

INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND

HANDBOOK FOR FAMILIES OF DECEASED SERVICE MEMBERS



A SURVIVOR'S GUIDE

(A HANDBOOK FOR FAMILIES OF DECEASED SERVICE MEMBERS)

One can never really prepare adequately for the loss of a loved one. Unfortunately, while dealing with the tragedy of the loss of a service member, surviving family members often must confront a range of issues relating to matters involving the deceased's estate, living arrangements, and financial and personal affairs.

The United States Armed Forces are deeply concerned about the needs of surviving family members and, in response, offer numerous family support assistance programs, including direct financial assistance. Further, in recognition of the enormous contribution and sacrifice made by the service member, survivors are also eligible for a number of benefits offered through other governmental and non-governmental sources.

The purpose of this handbook is to assist survivors by providing a brief summary of the resources available from the military and other government and private institutions, and a discussion of certain issues surviving family members are likely to confront. It is designed to supplement the information provided directly by the various branches of the military, in large part through their casualty assistance officer programs.

How to Use This Handbook

The handbook provides information through responses to questions survivors are likely to have and includes listings of relevant websites and telephone numbers. Over time, some of the information provided in the handbook may become outdated. To ensure the most up-to-date information, please visit the websites listed and the website of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, www.fallenheroesfund.org, which publishes this handbook.

Survivors are strongly encouraged to maintain detailed records of any actions taken regarding the benefits summarized in this handbook. For example, if a phone call is made concerning benefits, the surviving family member should record the name and title of the person with whom they speak, a direct-dial number, if available, the date and time of the phone call, and a summary of the matters

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discussed. Similarly, copies of all written correspondence, both sent and received, should be retained. For convenience, an appendix with lined pages for taking notes is included in the back of this handbook.

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and Davis Polk & Wardwell, who prepared this handbook on behalf of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, have published this handbook for informational purposes only. While we hope and believe that it will be a valuable and helpful resource, the handbook is provided solely as a source of general background information. We cannot warrant that the handbook is complete or accurate. In addition, the handbook may not apply to the factual or legal situation that a particular survivor may face. In any event, the handbook does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. Davis Polk & Wardwell renders legal advice only after compliance with certain procedures for accepting clients and when it is legally permitted to do so. Readers are strongly encouraged to seek advice from professional legal and financial advisors before acting upon the information contained in this handbook.

If you have questions with respect to any of the topics discussed in this handbook, please contact the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund by phone at (800) 340-HERO or by sending an email to info@fallenheroesfund.org.

Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund
and
Davis Polk & Wardwell
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