



Special Ops Survivors is a 501(c)3, Gold Star non-profit organization dedicated to our mission to embrace and empower surviving families of Special Operations personnel to build a future that their fallen heroes would have wanted for them.

In 2002, following the tragic death of a fellow Navy SEAL who lost his life during combat in the mountains of Afghanistan, our founder, Senior Chief Petty Officer Nicholas Rocha, felt compelled to assist the family that his fallen friend left behind. From that inspiring act of kindness, Special Ops Survivors was established. Now, after over a decade of service to the Special Operations community as the *only* organization dedicated to serving surviving spouses of active Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Special Operations personnel who have died in combat or training since September 11, 2001, Special Ops Survivors has touched the lives of over 200 surviving spouses and their families, throughout thirty states, working to rebuild their lives.

The services provided by SOS are intended to give practical support to survivors in various stages of the grieving and healing process as they make their way forward in their new lives by instituting and offering programs that provide individual emotional support, group emotional support, peer to peer mentoring, and direct financial assistance. SOS also has programs that allow for regional support groups, emergency financial aid grants, and, our newest program, childcare support. Our featured services, such as the Survivor's Conference (designed to be a practical learning experience providing life skills advice in areas such as coping and resilience, nutrition and financial planning while creating opportunities to build lifelong bonds with fellow survivors), and Education and Career Advancement Grants, (awarded to surviving spouses for their strength and resiliency as they further their careers in order to better provide for their families), are made possible through the generosity of our sponsors and community supporters.

While Special Ops Survivors understands that the healing power of not having to weather a tragedy alone is vital, we also recognize the comfort given to our Special Operations warriors who know that, should the worst occur, their spouses and families will be cared for. Sadly, we cannot bring back our survivors' loved ones; however, we *can* help ease their transition to a new life - a life that honors the legacy of their loved one.

For more information about the services provided by Special Ops Survivors and ways to help SOS continue to grow these services to meet the needs of our surviving spouses, please visit our website at [www.specialopssurvivors.org](http://www.specialopssurvivors.org) or email our team at [contact@specialopssurvivors.org](mailto:contact@specialopssurvivors.org).