



Who will keep the promise?

WE WILL!



NEWSLETTER VOLUME VIII

JANUARY 2021 — APRIL 2022 EVENTS

MILESTONE (11)



JANUARY 2021 — SNOWBOARDING

Schweitzer Mountain, ID A Gold Star Child and their Mentor were able to continue a father's traditional annual snowboarding trip at Schweitzer Mountain in Idaho. The Father was an avid outdoorsman and loved all snow sports, and had planned yearly, challenging events for his children. It was vital to the Father that his children learn as much as they could about the outdoors and come to love spending time outdoors as much as he did.

MAY 2021 — OUTER BANKS DEEP SEA FISHING

The Outer Banks, NC Three Gold Star Children and two Mentors participated in one of their Father's favorite pastimes, fishing, in a deep-sea fishing excursion off the Outer Banks. The weather was beautiful, and the fish were biting! All the kids were successful "Catchermen" that day and able to experience the excitement of the hook set and fight to land the fish that drew their Fathers to the sport.

JUNE 2021 — NAVY SEAL / UDT MUSEUM BRICK DEDICATION

Ft Pierce, FL A Gold Star Family and two Mentors attended the Brick Dedication service of their fallen service member at the UDT / SEAL Museum in beautiful Ft Pierce, FL., home of the original BUD/s training facility during WW II. The UDT / SEAL Museum is a centerpiece for the UDT & SEAL heritage. The Brick Dedication service was a special ceremony that conveyed the magnitude of the family's sacrifice.



JULY 2021 — ISLAMORADA FISHING EXCURSION

Islamorada, FL A Gold Star Child and his grandfather as a Mentor participated in world-class, deep-sea fishing in Islamorada, FL. The child got to experience the Sea & the Air aspects of his Father's profession through fishing and parasailing. Grandpa and Grandson had a great time catching fish, a passion of the boy's late Father.



SEPTEMBER 2021 — ELK HUNT

Grand Junction, CO Two Gold Star children and two Mentors experienced a guided Elk hunt outside Grand Junction, Co. Both Fathers were avid outdoorsmen and wanted to pass along their love of the outdoors and bowhunting to their boys. Unfortunately, the elk escaped to grow larger for the next year, but the boys learned valuable bushcraft skills, hunter safety, stalking animals, and hide construction.

OCTOBER 2021 — TOP GOLF

Virginia Beach, VA A Gold Star child with two Mentors was able to continue his Father's wish for him to partake in as many life experiences as possible. The child was also able to celebrate his Birthday while at Top Golf; and is showing a solid drive with his Father's form. He plans to continue taking lessons and wants to play a golf course soon.

JANUARY 2022 — HUNTING / BUSHCRAFT EXPEDITION

Blanding, UT A Gold Star Child traveled to his uncle's house in Utah to participate in Bushcraft and Hunting Skills. His two uncles, who are also mentors, took the Child

on a hunting training trip, focusing on training new dogs, which one uncle breeds and trains. Hunter safety, weapon handling, dog tracking, and recalling skills were taught to the child who received two of his own hunting dogs from his uncle!

FEBRUARY 2022 — UKC BASKETBALL GAME

Kansas City, KS A Gold Star Child and his Mentor attended a KC University basketball game at the KCU home court against Baylor in a Big 12 tournament game. The Father was an avid sports fan and loved anything Kansas City, and the Mentors, the Father's college roommates, Kept the Promise of passing on a love of sports to the Child. Unfortunately, the visiting Baylor rallied for a last-minute defeat of the home team!

FEBRUARY 2022 — CONCERT

San Diego, CA A Gold Star Child, and her Mentor attended the concert of "Tyler, the Creator," an American Rapper. The Father and Mother were highly musical and passed on their love of music to their daughter. WoHF Kept the Promise to the Father by creating musical experiences for his daughter.

FEBRUARY 2022 — GOLF PRO LESSON

Virginia Beach, VA A Gold Star Child and his Mentor started private golf lessons with a professional golf instructor at the Princess Anne Golf Country Club. Golfing was an integral aspect of the Father's life and something he looked forward to teaching and sharing with his children.

APRIL 2022 — GRAND PRIX RACE

Long Beach, CA A Gold Star child flew to Long Beach for an exciting weekend of Grand Prix Racing. Unfortunately, the Child fell ill during the transit and spent the weekend in bed at the Mentors home. But the Mentor and Child are incredibly close and ended up having a fun-filled weekend together catching up on life since they had last seen each other.

CORNERSTONE (10)

JANUARY 2021 — AFC PLAY OFF GAME

Kansas City, KS Three Gold Star Children and their Mentors supported their home team and Father's favorite, the KC Chiefs, in their AFC Play Off Game in Kansas City against the Browns. The parents were fanatic KC Chiefs fans and always wanted to plan several home field game trips for their family. As a result, they enjoyed a hometown victory over the Browns on the way to the Super Bowl. Their support was instrumental to the Chief's success!

