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## JUNE 2019—JUNE 2020 EVENTS CONT.

### DECEMBER 20, 2019 — WINTER WRAP PART I

*Virginia Beach, VA* Gold Star Families and their Mentors enjoyed a fun evening of shopping for Veterans and their moms, followed by dinner and games at Dave and Busters. The Children, assisted by their Mentors, all used part of their Christmas money to purchase gifts for a Veteran who resides at Vets House in Virginia Beach. There were many new Mentors there, and they were excited to be a part of such a rewarding evening. Gold Star Families look forward to this event every year.

### JANUARY 12, 2020 — WINTER WRAP PART II

*Virginia Beach, VA* Gold Star Families, Mentors, and residents of Vets House came together to share a meal at a local restaurant. The children all donned aprons and served the Veterans, Mentors, and their mothers. The older kids helped the little ones carry trays and hand out food. After eating, the children handed out gifts to the Vets in attendance and listened to their stories of being in the military. The Children warmed the hearts of the Vets as they reciprocated service to others.

## LOCAL EVENTS (1)

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### TOPGOLF LOCAL EVENTS (ALL YEAR)

This local event facilitates 1:1 bonding experience between the Mentor and the Gold Star Child at a location close to home.

## LIFE SKILLS (2)

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### AUGUST 12-16, 2019 — WRV SURF CAMP LIFE SKILLS

*Virginia Beach, VA* 16 Gold Star Kids, three Mentors, and one female companion came together to honor the fallen fathers of the NSW community and to learn ocean safety, an activity that the fathers would have taught their children. The children loved the experience of learning to surf and are excited to do this event again next year.



## **OCTOBER 27, 2019 — HUNT CLUB FALL FESTIVAL/LIFE SKILLS**

*Virginia Beach, VA* Word of Honor Fund outreached to local Mentors and Gold Star Families in the Virginia Beach area at a local pumpkin patch and enjoyed a fun day of carnival rides, playing with animals at the petting zoo, and hayride, along with eating delicious barbeque.

## **OUTREACH (4)**

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## **DECEMBER 20, 2019 — WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA OUTREACH**

*Arlington, VA* In the spirit of the holiday season, WoHF purchased wreaths for the fallen fathers at their final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery.



## **OCTOBER 16-20, 2019 — NSW SPARTAN SUMMIT OUTREACH**

WoHF facilitated sending a group of ten Gold Star Teens and their Mentors to a strength and development camp designed to turn Gold Star Teens into warriors.

## **ONGOING 2018-CURRENT — TEAM RED4**

*USA* U.S. Navy SEAL (ret.), Art Del Rio, continues to support Word of Honor Fund through Racing 4 Everyone Deployed. TEAM RED4, based out of Texas, are dedicated triathletes with a patriotic passion for outreach on behalf of WoHF.

## **JUNE 22, 2019 — GATHERING AT WILLOW CREEK**

*Fairfield, ID* A fun-filled weekend of mountain air and patriotism honored by Guest Speaker, Rear Admiral (ret.) Brian Losey, U.S. Navy SEAL.



Who will keep the promise?

**WE WILL!**



**NEWSLETTER VOLUME VII**

## JUNE 2019—JUNE 2020 EVENTS

### CAPSTONE (1)

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#### **AUGUST 7-19, 2019 — COLOMBIAN ADVENTURE IN CARTAGENA AND PEREIRA**

The final event is for Nathan and his Mentor, Jose, to honor his father, Neil Roberts, and to prepare Nathan to return to the continuum of support as a Mentor. This final touch is a crowning achievement for Nathan Roberts. Years of celebrated Milestones and Cornerstones prepared Nathan and Jose for this culmination of learning experiences, epic journeys, and memories to honor the promises of Neil



### MILESTONE (13)

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#### **APRIL 6-7, 2019 — UVA FINAL FOUR GAME**

*Minneapolis, MN* Three Gold Star Children and their Mentor headed out to cheer on the University of Virginia Cavaliers basketball team during March Madness. Their father loved sports, especially the UVA Cavaliers, as his wife was a long-time soccer coach at the University.

#### **APRIL 7, 2019 — INDOOR SKYDIVE AT iFLY**

*Virginia Beach, VA* The brother-in-law to a fallen hero reached out to Word of Honor Fund in request to take his nephews to the wind tunnel located in Virginia Beach. The older of the two boys mentioned to his uncle that he “wants to Skydive when he is older.” His uncle, having the background and training through work, is excited to help his nephew hone-in on an avid skill of the boy’s late father.

#### **JULY 9-11, 2019 — HOOVER BUSINESS SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

*Stanford, CA* A Gold Star Teen and his Mentor attended at private engagement with former Secretary of Defense, General (Ret.) James Mattis, at the Hoover Institution located at Stanford University. This experience amplified

the teen's interest in service to his country and inspired him to pursue the military path, as his father had done. The Gold Star Teen has proudly accepted his appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

### **AUGUST 17, 2019 —**

#### **DALLAS COWBOYS VS L.A. RAMS PRESEASON GAME**

*Honolulu, HI* One Gold Star Teen and his Mentor enjoyed cheering on the Dallas Cowboys during a sunny preseason game at Aloha Stadium. The Cowboys were his and his father's favorite team.

