



Volume 1

WARRIOR

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Supporting the Families of Fallen and Wounded Special Operations Forces Since 1980

SOWF Scholarship Recipient Manages Crime Victim Advocacy for Arizona Attorney General

On July 27, 1990, 15-year-old Amy Bocks received the news that her father, SFC John R. Duryea, assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group, lost his life during a training mission. He left behind his wife, Patricia, and two young daughters.

Three years earlier, Amy and her dad set out from Tempe, AZ, to climb Mt. Whitney. On the first day, the pair passed two Marines from Camp Pendleton. Amy remembers her father standing beside her, admiringly calling her a “hard charger,” and telling her the other Special Forces soldiers in his unit would be impressed.

In time, Amy’s spirit and drive to excel reasserted itself. She completed high school, married, had a daughter, and enrolled in college. With funding from the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Amy earned a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science in 2004 from the University of Arizona. She

then went on to get a Master’s degree in Educational Psychology – Human Relations in 2012 from Northern Arizona University.

For nine years, Amy has worked in the Arizona Attorney General’s office in Tucson, where she manages crime victim advocacy programs in Phoenix and Tucson.

Her younger sister Jamie, received her bachelor’s degree in education from Arizona State. She is currently working as a community health educator.

While Amy is thankful for the scholarship funds that helped her complete

her bachelor’s degree, she is even more appreciative of the opportunities the foundation provides for the families of the fallen to connect with each other.

“I want donors to know that it’s not just a program,” Amy says. “They (SOWF) look at us like we’re their extended family.”

“I want donors to know that it’s not just a program,” Amy says. “They (SOWF) look at us like we’re their extended family.”



Amy and her husband, Russell, who rooted for the University of Arizona and Arizona State, respectively, during the teams’ game last Thanksgiving weekend.



The Duryea family in 1987. Patricia and John Duryea with daughters, Jamie and Amy.



Programs

- College Educations
- Wounded SOF Support
- Family Support



Message from the President and CEO



Joe Maguire
Vice Admiral, USN, Retired
President, Special Operations
Warrior Foundation

“Your financial support is the fuel that drives the Foundation’s engine...With your support, we will continue to honor the sacrifices of fallen warriors by sending their surviving children to college.”



Proud recipient of an esteemed four-star rating 8 years in a row!

MY MESSAGE IS SIMPLE.

As our Special Operations Forces continue to be decisively engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan and deployed to many other dangerous and difficult countries throughout the globe, I am reminded almost on a daily basis of our warrior ethos of taking care of each other.

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation continues to add children of fallen warriors to our college scholarship program. Nearly every week, I receive news of another one of our troops being hospitalized after being engaged in combat operations. The Foundation quickly sends financial stipends to our severely wounded Special Operators to help reduce the burden of unexpected expenses and so their families can travel to be with their loved one.

Since I replaced my good friend Colonel John Carney as president on September 1st, over 30 special operators have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and more than 50 have been seriously wounded and medically evacuated to U.S. military and veteran hospitals. It is our sacred mission to keep our covenant with over 1,000 children who lost a parent. However, we are only able to assure college educations for the children of the fallen because of your generous and sustained donations. Quite simply -- we cannot fulfill our mission without you.

The war in Afghanistan is winding down but the last Americans to leave will be Special Operations Forces. No matter what future challenges face our great nation, the first ones to answer the call will once again be Special Operators.

I am extremely honored and humbled to join our Chairman and my good friend, General Doug Brown in support of America’s Special Operations Forces and their brave families. Your financial support is the fuel that drives the Foundation’s engine. It helps knowing that you join me in believing that no child in this great nation should be financially disadvantaged because his or her parent died in the service of his country. With your support, we will continue to honor the sacrifices of fallen warriors by sending their surviving children to college.

Once again, thank you.

Joe Maguire
Vice Admiral, USN Retired
President & CEO

Future College Student

Logan Kettle, 7, is the youngest son of Army Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Kettle, who lost his life in Aug. 2007 in Afghanistan while assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group.

It will be a few years before the SOWF sends Logan to college, but his older brother, Donovan, is currently in his freshman year at Austin Community College in Texas.



SOWF Welcomes New Chairman

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK! That's our promise to America's Special Operations Forces. When the time comes for the child of a fallen special operator, in any unit, in any service, to attend college, we will be there to ensure they have the opportunity. It is what you want for them, and it is what we want for them. It is our solemn promise to you and we will not let you down.

