



MEDIA ADVISORY

Children From All 50 States Gather Over Memorial Day Weekend
to Create Handmade Wreath for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

TAPS tradition brings record number of children to honor their fallen heroes at wreath-laying ceremony

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—May 15, 2024

B-Roll: [Vimeo](#), [Dropbox](#)

WHAT Nearly 500 children of America’s fallen, ages 5 to 18, representing all 50 states, will gather in the nation’s capital to pour their grieving hearts into hand tracings with personal messages to loved ones whose loss led them to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), the leading voice for our nation’s surviving military families. Hundreds of personalized hands will combine to form the vibrant wreath — a 30-year tradition — to lay at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Memorial Day as a symbol of the high cost of freedom.

Each surviving child who takes part in the TAPS Honor Wreath, and the thousands more they represent, will convey the purest form of thanks and love from children who know the meaning of sacrifice.

WHO Surviving children, ages 5 to 18, and their families grieving the death of a military loved one **Active-duty and veteran mentors** who work alongside the children at Good Grief Camp **Bonnie Carroll**, TAPS President and Founder, Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient Grief and loss experts

WHEN/WHERE Hand tracings and personal messages will take place in 25 locations
1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2024
9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Sunday, May 26, 2024
Gateway Marriott, 1613 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA

Wreath assembly will take place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, May 26, 2024
Gateway Marriott, 1613 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA

Wreath delivery to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2023, immediately after the traditional wreath-laying ceremony by President Joe Biden

TAPS TAPS is the leading national organization providing compassionate care and survivor support services for the families of America’s fallen military heroes. Since 1994, TAPS has offered support to all those grieving the death of a military loved one through peer-based emotional support, connections with grief and trauma resources, grief seminars and retreats for adults, Good Grief Camps for children, casework assistance, connections to community-based care, online and in-person support groups, and the 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline, all at no cost to surviving families. For more information, please visit [TAPS.org](https://taps.org) or call 202-588-TAPS (8277).

Media Inquiries:

On-site interviews available upon request, also available for regional and local media
Contact media@taps.org or 202-588-TAPS (8277), and ask for Susan Forbes

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