



“Caring for the Families of  
Fallen and Wounded Special  
Operations Forces.”

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS WARRIOR FOUNDATION**

**History:** The Special Operations Warrior Foundation’s roots can be traced back to 1980, when a team of special operators attempted to rescue 53 Americans being held hostage in Iran. A tragic aircraft mishap took the life of eight servicemen, who left behind 17 children. A battlefield promise to care for their fallen brothers’ children has grown into one of the most respected and emulated nonprofit organizations in the United States.

**Mission:** Supporting the families of fallen and wounded Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps special operations personnel.

### **Leadership Team:**

Gen. Bryan “Doug” Brown,  
USA Retired, Chairman

Vice Adm. Joseph Maguire,  
USN Retired, President/CEO

### **What makes SOWF different?**

We proactively reach out to each and every one of the surviving families of fallen Special Operations Warriors. From the initial condolence letter and follow up phone calls, to the emails, birthday cards, and invitations to events, we remain in constant contact with the families. As a result, our families know we are dedicated to providing life-changing programs to those who have lost so much.



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## TALKING POINTS

**Who We Are:** For the past 37 years the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) has been dedicated to honoring the sacrifice of Special Operations Personnel who lose their lives in the line of duty or are severely wounded and hospitalized as a result of wounds sustained in combat.

**What We Do:** SOWF ensures full college scholarships to the surviving children of Special Operators who die in the line of duty - to any fully accredited college or university in the nation. Financial assistance includes tuition, room and board, books, fees, computers, transportation and miscellaneous expenses.

Additionally, SOWF provides ongoing support and academic counseling to make sure every student has the opportunity to do well in school. SOWF offers professional tutoring, at no cost, to all students from kindergarten through college graduation.

The Foundation also provides immediate financial assistance to severely wounded Special Operators to allow their families to be with them in the hospital and to offset expenses associated with their injuries. SOWF delivers a \$5,000 check to the wounded Special Operator's bedside immediately following arrival in a U.S. military hospital. We also provide an iPad so that the Special Operator can keep in touch with their comrades and family.

**When We Are There:** No recipient has to fill out an application to apply for our grants or write an essay – we find them. We reach out to the family within 30 days of the death to notify the surviving spouse of our solemn pledge to provide full college funding for their children.

**Where We Are Located:** SOWF is located in Tampa, Florida near United States Special Operations Command with a staff of 16.

**Why We Do It:** America's Special Operators are at the tip of the spear in this long war. Special Operations Forces are serving in areas of hostility such as Libya, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Nigeria and over 70 other countries around the world every day. They know that if something happens to them – Special Operations Warrior Foundation has their back.

**How We Raise Funds:** SOWF relies entirely on private donations to fulfill our mission. It is our generous donors who provide the college tuition, tutoring and immediate financial assistance.



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## FACTS:

- In 2016, SOWF was awarded its **11th consecutive 4-star rating** for its financial efficiency by leading watchdog group Charity Navigator. Administrative overhead costs are currently **6%**.
- SOWF has **144** students currently enrolled in colleges and universities across the country. We still have **nearly 700** surviving children, not yet of college age, to whom we have guaranteed a fully-funded college education.
- In 2016, SOWF provided **over \$2 million** in direct scholarship grants, academic, financial aid, and family support to our families; and **over \$150,000** in immediate financial assistance and aid to severely wounded (hospitalized) special operations personnel.
- To date, SOWF has provided more than **\$2.5 million** to wounded Special Operations warriors.
- Total number of SOWF college graduates: **293**
- Total number of Special Operations Forces (SOF) fatalities since 1980: **1,023**
- Total number of children in our program since 1980: **1,180**
- Total number of SOF service members severely wounded since 2006: **969**

## **In 2016:**

**181** children attended colleges and other post-secondary schools

**23** children completed their college education and graduated.

**30** special operators died

**40** children were added to the SOWF program

**Website: [www.specialops.org](http://www.specialops.org)**