

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

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Maine National Guard



Survivor Outreach Services Coordinators

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As we continue to grow, SOS would like to hear from our Families. SOS is constantly looking for positive Survivor feedback on how to develop the SOS program. Please share your ideas, concerns and questions so that we can address the needs of Maine Survivors. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Help us keep you informed on the latest SOS news and information! If you have changed your mailing address or email address, let us know so we can keep your contact information current!

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Maine Survivor Outreach

Wow, where did the summer go? It is now October and the leaves are changing and falling and before you know it the Holidays will be upon us.

It seems like it was just yesterday that the Gold Star License Plate was unveiled at the State house, Gold Star Mothers met on May 1st and toured the Museum at Camp Keyes, then we gathered again at the State House to add more Dog Tags to the Statue, June arrived with rain for the Run for Cash, July we went to Florida for a National SOS Conference (Florida in the Summer? Hot), and July ended with a commemorative ceremony on Spruce Island for Andrew Hutchins. August brought wonderful warm and sunny weather for the Run for the Fallen (until the cook out then the skies opened up), September rolled around along with the 9/11 Anniversary of ten years and a fantastic tribute was held all weekend in Freeport, Maine put on by the Freeport Flag Ladies. The following week we were honored to attend post Suicide training in New Hampshire, where we learned a great deal. Now October is here and the Maine Marathon Tribute March was rained on but that did not stop the Soldiers or the surviving families that participated.

Next on our calendar is the SOS luncheon on Sunday, November 6th 2011.

It has been an honor for us to have met you, worked with you and gotten to know you all this year and we look forward to continuing to support you in whatever way we can.

Remember "Never Forgotten... Never Alone"

Maine's Survivor Outreach Service Coordinators

Mary O'Mara
&
Rachel Bosse

Never Forgotten, Never Alone....

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Run for the Fallen – 21 August 2011



Run for the Fallen - a beautiful day to remember the fallen troops from the State of Maine who gave the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom



Our Fallen Hero's



Jonathan and Andrew Slack, twin brothers of Wade A. Slack at the finish of Run for the Fallen in Monument Square

It was a cold and damp day for the Maine Marathon Tribute March, but that didn't stop service members from all branches to march 26.2 miles in honor of our Maine Fallen Hero's. Survivors, family members, family program and their youth group joined the formation at Payson Park to finish the last two miles.



PROJECT GREEN HEAT

Project Green Heat a 501 C(3) non-profit organization from New Hampshire provides heating assistance to people in need. They donate fuel in the form of clean burning biomass wood pellets and when needed, stoves or furnaces to burn the wood. Jim Kane, President of Project Green Heat during his 20-year career in non-profits, has had the privilege to meet people in all walks of life, and started Project Green Heat as a way to recognize such individuals – men and women who have served our country and communities, and military families that have given the ultimate sacrifice. Two mothers were assisted by Project Green Heat on September 28th, when they installed a pellet stove and a wood burning stove into their homes. Our thanks go out to Project Green Heat.



Jim Kane, Wanda Kilgore and Grant Steele



Refurbished pellet stove donated by Project Green Heat



Refurbished Wood Stove from Project Green Heat



Patti and Steve with refurbished wood stove donated by Project Green Heat

INFORMATION PAGE & CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chapter 207-LD 736: An act to Prohibit Texting while driving

New statute that prohibits a person from operating a vehicle while engaging in text messaging. It is a traffic infraction for which a fine of not less than \$100.00 may be adjudged. "Text messaging" is defined as reading or manually composing electronic communications, including text messages, instant messages and e-mails, using a portable electronic device. "Text messaging" does not include using a global positioning or navigation system. "Portable electronic device" means any portable electronic device that is not part of the operating equipment of a vehicle, including but not limited to an electronic game, device for sending or receiving e-mail, text messaging device, cellular telephone and computer. "Cellular telephone" means a device used to access wireless telephone service. BE SAFE

The TriCare Dental Program (TDR) will expand coverage for surviving spouses and children effective 17 October. Highlights of the Expansion of Survivor Eligibility under the TRICARE Dental Program are

- Under 2010 program, the family had to be enrolled in TDP prior to the Service member's death. This is no longer a requirement. Past bills will not be paid as a result of these changes.
- Spouses are given three years of coverage after the Service member's death
- Children are given the greater of three years or until age 21 (23 if enrolled in college)
- The final rule will maintain the government's payment of both the Government and dependent's portion of the premium share during the period of continuous enrollment

Chaplain's Corner

It's Apple Season, after all...

My wife loves Macoun (pronounced "Macowan") Apples. She stores them in the handled paper bag she gets from the orchard and she keeps a clean, springwater-dampened cloth in that bag, which she stores in the fridge. It keeps the apples from getting all wrinkled and wizened. She's right, they really *are* a great blend of crisp and sweet and tart. A half gallon of Macoun cider doesn't last long either! These little apples are so refreshing and they are a delight to the eye and the palate!

The Old Testament wise man Solomon talks about another beautiful and refreshing thing, and uses apples to help illustrate. In Proverbs 25:11 he says, "*A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.*" Now he may be using a jewelry image here, but I find the comparison very pleasing. It really is refreshing to hear "a word aptly spoken." I know I've been helped with overcoming a dry spell; a season of discouragement or tiredness by hearing a kind, up-building word or a message of encouragement spoken at just the right time. Have you? On occasion I've been able to be the speaker of such a word and that brings its own blessing along with it too. It is refreshing and delightful to both hear and speak such apt words.

This Autumn as you go to the orchard or the applecart at the market and as you interact with others, let me encourage you to remember this sentiment; to appreciate the words *aptly spoken* to you, and to recognize the power you have to refresh those around you with your own aptly spoken words.

Grace and Peace,
Chaplain Earl Weigelt
FT Support Chaplain, MEARNNG



“Embracing and reassuring Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them

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