

Winter Newsletter

Issue 2, 2010

Dear Air Force Families,

Thank you for choosing to be a part of our Air Force Families Forever Support Network. We are hoping that you have started connecting with other family members who have experienced a loss similar to yours. We believe that the support of others can help you better cope with your loss, and help you through your grief.

This newsletter is a special one. This was your opportunity to post something related to your loved one, i.e. photos, poems, stories etc. We appreciate you sharing with us what is sacred to you. We will continue accepting your contributions to the newsletter, after all, it is yours. Your feedback is much appreciated.

Please know that we are not attempting to endorse any company, service or product when we include a resource outside of our Air Force organization. We simply want to give options to explore as you wish.

You may email the Family Support Coordinator with comments, suggestions and inputs for future newsletters. We are also open to suggestions for making the Air Force Families Forever Program better for you.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your support system. Happy Holidays, we wish a happy and prosperous new year.

Current Members of Air Force Families
Forever Support Network:

[Family member's names hidden to protect privacy]



Air Force Families Forever Program

“Ensuring that the families of our fallen Airmen are never forgotten by providing immediate and long-term compassionate support.”

Family Dedications

A Poem about/for Joel by Judy Gentz
(Mother of 1LT Joel Gentz)

Joel came into the world in July
A strong and healthy boy
Into the arms of nervous parents
Who had never felt such joy!

Joel was a happy child
Full of curiosity and wonder
Building legos, playing with cars
And he was never afraid of thunder.

Joel cruised through his schools,
Liked his teachers, loved his friends
Was busy with band, sports and studies
And help he did always lend.

In High School Joel studied hard
And his classes picked up in pace,
He decided the United States Air Force
Was his ticket to fly in space.

Joel thought to get to NASA
He'd join ROTC at Purdue
But turned down the coveted pilot slot
For a chance to search and rescue

Two years of grueling training
Made tolerable because of his love
For a beautiful bride named Kathryn
The angel God sent him from above.

In April his unit was called
To deploy in an unsafe land
With "I love you" we hugged our goodbyes
As Joel left for Afghanistan.

Six weeks is such a short time frame
For 80 sorties and 39 saves,
It tells of the drive and devotion
From the men we call CRO's and PJ's.

On the morning of June 9, 2010
The sun rose with beauty and might
While Pedro 66 flew in for a landing
They were shot down from the sky mid-flight.

Joel, I cannot tell you how much I miss you
How my heart breaks and for you I long
But to honor your memory and dedication
I promise you, I will stay strong.



SrA Ryan J. Matthews
"Forever in our hearts."
Posted by Chrissy Matthews (Mother)

For All Parents by Edgar A. Guest
Posted by Chrissy Matthews

I'll lend you for a little time, A child of mine he said.
For you to love there as he lives, And mourn when he is dead.
It may be six or seven years, Or twenty two or three.
But will you, 'til I call him back, Take care of him for me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you, And shall his stay be brief.
You'll have his lovely memories, As solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay, Since all from earth return. But there
are lessons taught down there, I want this child to learn.

I've searched the wide world over, In my search for teachers true.
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes, I have
selected you.

Now will you give him all your love, Nor think the labor vain. Nor
hate me when I come to call, To take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say, Dear Lord, thy will be done. For all
the joy thy child shall bring, The risk of grief we'll run.

We'll shelter him with tenderness, We'll love him while we may.
And for the happiness we've known, Will ever grateful stay.

But shall the angels call for him, Much sooner than we planned.
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes,And try to understand.

Helping Resources



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

The Compassionate Friends, Inc.
Toll-free: 877-969-0010
PH: 630-990-0010
Website: www.compassionatefriends.org

Local chapters in your area

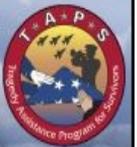
TAPS

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors



800-959-TAPS (8277)

Providing Comfort
24 Hours a Day



Grief Recovery[®]

The Action Program For Moving Beyond Loss

www.taps.org

<http://grief.net/index.htm>

Military OneSource.com

1-800-342-9647

Private Help 24/7

Call and Talk Anytime
1.800.342.9647

or call OCONUS:



Counseling



E-mail
and get answers

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1.800.273.TALK (8255)



Welcome Military Families-
Sittercity Membership at No Cost!

Sittercity helps you find local sitters and military subsidized child care providers. Activate your membership today!

Note: These resources provide additional information that may be useful or interesting and are provided consistent with the intended purpose of the Air Force Families Forever Program Newsletter. However, Air Force Families Forever Program cannot attest to the accuracy of information provided by these resources or any other linked resources. Air Force Families Forever Program providing resources does not constitute an endorsement by our program or any of the sponsors of the resources or the information presented.

Helping Resources cont.

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<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>



<http://www.careeronestop.org/>



<http://www.usajobs.com/>

Scholarship Links

www.afcrossroads.com

www.military.com

www.militaryscholar.org

www.finaid.org

www.afsahq.org

www.fastweb.com

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