a military loss, many of us don't incorporate in our daily lives the thoughts of sacrifices that have been given by so many, so that we can do whatever we want to do. As this 6th grader realized at such a young age, I can only hope that we continue to teach our young children and adults alike; not to take for granted our freedoms, because Freedom is not Free.

What Freedom Means To Me"

I was given a hero bracelet in the fifth grade. It has the name of a fallen Soldier on it, Corporal Keith V. Nepesa of New Philadelphia, Ohio. I had the freedom of choosing the color of my hero bracelet. I chose purple to remind me of the purple heart he received for serving our country. I am now in the sixth grade and wear my bracelet to remind me of my freedom.

My bracelet means freedom. It has been bent and scratched from being caught on the little league baseball fence. It has had blood on it after I wrecked my bicycle, and dirt from playing in the woods behind my house. I've cleaned cookie dough off it, after baking in the kitchen with my mother. I sleep peacefully with it on. I learn at school with it on. I worship Jesus Christ with it on. I see the bracelet on my wrist and am reminded that I am so fortunate to live in The United States of America. I love my freedom! Freedom means so much to me, for without it I would not be able to wear my hero bracelet.

Like my bracelet, the cost of freedom gets bent and scratched, dirty and sometimes even bloody. Once I visited Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. where I saw row after row of tombstones representing soldiers who had to die to keep this great country free. This is when I realized that Freedom is not free!

Written 12/1/2008 by Drew Gooding, Sixth Grade, Welty Middle School, New Philadelphia Elks Lodge

A note from Major David Cote, The Summit Project.



Thank you for helping The Summit Project become a tremendous success in Maine – Maine heroes are NOT forgotten!

Since starting this project on Memorial Day 2013, I have crisscrossed the state multiple times, met with dozens of families of the fallen, and collected almost 40 stones! Volunteers have carried those stones throughout the east coast in parades, biker convoys and marathons. One stone even summated Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa.

I've heard such extraordinary stories of our fallen, stories that continue to inspire generations to come. I've been fortunate to get help from dozens of Maine businesses, individuals and organizations across the state. The support has been unexpected, consistent and just amazing -- all to honor and sustain the memories of your loved ones and honor your sacrifice too.

I am sending this note to specifically invite you to The Summit Project's signature event over Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, 2014 – a big family retreat in Millinocket, Maine. A select number of hikers will carry our stones to the summit of Katahdin and spend the weekend together in fellowship and community.

I want you and your family to stay the weekend with us and celebrate the inaugural Summit Project Katahdin climb and reception. It will be emotional, healing, enjoyable and inspiring. The theme of the weekend is a Big Maine Family Reunion with shared stories, games, food, maybe even a bonfire.

Please come meet our fantastic team of hikers. Come meet the Patriot Riders who will escort our stones from Portland to Millinocket with Maine State Police escort. After the hike, we want YOU to welcome our hikers back off the mountain and celebrate their accomplishment with a dinner and celebration. They want to shake your hands and meet you too.

Please contact me at mail@mainememorial.org or use [facebook.com/TheSummitProject](https://www.facebook.com/TheSummitProject) if you want more information.

It has been such an honor and privilege to shepherd this project and already The Summit Project has revealed the character of Maine – A character of honor, service, integrity and loyalty.

Major David J. Cote, USMC Founder The Summit Project



Gold Star Wives Day April 2014

The Summit Project—The Summit Project's signature event over Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25, 2014 – a big family retreat in Millinocket, Maine.

A select number of hikers will carry stones to the summit of Katahdin and spend the weekend together in fellowship and community.

Major Cote wants you & your family to stay the weekend, and celebrate the inaugural Summit Project Katahdin climb and reception. It will be emotional, healing, enjoyable and inspiring. The theme of the weekend is a Big Maine Family Reunion.

2nd Annual Aaron Henderson Memorial Softball Tournament

Co-Ed ASA 1 pitch softball tournament

When: 13, 14, 15 June 2014 Where: Houlton Park, Houlton Maine

This event is to honor the memory of a great friend and hero—Aaron Henderson.

Sponsor: Bangor Waterfront Concerts

Bangor Waterfront Concert has donated 2 tickets that are being raffled off. You can stop by Macs trading post in Houlton and purchase some raffle tickets for your chance to see 2 outstanding concerts of your choice at the Bangor Waterfront Concert this summer. Tickets are \$5.00 dollars for one; \$10.00 dollars for three; and there will be many more raffle items to be raffled as well.

Spread the word, buy some tickets for this great cause and of course come on up to the beautiful northern woods of Maine, support the tournament and be a part of honoring Aaron and his family. If you want to donate contact Brad Fredericks at Mid-coast79@hotmail.com

All proceeds received will go to the wounded warrior project in Aarons honor.

LETS DO THIS



Run For Cash: The 10th Annual Memorial
5K Run, 3 Mile Walk, & Kids' Fun Run



7:45 am Free Kids'
Fun Run
8:30 am RUN
Start
8:35 am WALK
Start



Saturday June 21st, 2014
Rain or Shine!

