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New Book Honors Families of Fallen Service Members

This Memorial Day, Gold Star Parents Reveal How They Are *Surviving the Folded Flag*

Title: *Surviving the Folded Flag: Parents of war share stories of coping, courage, and faith*

Author: Deborah H. Tainsh

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(St. Paul, MN) This Memorial Day, fallen heroes from around the country are being honored and remembered in a very special way—by their parents sharing stories of their lives, deaths, and heroism. Gold Star parents, those mothers and fathers whose child has died in service, celebrate the lives of their heroes in the new book *Surviving the Folded Flag: Parents of war share stories of courage, coping, and faith*. Their hope is not only to preserve the legacy of their children but also to reach out to others walking this path.

Author and Gold Star mom Deborah Tainsh conceived the book and collected essays from families she worked with as a volunteer for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). "My greatest hope for this book is that our children will always be remembered and that it will bring inspiration to other war families and civilians," she says. Tainsh's son, Sergeant Patrick Tainsh, was killed by an IED in Iraq on February 11, 2004.

"While this is a book about the heroism of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, it is also about the heroism of those who continue to live and serve our nation despite their devastating loss," says Army Command Chaplain John C. Powledge, who contributed the foreword to the book. "All Americans owe them the full measure of our respect and gratitude."

The more than 25 Gold Star parents contributing to the book offer a revealing look at what happens after parents learn of their child's death—how they go on when the funeral is over, their friends and relatives go home, and the media have moved on to the next story. Readers get a small glimpse of the ordinary and extraordinary lives of these service members and their families.

In addition to essays from parents, the book includes contributions from a casualty assistance officer and a former soldier, offering deeper insight into how wartime death affects comrades left behind. An advice section offers suggestions for other Gold Star families and their friends and family.

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