It is a distinct honor and privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Board of one of the top 1% of all charities in America (as rated by Charitynavigator.com). The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) has been extremely successful in caring for the children of our fallen. The reason is twofold: generous donors who believe in our noble cause, and the incredible leadership of our former Chairman and President. It is my honor to replace retired General Carl Stiner, who has served as the Chairman since 2000. Clearly, these are big shoes to fill.

General Stiner provided leadership to the organization and built a board of directors of exceptionally dedicated and talented professional members that have one goal, and that is to take care of our children. General Stiner's personal commitment and years of leadership and guidance, when teamed with "Coach," retired Colonel John Carney, has made SOWF a powerhouse. Their personal devotion and tireless efforts have turned the SOWF into an organization that is emulated by others. They are quite frankly the best. I know, I have watched them for years.

We are indeed fortunate to have selected retired Vice Admiral Joe Maguire as our new President and CEO. Vice Admiral Maguire is absolutely the right pick as he has the experience, the drive and, most of all, the compassion to carry on the great work done by Colonel John Carney. The Admiral and I understand the task ahead of us, but the cause is so significant, and the generosity of the America people so great, we will undoubtedly secure the future for our Special Operations children.

Today we are assisting 120 children in college. There are another 673 children of our fallen that will some day be looking for their opportunity. That is why it is critical that we stay in contact with the child and with the family throughout the years. They will know exactly where to look for support. SOWF has no requirements for a child to compete for a scholarship. We are simply there waiting to assist. No essays to write, no interviews, and no demands, other than go to school. Through the tremendous staff at the SOWF, we will stay in contact throughout the years and as the time comes near, we will be there to help with the entire process from school selection, to application, to the all important funding.

I want to thank all of you for your great support to the SOWF and our children. It is only through your generosity that we are able to take care of the critically wounded and the children of the fallen. It is a sacred debt. It is a promise we intend to keep, but we cannot do it without you.

Again, it is honor and a privilege to be on "board."

*Doug Brown
General, USA Retired
Chairman of the Board*



Bryan "Doug" Brown
General, USA Retired
Chairman, Special Operations
Warrior Foundation

"It is only through your generosity that we are able to take care of the critically wounded and children of the fallen. It is a sacred debt. It is a promise we intend to keep, but we cannot do it without you."



Artwork by SOWF scholarship recipient Alexander Boyles, daughter of Army Lt. Col. Timothy Boyles, who lost his life in 1999 while assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group. Alex graduated from Marshall University in 2012 with a degree in graphic design.



Success Stories



SOWF Grad Rebecca Peixotto Joins National Geographic Society Rising Star Expedition

As Rebecca Peixotto pursued her college studies, she wasn't set on any particular career, but she did know a 9 to 5 office job wasn't in her future.

SOWF scholarship recipient Becca earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Slavic area studies at the University of Alabama in 1997, minoring in mathematics.

As a nature lover, she got involved with Outward Bound and other outdoor education organizations.

In archaeology, Becca says, "I found a field where I could combine the skills I already had - map reading, teamwork, leadership, education, and technical outdoor skills like caving - with my interests in history, people, science, social justice, and community service."

Becca attended the University of Amsterdam and earned a Master of Arts with Honours, Discourse and Argumentation Studies in 1999, then went on to earn a Master of Arts degree from American University in Washington, D.C. in 2013, majoring in public anthropology and historical archaeology.

Becca's dad, Air Force Lt. Col. Roland Peixotto, Jr., died on Oct.

29, 1992, when a USAF MH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter he was flying in with fellow Air Force special operators and Army Rangers crashed during a training exercise.

Of the 13 men aboard, only one survived.



Last November, Becca (above) joined the National Geographic Society's Rising Star Expedition team of scientists that found and excavated deep-cave fossils in South Africa. Over 1,200 fossil elements were catalogued and transferred to Wits University in Johannesburg, the largest city in South Africa.

Some of the fossils have links to modern man, Homo sapiens, and his extinct predecessors.

Becca's path to archaeology began when the Special Operations Warrior Foundation called with the

"The financial support in college, of course, was invaluable. But the birthday cards, newsletters, emails checking in on me once in a while - those little things remind me there is a whole Special Ops family out there."

news it would pay for her to attend college.

"The financial support in college, of course, was invaluable," she says. "But the birthday cards, newsletters, emails checking in on me once in a while - those little things remind me there is a whole Special Ops family out there, and even after so many years, I am still connected to the community my dad served with."

Becca traveled to Florida last September to attend her first-ever SOWF event, the reception for retired Air Force Col. John Carney, who was stepping down as president and CEO of the Warrior Foundation after 16 years.

At the reception, "I loved how we were all still the Foundation's 'kids,'" Becca recalls.