### **AUGUST 16, 2019 — PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**

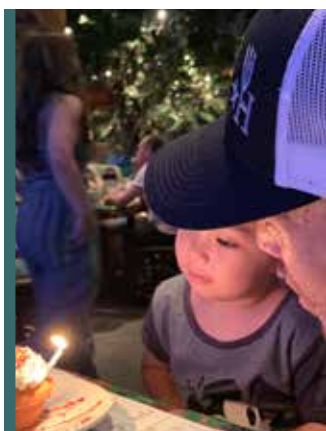
*Honolulu, HI* Two Gold Star Girls, their Mentor, and their female companion reveled in the beauty of the theater production Phantom of the Opera. This experience honored the promise of the fallen to continue to feed his daughters' love of theater and performance.

### **AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 — CAMP FREI WALD FLAG**

*San Diego, CA* A Gold Star Child celebrated the life of her father, her Keystone, and her father's date of passing. The goal of this trip was for the Gold Star Child to be surrounded by her dad's friends and those that knew him well. Her Mentor presented her a shadowbox containing a flag flown at Camp Freiwald in Afghanistan, a forward operating base named for her father. She and her Mentor also enjoyed dinner at the same restaurant where her dad proposed to her mom, and she had a birthday celebration at the famous Spreckels Park on Coronado Island.

### **OCTOBER 25-28, 2019 — DISNEY WORLD ADVENTURE**

*Orlando, FL* To celebrate a Gold Star Child's third birthday, his Mentor took him to the happiest place on earth to recreate an experience his father had for a childhood birthday at Disney World. The fallen planned his child's birthday before his passing. Word of Honor Fund kept his promise as all his Mentors 'signed' a Mickey Mouse card wishing him a happy day.



### **NOVEMBER 26, 2019 — ADVENTURE PARK**

*Virginia Beach, VA* A Mentor reached out to the Gold Star Mom and explained that he wanted to take her son out to do something adventurous for his birthday. Word of Honor Fund stepped in and facilitated this bonding experience on behalf of the fallen.

## OCTOBER 18-20, 2019 — DETROIT LIONS NFL GAME

*Detroit, MI* This

experience was the Gold Star Child's first NFL game. She walked onto Ford Field, and smiling ear-to-ear met Coach Matt Patricia. She was able to indulge in pizza in Greek Town and get pumped up at a football game with her Mentor and female companion just as her mother and father did when they were younger.



## NOVEMBER 2019 — ART CLASSES

*Norfolk, VA* A Gold Star Child and her Mentor attended a series of private drawing lessons at a studio in Norfolk, VA. Her Mentor was a former teammate of her dad, as well as an artist himself. The drawing teacher was a Vietnam-era Gold Star Spouse, and she was so thrilled to be working with a Gold Star Family. The instructor commented that this little girl was immensely talented. They had a great time during the multi-session event.

## DECEMBER 16-21, 2019 — COLORADO SNOWBOARDING

*Vail, CO* Two Gold Star Children and their Mentors went snowboarding in Vail, Colorado, in December 2019. This event was the fulfillment of a promise that their father had planned to do with them when they got older, just as he did on annual snowboarding trips there with his brothers-in-law and friends.

## DECEMBER 2019 AND ONGOING — TOPGOLF

*Virginia Beach, VA* One Gold Star Child, accompanied by her Mentor, attended an indoor golf range to polish her skills as a golfer. Her Mentor not only coaches her at the tee but also guides her in life.

## JANUARY 12, 2020 — KANSAS CITY CHIEFS PLAYOFF GAME

*Kansas City, MO* Three Gold Star Children and two of their Mentors who all live in Kansas City were able to once again attend an NFL Playoff Game together at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, MO. The Mentor in his post-event feedback exclaimed, "It was amazing the boys got to be part of this journey of the Chiefs road to the Super Bowl. It has been 50 years in the making. Their dad would have been right there with them cheering for the Chiefs!"

## CORNERSTONE (7)

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### **MAY 18, 2019 — DIY GARAGE-DADDY'S TRUCK**

*Virginia Beach, VA* Two Gold Star Children and their Mentor continue to work on their daddy's truck at American Do-It-Yourself Garage, which is owned and operated by a Retired U.S. Navy SEAL. He and the Mentor taught the basics of car mechanics and maintenance while working to fix up their dad's truck.

### **MAY 18-19, 2019 — COMIC-CON**

*Virginia Beach, VA* Seven Gold Star Children attended Tidewater Comic-Con with their Mentors. This event featured local and international graphic artists, costume parades, face painting, autographs, drawing classes, and a unique setting for the Mentors to build relationships.

### **JULY 31–AUGUST 1, 2019 — LOCAL CORNERSTONE**

*Virginia Beach, VA* A Mentor contacted Word of Honor Fund with a request to take a visiting Gold Star Child to explore the town like old-times when both families gathered. The event allowed for bonding between the Gold Star Child, Mentor, and her female companion, which led to her epic Milestone trip on the west coast shortly after.

### **AUGUST 12, 2019 — BUSCH GARDENS LOCAL CORNERSTONE**

*Williamsburg, VA* Two Gold Star Children asked their Mentor to share memories of their father and take them for a day of adventure like they imagine their dad would have done. The Mentor kept his promise and took the children to a local amusement park for the day, telling stories of the hero their father was and the amazing life he lived.

### **NOVEMBER 15-17, 2019 — NOTRE DAME VS. NAVY**

*South Bend, IN* Nine Gold Star Children, two WoHF Facilitators, six Mentors, and one female companion cheered on both the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen and the Fighting Irish at the Notre Dame vs. Navy Game. Two aged-out children of Word of Honor Fund returned as Mentors; one



cheered proudly from the sidelines with his fellow Midshipmen in uniform, and one came from college break to guide his younger cohorts. WoHF continues to utilize their relationship with Notre Dame football through their incredible proxies Marcia Abrams and Maureen Jamieson, sisters of Mari McStay.