FEBRUARY 2021 — ABERDEEN FARMS DUCK HUNT

Smithfield, VA Four Gold Star Children and their Mentors

enjoyed a weekend at Aberdeen Farms, once part of the Smithfield Hams empire. The Children started with several hours of skeet shooting, learning firearms safety, tracking & ambushing sporting clays, and loading & unloading weapons procedures. They were treated to world-class meals by the Aberdeen in-house Chef. Next, they broke into two groups and went duck hunting with local guides, resulting in eleven successful shots and many scared ducks that will never return to Virginia. The experience was epic and consistent with each of their Father's passion for hunting.

AUGUST 2021 — SKATE / SURF CAMP

Virginia Beach, VA Gold Star Children came together for a 4-day Skate / Surf camp led by local surfing legend Wes Laine and ex-pro skateboarder John Fudala. The children each received a skateboard and surfboard and two days of professional instruction in each sport. The kids had a blast, and everyone was able to catch & ride waves by the end. The event culminated with a celebration Luau, with a pig roasted in a pit in true Hawaiian custom.



OCTOBER 2021 — PRINCESS & HER FROG DANCE

Virginia Beach, VA Four Gold Star Female Children were able to experience an intimate evening of dining, dancing, and ballroom ambiance at the annual Navy SEAL Foundation Princess & Her Frog Dance. The dance is a special event for SEALs/SWCCs and their daughters, who share a special bond. In preparation for the cherished event, the young Princesses received a bejeweled tiara, a satin handbag, flowers-wrist corsages, and boutonnieres.

DECEMBER 2021 — WINTER WRAP

Virginia Beach, VA Our annual Christmas shopping event and party to wrap up in 2021. Gold Star Children shopped with their Mentors for their Moms and a child in need from Seton House, learning compassion and caring for others in need; perspectives and experiences usually passed on by the Father and mother. The kids played space-age arcade games at Dave and Buster's, while friends and families enjoyed hors d'oeuvres. The Gold Star children received wreaths and paint-it-yourself Nutcracker crafts to adorn their homes.

JANUARY 2021 — APRIL 2022 EVENTS CONTINUED

JANUARY 2022 — KC CHIEFS GAME

Kansas City, KS Two Gold Star Children and their Mentors continued their Father's tradition of attending his hometown team, the Chiefs, in playoff games in their home stadium; this year against the Steelers. Their presence helped their team win again, in a crushing defeat of the Steelers!

JANUARY 2022 — BROADWAY PLAY

New York City, NY A Gold Star Child and her Mentor and Female Companion attended a Broadway show in NY, expanding her experiences in her love of theater. The young girl's Father would have loved and enjoyed sharing this experience with his daughter. The group enjoyed a limousine experience and dinner at the renowned Italian restaurant, Becca's, in the theater district.



FEBRUARY 2022 — SKYDIVE W/THE LEAP FROGS

San Diego, CA Two Gold Star Children and their Mentor and Female Companion were able to partake in an adventure-laden trip to San Diego. One of the children and the female companion made tandem freefall skydiving jumps with the US Navy SEALs Jump Team, The Leap Frogs. The two children were also able to visit one of the Father's favorite off-road locations to partake in a 4-wheeler excursion in the desert west of San Diego. They capped off the trip with a sunset hot air balloon ride across San Diego. The Mentor and Female Companion Kept the Promise to the Children expanding their life experiences through activities the Father loved.

APRIL 2022 — SNORKELING WITH SHARKS

Waikiki, HI Two Gold Star children, their Mentor, and Female Companion attended a "Snorkeling with Sharks" adventure in the gorgeous diveable waters of Hawaii.

The Father was an avid spearfisherman and freediver and was adamant about passing his love of the outdoors and water sports to his children. As a result, we were able to Keep the Promise to the Children through this insane spring break trip!

APRIL 2022 — EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Maui, HI A Gold Star Family continued a family tradition of attending the Easter Brunch Extravaganza at the Four Seasons Hotel in Maui, HI. The grandparents were able to fly in from another island, and the entire Ohana spent some quality time celebrating the wonderful occasion.

LOCAL EVENTS (1)



MEMORIAL GARDEN WREATHS & LIGHTS

Virginia Beach, VA Word of Honor Fund purchased memorial wreaths and spotlights to be placed on our Trident Maple Memorial Tree Garden at Mt Trashmore in Virginia Beach. The effect was stunning, especially at night, and the local community came out in droves to admire the sight.

OUTREACH (1)

MAY 2021 — MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC AT WOHF MEMORIAL TREE GARDEN

Virginia Beach, VA The Inaugural Memorial Day Picnic at Mt Trashmore followed the dedication of the Honor Garden Memorial Trees in October 2020. The turnout was terrific, and the weather was perfect. The kids flew kites and played games with their Mentors. At the same time, the Master Grillers of the Hansen Family Foundation cooked and served a traditional Memorial Day spread. The Honor Garden provides a place for families to gather in Virginia Beach, where most of the Fathers lived and worked. It was their first time seeing the Trident Maple trees and accompanying plaques dedicated to their fallen service members for some Gold Star families.



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