SOWF College Senior Meagan Ochsner is Committed to Helping Troubled Youth

In January, SOWF scholarship recipient Meagan Ochsner (right) turned in a resume and cover letter to Aulderm Academy in Siler City, NC. Within an hour, she received a positive reply regarding an internship.

For Meagan, who will graduate from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, in May, this opportunity will bring her full circle from the agonizing days following the death of her father.

Meagan was in middle school when she lost her dad, Sgt. 1st Class James Ochsner, who was an intelligence sergeant with the 3rd Special Forces Group. The Green Beret died on Nov. 15, 2005, from



Sgt. 1st Class James Ochsner

wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device, while in Afghanistan distributing supplies to local nationals. He left behind his wife, Ann, Meagan, and a son, Nicholas, who is also a SOWF scholarship recipient.

Meagan's father was committed to assisting the Afghan people. He had his family mail care packages so he could give the contents to the locals, who had nothing.

She inherited her caring personality from him, so when Meagan first enrolled at Meredith College, she thought she might become an exceptional education teacher. But after one semester, she realized it wasn't right for her.

Meagan switched her major to criminology. In May, she will graduate with her Bachelor of Arts



“Because of the financial support, I have been able to try new things and experience the college life without the worry of tuition.”

degree; and she is thinking about becoming a municipal police officer, a career that will allow her to aid the public.

As is often the case with children who lose a military parent in combat, Meagan struggled with grief, anger and sadness.

“After my dad was killed, I was going nowhere fast,” she remembers.

Her mother did her best to help her unhappy daughter, including enrolling Meagan twice to a wilderness camp.

When that didn't work, Ann sent Meagan to Aulderm Academy, which offers college preparatory education to at-risk girls from the 8th grade to the 12th grade. It has three components – academic, counseling services, and student life.

Meagan credits the school with helping her

deal with her dad's death and adjust to life without him.

Although she cherishes the birthday and holiday cards sent to her by the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, she is especially grateful to the SOWF for providing the funds for her and her brother Nick to attend college.

“Because of the financial support, I have been able to try new things and experience the college life without the worry of tuition,” she says, “and I have had the opportunity to try out different majors and internships to narrow in on what might become my career.”

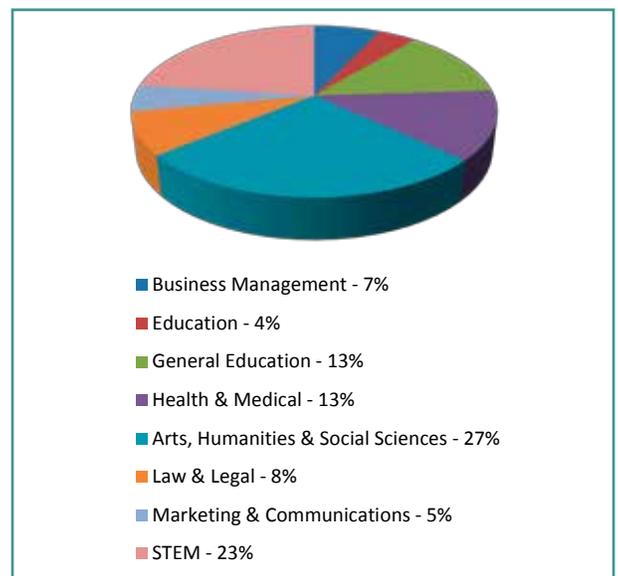
Nick graduated from Elon University in North Carolina with a degree in Broadcast Journalism.

He is currently working as an investigative reporter in Virginia.



(Right) Meagan and her mother, Ann.

2013-2014 Student Majors



(STEM = science, technology, engineering & math)

SOWF Grad Taniya Wright Joins Maryland TV Station

Taniya Wright is among the handful of Special Operations Warrior Foundation scholarship recipients who have chosen a career in broadcast journalism.

It's the polar opposite of what their fallen parents did while serving our country, which was to depart, sometimes on a moment's notice, to a place they couldn't reveal, on a mission they wouldn't divulge even to their own spouses and kids, for security reasons and because of the dangers involved.

Now 30, Taniya lost her dad, Staff Sgt. James B. Wright, a Green Beret who served with the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne, in 1987 in a training accident. She was four years old.

Taniya graduated in 2006 from the University of South Florida in Tampa with a mass communications



degree, with an emphasis on TV and Broadcasting.

"The Warrior Foundation has had such an impact on my life," she said. "SOWF is a great foundation and I thank everyone who supports it."

After working as an associate producer at WFLA-TV Channel 8, the NBC affiliate in Tampa - the nation's 13th largest television market and #1 in

Florida - Taniya moved north last December, to take a job as a reporter with WHAG-TV.

