



# **SURVIVING SPOUSE SUPPORT PROGRAM**

PRESENTATION

to the

Luke Chapter Military Officers Association of America Board

APRIL 1, 2021





## Our Lost and Forgotten Heroes

I love the term “Lost and Forgotten Heroes”. That is certainly an appropriate description. I was certainly lost when my husband LTCol USMC (Ret) Doyle Douglas passed unexpectedly in 2016. I think we were more prepared than most, but all that turned out to be just the tip of what needed to be done. Then as time goes on there is the possibility of being kind of forgotten. All of our friends and family who had drawn near to help console us in the beginning, go back to their lives. They are well intentioned but have their own obligations and as Surviving Spouses (SS) we may be reluctant to reach out” \*Ms. Sharon Douglas (SS) President Northern Arizona, MOAA.



# MAYBE WE CAN HELP

We have the:

1. Luke Chapter MOAA Mission
2. SSp Mission
3. SSp Functions

We have the Heart

We will organize to function within these guidelines





# LUKE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## LUKE CHAPTER MISSION

1. To perpetrate the traditions of the American Military with emphasis on Luke Chapter members and their families;
2. To undertake charitable, social and similar events
3. To support legislation favorable and beneficial to members, spouses and survivors of all military personnel; and
4. To work with our members and selected veteran's organization to attain Luke Chapter objectives.

Military customs and courtesies are based on very old traditions. They convey greetings, understanding and respect to those that are junior or senior to you.





## SSP MISSION



- Connect with Chapter Surviving Spouses and Care-giver Spouses for support, friendship, encouragement, education, grief-sharing, and mutual benefit.
- Educate and Inform the Chapter concerning issues of interest and import to this group.



# SSP FUNCTIONS

Organize the SSp's

Provide support, friendship, encouragement, education, grief sharing, and mutual benefit

Provide Out-Reach for any SSp who is incapacitated, homebound, or nursing facility that may qualify as a member (Phase II of Program)





## HOW WOULD WE ORGANIZE

- Co-Chairs
  - Linda Wolverton
  - Rosemary Eaton
- Board Coordination/Reporting
  - Board Liaison – Chaplain Guggisberg
- Steering Committee
  - Gather SSp membership input, provide program direction, and manage outreach
  - 3-4 SSp's from the membership and the 2 Co-Chairs
- Membership
  - Luke Chapter Membership will identify needs and direction ideas







## HOW WOULD WE ORGANIZE MEMBERSHIP

Current Luke Chapter MOAA member SS's  
Spouses caring for incapacitated, or homebound Luke  
Chapter member

Out-Reach for any SS who is incapacitated,  
homebound, or nursing facility that may qualify as a  
member (Phase II of Program)







## HOW WOULD WE ORGANIZE

### MEETINGS

#### Steering Committee:

Sets its own meeting schedule as needed

#### Members:

Regular lunch meetings during Luke Chapter MOAA meeting year for social interaction and planned presentations

Special meetings may be called to work on group-determined projects

#### Virtual meetings:

- SS monthly meetings for those as stated above (Implementation in Phase II A)
- Luke Chapter MOAA monthly meetings for incapacitated or other homebound persons, as need is determined (Implementation in Phase II B)

#### Transportation:

Facilitate ride-share for those needing it for SS meetings



## RESOURCES

- Luke Chapter Website
- National MOAA
  - SS Virtual Meetings
  - Publications:
    - Help Your Survivors Now, a guide to Planning Ahead
    - Estate Planning Guide
    - Turning the Corner: Surviving the Loss of a Loved One
- Grief Share Programs Church and Other Related
- Casualty Assistance Programs Information
  - Be Connected
  - Military Service Related:
    - Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, NOAA, USPHS



# IMPLEMENTATION

- **Phase I**

- Identify Current Luke Member Surviving Spouses
- Develop Steering Committee
- Identify Program Presentation Ideas
  - Example:
    - Mentoring Programs
    - Accessing Casualty Assistance
- Initiate Member Communication Program
  - New SS Buddy program – Mentoring (listening, coaching)
  - Birthday, Thinking of You, Other Cards
  - Quarterly member contact (phone calls, etc.)
  - Quarter Newsletter/snail mail to those without email







# IMPLEMENTATION

- Phase II **OUTREACH**
  - Identify qualified Surviving Spouses, Ambulatory, Homebound/Nursing Communities
  - Present Luke Chapter SS program
  - Work with Activities Director of the Care Organizations
    - Initiate Zoom program for meetings
    - Initiate Other meetings as needed





# BOARD REQUEST

- Approve Phase I Immediately
- Present to Future Board for Approval:
  - Phase II following full implementation of Phase I





# LUKE CHAPTER

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



**"It's difficult to summarize  
10 years together, my love for you,  
my hopes for your future, and pretend  
to be dead all at the same time...  
I simply cannot put all this into words.  
I'm not ready, willing or able."**

**"Through the years I've asked  
a great deal of you, therefore  
it should surprise you little  
that I have another favor to ask."**

**THE SSP - WE ARE STILL SERVING**