

# the WINGMAN



www.wingmanfoundation.org

**The Wingman Foundation (TWF)** is able to honor fallen heroes and provide support for those they leave behind through a generous donor base, volunteers, business relationships, the backing of Marine and Navy Air, and the trust earned and given by our Gold Star families. The foundation is so grateful for all the relationships forged, creating what we know today as TWF family. The first edition of The Wingman newsletter, allows an inside view of TWF's early beginnings and a behind-the-scenes look at what drives success today.

TWF began with the founders wanting to do more than pass the hat around the ready room when tragedy struck. They sold t-shirts out of the back of their cars on the beach and did what they could to rally local support. When mishaps occurred, they reached out to the squadrons and families to help. The passion they put into their initial desire to "do more" would form the basis for the foundation's mission statement, and later the slogan so many recognize today.

In 2014, when a MV-22B crew chief died in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Jack Guevara, Phil Duong, and Ken Hampshire faced yet another death of a brother in arms. They decided to make a change that evening. Jack was deployed to Okinawa, Phil was deployed to Kuwait, and Ken was training in Camp Pendleton, CA, yet they refused to let executing real-world missions, spotty cell reception, or vastly different time zones stop them.

It didn't take long for The Wingman Foundation's mission to spread by word of mouth and for the Marine and Navy Air community to step forward with the same desire to simply want to "do more." Over time, the internal TWF family expanded to an all-volunteer staff comprised of veterans, military spouses, Gold Star wives and civilians. Each person connected to TWF knows loss in varying degrees, but they also know the family TWF becomes at the moment normal ceases to exist. Like the founders, the organization's staff believes in every word of the organization's mission statement: **TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES OF OUR FALLEN AIR WARRIORS AND SUPPORT THE FAMILIES THEY'VE LEFT BEHIND.**

With support from the Naval Aviation community, TWF has raised in excess of \$1.4 million in full support of mishaps across Marine and Navy Air. The foundation exists to ensure immediate support is provided to Gold Star family members. When a mishap occurs, not only is TWF the first one in, they're the last one out. The foundation will connect with the family as soon as possible and stay connected with that family and the unit for as long as they need. The Wingman Foundation defines family, and we **NEVER LEAVE A WINGMAN BEHIND.**

TWF has expanded to include physical memorials, scholarships and memorial events designed to continue the legacy of our fallen air warriors. These efforts are intended to create enduring support for the families, engage local communities, and raise awareness for the foundation simultaneously. The donations TWF receives, often times as a result of memorial events, are crucial to the mission. TWF's donors have enabled the organization to respond to 24 mishaps since inception in 2014.

## NUMBERS*talk*

Going into 2019, the numbers speak volumes. **\$82,000** has been raised through TWF-sponsored and endorsed events. These campaigns have two things in common: continuing the legacy of our fallen heroes and supporting Gold Star families. This year, **66%** of donors are new to the foundation, while **34%** are returning TWF donors.

an **IMPACT**  
*far greater than we could  
have ever hoped for*



In 2019, **The Wingman Foundation** will continue to expand its outreach to better support Gold Star families and the squadrons impacted by previous and future mishaps. In true TWF-form, 2019 is already off to strong start. Here's a quick look at some key events for the year.

Annual Pegasus 12 Memorial March held on January 12, 2019.

Partnered with Hugs from Hercs to further its support of Marine Corps families in the aftermath of aviation mishaps.

Supported Pensacola Veterans Park Memorial Tower, ensuring all Marine Air mishaps since 2001 were memorialized.

Partnered with Wings Over America to establish multiple Naval Aviation Mishap-Named Scholarships.

Supported the Gold Star Family monument at Pensacola Veterans Park.

Dedicated multiple memorial plaques at Mt Soledad National Veterans Memorial.

look back

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## what's ahead? MEMORIAL MAY

Memorial May is TWF's opportunity to memorialize and remember fallen air warriors throughout the month of May with multiple events and awareness initiatives. Memorial May will begin April 13 with the Coastal Carolina Memorial 5K and will wrap with Memorial Day at the end of May.

MAY

**MAY 4TH, 2019**  
**DC MEMORIAL WALK**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**MAY 4TH, 2019**  
**DC SATELLITE WALK**  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

**MAY 11TH, 2019**  
**DC SATELLITE WALK**  
NEW RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA

**MAY 11TH, 2019**  
**DC SATELLITE WALK**  
IWAKUNI, JAPAN

**MAY 18TH, 2019**  
**DC SATELLITE WALK**  
LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA

TWF'S DC MEMORIAL WALK IS AN ANNUAL FLAGSHIP EVENT WHERE PARTICIPANTS JOIN GOLD STAR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO WALK 20 MILES THROUGHOUT NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON DC. EACH MILE IS DEDICATED TO A SPECIFIC FALLEN AIR WARRIOR OR CREW.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEWINGMANFOUNDATION



**Memorial Patch Program:** With the help of Marine Patches, the foundation designs and funds a memorial patch for each mishap. The patches are given to the Gold Star family and all members of the squadron. In honor of TWF's fifth year of supporting Marine and Navy Aviation, a limited-edition memorial patch t-shirt representing each fallen air warrior will be available for purchase on our website March 29 - April 12. Go to [wingmanfoundation.org/shop](http://wingmanfoundation.org/shop), and click "Shop Now" to snag a t-shirt before they're gone.



You can register for any of TWF's upcoming events, or gather additional information, by going to [www.wingmanfoundation.org](http://www.wingmanfoundation.org) and clicking on the "Events" tab.

## fun facts...

The TWF logo packs a whole lot of HONOR, COURAGE and WARRIOR SPIRIT. It's inspired by Naval Aviation, our fallen and the loved ones they left behind. Here are a few little-known, but inspiring facts behind the design of the foundation's logo.

- ★ TWF wings represent Naval Aviation as a whole.
- ★ The shield encasing the gold star represents shielding, protecting and supporting those left behind.
- ★ The Gold Star in the center of the shield represents Gold Star families at the core of TWF's mission.

