



The last couple of years have been exceedingly difficult for our military families. We handled one hundred and twenty-five emergency/crises for our Gold Star & disabled veteran families with financial emergencies such as food, rent, mortgage payments, temporary lodging for our homeless, insurance, utilities, vehicle repairs, gas, shoes, clothing, funeral expenses, school supplies, and much more.

Our college program provided tuition, books, and fees to twenty-five students across the States. We sponsored an expedition to Wrangell-St. Elias, Alaska to honor the memory of Army 1st Lt. Michael L. Runyan who was killed in action on July 21, 2010. He was assigned to 52nd Infantry, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. 1Lt Runyan was a former student who had earned a degree in criminal justice from Xavier. Several veteran students attending Xavier University had the experience of a lifetime on this special expedition!

Our Health and Well-Being program has provided thousands of hours of emotional support, ordered & shipped out not only holistic treatments, but covid-19 supplements, essential oils, and diffusers.

Our newest Morale support program, Casting Freedom, *last year alone* helped more than fifty Gold Star and disabled veterans not including their families by providing them with fishing rods/reels, gear, fishing trips, several with our wonderful Major League Bass Professionals, and with the wonderful support of Lew's & Strike King!



This past November our Annual Salute to Military Service event entertained 109 veteran family members and another 80 Army recruits including their family members in Kemah, Texas!

We continue to help our children with group sports, camps, and other meaningful activities, welcome in and celebrate births, birthdays, graduations, weddings, Christmases, and sadly remember and offer comfort to our families grieving our fallen brothers and sisters.

Why we are here, *still*?

There are more than 2.5 million post 9/11 (only) military veterans that have served our country, 80% of them served in a combat zone overseas, 60% of them are under the age of 34, 22 twenty-two veterans commit suicide daily – one every 80 minutes, 30% suffer disabilities and an estimated 300,000 suffer psychological wounds such as PTSD/PTS (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) as the result of their service.

More than 7,000 U.S. Troops lost their lives post 9/11, thousands of private contractors died while providing logistical and security support to U.S. troops, more than 52,000 have been wounded in combat, and tragically the U.S. military suicide rate has climbed significantly since 2004 with more than four times as many service members dying by suicide than in combat (post 9/11). Over 300,000 of our military veterans suffer from psychological wounds that are deeply embedded in their lives and sadly 40% of them feel like a “guest” in their own homes, 84% feel like the American public has little awareness of the challenges facing them and their families.

We are here and remain because these are “our” Gold Star & wounded Veteran families. We have hundreds that we stay in touch with and have watched the children grow into successful adults earning College degrees and moving forward in their careers. They are not and have never been just a piece of paper, an application, or a passerby; we are here because we have love, compassion, gratitude, and respect for all of them. They deserve so much more for the many sacrifices they have made and continue to make.

Will you consider helping them? It’s time we change the 16% that are aware of the challenges our military veterans face into 90% and all it takes is a little compassion and understanding.

We are so grateful for our wonderful [sponsors and partners](#) who over the past 19 years have allowed us to be here for our families! Please consider a [donation](#) as this year ends.

May you have a blessed Holiday Season!

Thank you from all of us at [Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund, Inc.](#)