June 21st, 2014 will be the 10th anniversary of the race and honoring Christopher's life. All proceeds from the race go to scholarships for local high school graduates pursuing continuing education. Come on down to Old Orchard Beach and support this great event and help Nancy Lee and Bob celebrate the legacy and memory of their son, CPT Christopher Scott Cash

Don't wait, sign up now. Go to <http://runforcash.org/>



Mother of Fallen Hero, receives replacement medals, flag and flag case after a tragic fire stole from her everything she had left to remember and honor her son.

On December 12th, 2013 I received a phone call that there had been a fire in the home of Tina and Ben Martin, parents of PFC Tyler Springmann who was killed in action on July 17, 2011. Tina and Ben were devastated to have lost all of their son's medals, flag and flag case which were all destroyed in the fire. Through a collaborative effort between many organizations such as, Survivor

Outreach Services, Casualty and Mortuary Affairs, Dover Air Force Base, Fort Drum Casualty Assistance Center, Senator Angus Kings congressional office in Maine and the Director of Maine Veterans Services, on January 25th, 2014 we were able to present to Tina and Ben in a small ceremony at the home of Gary Foss, uncle to Ben, the replacement US Flag, Flag Case,



all Federal Awards, State Flag and all State Medals. On behalf of Run for the Fallen (RFTF), a non-profit organization helping families of our Maine fallen, and through their Family Emergency Fund I presented a check for \$1000.00 to help Tina and Ben in the rebuilding of their home and they, RFTF continue their efforts by putting information out to their sponsors and other family members for further assistance. The Maine National Guard Family Assistance Center, from their corporate sponsors, assisted the family with over \$300.00 in gift cards, along with knitted hats, mittens and socks. SFC Todd Falone the families CAO, presented



to the family on behalf of the Bangor Enlisted Association Club, a check for \$500.00 to also assist in the rebuild of their home. In attendance at the ceremony was Elizabeth MacTaggart – Regional Representative for Senator Angus King, SFC Todd Falone – Casualty Assistance Officer for the family, Mr. Peter Ogden – Director of Maine Veterans Services and Rachel Bosse Survivor Outreach Services.

Every year the Maine Funeral Directors Association in conjunction with Wreaths Across America hold a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the State House, Hall of Flags. This year on December 9th, 2013 two families were honored and their loved ones remembered in a candle lighting ceremony - LTC Michael Backus and SGT Corey Garver.



Kristy Backus, two of her three sons Nathan and Evan, father in law John, step-mother, and 4 of his sisters and many nieces and nephews were there to honor LTC Backus.



Kelly Averill, sister of SGT Corey Garver, two children and a friend attended to honor her brother and to light a candle in his memory, and accept the State Medals from the Director of Veterans Services for Corey's service and sacrifice to his country and state.

Mrs. Sharon Bernard, Mrs. Suzanne Brochu and Mrs. Bethel Shields, Gold Star Mothers attended the ceremony where Bethel helped lay the wreath.



Tax information-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) & Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)

Self-Help Tax Preparation-Need help or don't have access to a computer?, visit participating tax preparation sites & an IRS-certified volunteer will guide you through the process.

You can find a site near you by using the following website:

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Find-a-Location-for-Free-Tax-Prep> or call 1-800-906-9887.

A majority of the sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide Program. To locate the nearest TCE site or AARP Tax-Aide call 888-227-7669.

Military One Source MOS www.militaryonesource.mil provides a free tax service, answering questions you may have about the on-line program or if you are doing your taxes and run into trouble.

Gayle Rose Martinez, a personal financial counselor is also available to help you find answers to your tax questions or locate resources that will assist you, call 706-274-3987 or email gmartinez@mflc.zeiders.com

Items You Need to Bring when having your tax return(s) prepared at a VITA or TCE site: Picture ID/Social Security Cards/Birth dates for you and dependents/Wage and earning statement(s) Form W2, W2G, 1099R/Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)/A copy of last year's federal and state tax returns/Proof of bank account routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit, such as a blank check



Catherine Kreter, National Coordinator, Home of the Brave Quilt Project contacted me and would like to ensure that all Maine families have the opportunity to receive a quilt to honor your Fallen hero, your loved one who gave their life for our country. Quilters from across the country have united to make these quilts; handmade, Civil War replicas personalized with the Fallen Hero's name and dedication on the back. If you are interested in receiving a quilt please contact Mrs. Catherine L. Kreter direct or let me know if I can pass your contact information to her. Catherine's email address is quiltsforthe-brave@att.net or contact me at 207-430-5959 if you do not have a computer, and I can pass your contact information to her. These quilts are beautifully done. Let me know if you're interested and we can get that information to them. They want to honor all our Maine Fallen.