Based in Hagerstown, MD, the station covers Western Maryland and portions of West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Personable and energetic, Taniya is excited about this new chapter in her career. She has wasted no time getting into the swing of things, including reporting on the series of winter storms pummeling the Northeast.

"I'm freezing! The weather is insane," she says.

"The Warrior Foundation has had such an impact on my life. SOWF is a great foundation and I thank everyone who supports it."

Student Spotlight

Anna, 18, and Marcus, 13, Muralles are the daughter and son of Army SFC Marcus Muralles, who lost his life in June 2005 while assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Anna is currently enrolled at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort.



Anna and Marcus Muralles



The Kocan Family: Kassandra, Cameron, and Carissa



Ryan Soltes

Ryan Soltes, 19, is the son of Army Maj. Charles Soltes, who lost his life in Iraq in 2004 while assigned to the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion. Ryan is a freshman at Azusa Pacific University in Calif. where he is majoring in Biology. Ryan is the oldest of three sons.

The DIRECTV blimp made a stop in Tampa and offered SOWF families a ride over Tampa Bay. Accepting the challenge was Carissa Kocan and her children Cameron, 16, and Kassandra 14. The ride included going over Hillsborough High School, where both Cameron and Kassandra are students. The Kocans are the family of Air Force LTC Keith Kocan who lost his life in 2006.

The Gift of Education

You have the opportunity to provide life-altering programs to the children of fallen warriors. You can help by arranging an end-of-life gift in your estate. Just as you might do for your own grandchildren, you can make sure these children will get a college education.

There are many ways to set up a gift. You can name the Special Operations Warrior Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or living trust, on a life insurance policy, or in an IRA or 401-K plan. Even if you leave only a small percent, such as 5% or 10% of your IRA, that will still make a big difference.

These gifts are easy to arrange, and you can change them at any time. They do not cost you anything now, and they are funded only if you have not spent all of your money during life.

For more information and assistance with setting up your estate gift, please call John Elbare, Director of Philanthropy, at 813-805-9400 or email him at johne@specialops.org

SOWF Support to Wounded Special Forces Soldier



Army Sgt. Kevin Trzcinski, a 3rd Battalion, 7th Group, Special Forces team member, recited the Oath of Enlistment, shortly after being treated for gunshot wounds.

U.S. Army photo by SFC Brehl Garza

Just as the SOWF supports the children of special operators killed in the line of duty, the foundation is there for seriously-wounded operators and their families.

Katie Trzcinski discovered this after her husband, Sgt. Kevin Trzcinski of 3rd Bn, 7th Group, Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 7325, was hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Sgt. Trzcinski suffered gunshot wounds while deployed to Kabul province in Afghanistan.

The couple received a \$3,000 check from the SOWF, which also provided Sgt. Trzcinski with an iPad so he could stay in touch with his family, friends and unit.

“Thank you for your amazing support when my husband was shot in the chest in January,” Katie says.

“He is now home from Walter Reed, and he is on his way to a full recovery.”

Sgt. Trzcinski is pictured above re-enlisting on Jan. 24, 2014, the day after he was wounded and had undergone his first surgery at WRNMMC.

Says Katie: “We are forever thankful for all of the support we were provided.”

To date, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation has provided over \$2 million in support of wounded special operation forces and their families.

“Thank you for your amazing support when my husband was shot in the chest in January.”

SOWF Support to Wounded SOF

Immediate stipend of

\$3,000

to help reduce financial burden

\$2.1 million



Nearly 900 Wounded



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WARRIOR FOUNDATION**
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(813) 805-9400
Tax ID # 52-1183585
CFC # 11455



The Special Operations Warrior Foundation has been awarded its 8th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. "Only 1% of the charities rated have received this exceptional designation which differentiates the SOWF from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust," said Ken Barger, the president of Charity Navigator, in a letter to the foundation.

Coming Events

April 29 - Birdies for the Brave Golf Tournament in Blaine, MN
 May 1 - Tribute to Special Operations Forces Dinner in Springfield, VA
 May 9 - 11th Annual Pam & Tom Deitz Golf Tournament in San Diego, CA
 May 18 - Special Operations Golf Tournament of South Florida in Miami, FL
 May 18 - 7th Annual Defenders of Freedom Veterans Recognition Ride
 June 7 - 7th Annual SFC Dan Crabtree Memorial 5K Run
 June 9 - 8th Annual CohnReznick Golf Outing



To get additional information about these events, or other events in the future, please visit our website at www.specialops.org

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If you, or someone you know, may be eligible for the programs offered by the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, please contact us at (813) 805-9400.



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