



Special Operations Warrior Foundation

History

FAST FACTS

SOWF was awarded its sixth consecutive 4-star rating for financial efficiency. Only 3% of all charities have received this esteemed rating.

SOWF has 190 students enrolled in colleges and universities across the country.

Last year, the foundation provided \$4.8 million in scholarship grants, financial aid and counseling to the families of fallen special operations personnel.

OVERHEAD

The SOWF is proud of its low overhead. In 2010, the administrative overhead was 5.25%

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The Special Operations Warrior Foundation began in 1980 as the Col. Arthur D. "Bull" Simons Scholarship Fund. The Bull Simons Fund was created after the Iranian hostage rescue attempt to provide college educations for the 17 children surviving the nine special operations men killed or incapacitated at Desert One. It was named in honor of the legendary Army Green Beret who repeatedly risked his life on rescue missions.

Following creation of the United States Special Operations Command, and as casualties mounted from actions such as Operations "Urgent Fury" (Grenada), "Just Cause" (Panama), "Desert Storm" (Kuwait and Iraq), and "Restore Hope" (Somalia), the Bull Simons Fund gradually expanded its outreach program to encompass all Special Operations Forces. Thus, in 1995 the Family Liaison Action Group (established to support the families of the 53 Iranian hostages) and the Spectre (Air Force gunship) Association Scholarship Fund merged to form the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. In 1998 the Warrior Foundation extended the scholarship and financial aid counseling to also include training fatalities since the inception of the Foundation in 1980. This action immediately added 205 children who were now eligible for college funding.

The Warrior Foundation's mission is to provide a college education to every child who has lost a parent while serving in the U. S. Special Operations Command and its units during an operational or training mission. Special Operations Forces covered by the Special Operations Warrior Foundation include, but are not limited to, Army Rangers and Special Forces personnel, Navy SEALs, Marine Corps and Air Force special operations personnel. These personnel are stationed in units throughout the United States and overseas bases.

The Warrior Foundation also provides immediate financial assistance to special operations personnel severely wounded in operations so their loved ones can be by their bedside during their recovery. To date, the foundation has provided more than \$1.3 million to the families of wounded special operations personnel.

Today, the Warrior Foundation is currently committed to providing scholarship grants, not loans, to more than 920 children. These children survive over 800 Special Operations personnel who gave their lives in patriotic service to their country, including those who died fighting our nation's war against terrorism as part of "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan and the Philippines as well as "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Children from all military services have received or been offered Special Operations Warrior Foundation scholarships. To date, 175 children of fallen special operations warriors have graduated college with the assistance of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Currently enrolled in colleges and universities across the country are 190 sons and daughters of fallen special operations warriors.

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