Maine Personal Financial Counselor

Ms Gayle Rose Martinez
22 Armory Road
Augusta, Maine 04330
207-274-3987
gmartinez@mflc.zeiders.com

SOS Financial Counselors

Stephen Premo
ChFC, CLU, FLMI
585-338-7400, ext: 2276
Stephen.w.premo.ctr@mail.mil

Erin Wilcher, AFC
Fort Drum
315-772-0050
erin.m.wilcher.civ@mail.mil

Military and Family Life Consultant

Ms Jaynce Beck
207-210-3365
Janyce.b.beck@healthnet.com

Transition Assistance Advisor

Ms Wendy Moody
207-430-5778
Wendy.j.moody2.ctr@mail.mil

Annual Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

Effective Aug. 1, 2013, **Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants over the age of 55** are no longer required to submit an annual [Certificate of Eligibility](#) (COE) to DFAS. You wont be sent the form. However, if you are **under** the age of 55 an annual reminder is sent to you around your birth month and you do have to submit. **Do not disregard it, DFAS will stop your annuity payment. Be sure to notify DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 or <http://www.dfas.mil/> if your address has changed.**

UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Uniformed Services Identification Card is the ticket to continued health care coverage and benefits. If you are a spouse or dependent of a Fallen Servicemember or spouse of a deceased retiree the key is keeping all information current and updated with DEERS **especially any changes in address**. If your address has changed since the last time you got an ID Card contact DEERS at 1-800-538-9552 or see an ID Card facility to update your address.

Dependent `s are required to renew their ID card every four years, and children should get an ID card starting at age 10. Remarriage results in the forfeiture of the widow's ID card and associated benefits, to include health coverage.



ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

Who is eligible: Soldiers retired from active duty because of longevity or physical disability or retired upon reaching age 60 (Reserve Components) and their eligible family members.

Widows, widowers and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after retirement as cited above

How do I apply :

If there is no military installation of any type within 50 miles of your location, call the American Red Cross at 877-272-7337, they will take your information over the phone, you will need to fax a copy of your ID Card (front and back) and they will proceed with the process.

For more information visit their website <http://www.aerhq.org/dnn563/FinancialAssistance.aspx> or contact them at the number provided above.

Chaplains Corner

Help From The Lord

In the Old Testament book of Second Kings, Chapter Six, there is a great story of faith.

The Prophet Elisha was being sought by the forces of the King of Aram because the Lord was revealing to Elisha every stratagem of Aram against Israel. Aram's army would put together a strategy only to have Israel outfox them because Elisha had been given a divine heads-up in time for Israel to maneuver out of harm's way. And so, the King of Aram amassed a force dedicated to ferreting out and eradicating Elisha. JUST Elisha... a whole army for one man. One morning, Elisha's servant awoke to see the forces of Aram bearing down on their city. In a panic he runs to Elisha to warn him. Elisha's response is so amazing: "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:16-17).

There are times when it feels like a whole army is dedicated to ferreting US out and eradicating US. It's in times like this that through the eyes of faith we can be encouraged to see the hand of God at work around us, just like Elisha's servant could see that he and Elisha were not alone. Whatever you're going through today, I hope this story from the Scriptures is an encouragement to you and that you too can see help from the Lord surrounding you.

God bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you and give you His peace.

Chaplain Weigelt



Page 8



Survivor Outreach Services
194 Winthrop St, Bldg 7
Camp Keyes, Augusta, ME 04333-0033

“Embracing and reassuring Survivors 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”

PHONE NUMBERS and WEB SITES

DFAS 1-800-321-1080—www.dfas.mil
Tri-Care Support Specialist at Camp Keyes 207-430-5928
ID Cards, Camp Keyes, Augusta 207-430-5194
Martins Point Spec 1-800-431-0777 X4458
HealthNet-1-877-874-2273—www.tricare.osd.mil
VA Togus 1-800-827-1000— www.va.gov
MilOneSource-1-800-342-9647-www.militaryonesource.com
Tragedy Assistance Program-1-800-696-8277-www.taps.org
Social Security Administration-1-800-772-1213-www.ssa.gov
VA GI Bill - www.gibill.va.gov/resources/student_handouts
National Resource Directory—<https://www.nrd.gov/>
State of Maine Veteran Services—www.maine.gov
Survivor Outreach Services—www.sos.army.mil



[Maine Survivor Outreach Services](#)
and LIKE us!!

Gold Star Mothers

President, Maine Chapter
Bethel Shields 207-782-7451
Blomsk@roadrunner.com
www.goldstarmoms.com

Gold Star Wives Chapter

President, Maine Chapter
Amber Chisholm 207-924-4315
armymedic0789@hotmail.com
www.goldstarwives.com

Gold Star Dads/Fathers web-sites

<http://goldstardads.org/>
<http://goldstarfathers.com/>

Army Wounded Warrior Advocate

Mr. Harry Dumont
(207) 430-5851 (Office)
(207) 620-6175 (BB)
harry.g.dumont.mil@mail.mil