



# MEDIA ADVISORY

Sons of America's Fallen Learn to Shave From Military and Veteran Mentors

*TAPS Mentors step in to ensure a moment traditionally shared with Dad is memorable for sons grieving fathers who served in the US military*

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

**WHAT** Learning to shave is a rite of passage a young man traditionally experiences with his dad. It's more than a first shave, it's a moment of bonding and vulnerability when father and son watch as a boy becomes a man in the mirror. The sons of America's fallen can't share this moment with their dads. But, through the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) shaving experience, these surviving sons will still have a memorable first shave alongside their Military Mentor — a current or veteran U.S. service member who volunteers to support the bereaved children of their fallen brothers and sisters in arms.

The TAPS shaving experience was recently featured in the April issue of TIME magazine, when TAPS — in partnership with Gillette and TIME's content division Red Border — was named this year's **TIME101** as part of the publication's annual list of the **TIME100** most influential people. Over Memorial Day weekend, in the nation's capital, nearly 50 surviving teen boys will experience their first shave with the guidance and support of their Military Mentor at the 30th Annual TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp.

It's an experience they will recall each time they shave, and they will recall the support of a caring mentor who ensured they did not face this rite of passage alone.

**WHO** Surviving teen boys, ages 13 to 18, who are 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** The TAPS shaving experience will take place on Friday, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 24, 2024 Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport 2799 Richmond Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202 *Other on-site shaving experience times available upon request*

**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](#) 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](mailto:media@taps.org) or 202-588-TAPS (8277), and ask for Susan Forbes

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