

# WOUNDED WARRIORS FAMILY SUPPORT

## PRESENTATION



NATIONAL PARK HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION



If a picture speaks a thousand words, the videos sent to [Wounded Warriors Family Support](#) by our wounded troops and their families tell stories of families coming together and better times at our [Bahama Bay Resort](#) in Orlando and [The Victorian](#) in Galveston, Texas after separations due to combat and rehabilitation.

[Sergeant Eric Edmundsen](#), (U. S. Army, retired) and his wife shared a thank you video following their trip to Bahama Bay. Their daughter, Gracie, age 4, delighted in meeting princesses at Disney World, and Sgt. Edmundsen praised the resort's comfort and barrier-free environment.

[The Adams family of Michigan](#) was kind enough to send us a video to thank Wounded Warriors Family Support for their week in Orlando, commenting on the high quality of accommodations and the attractions at the resort.

Our website also serves as a portal where our wounded troops can review qualification criteria, look at available properties and even make reservations. Our page featuring [Jenny Lake Lodge](#) offers an example of how each property can be individually featured.

Whether it's the delight of a little girl meeting princesses or a first-person account of the effectiveness of our accommodations, these clips inspire us to continue our mission to provide as many families as possible with all-expense paid vacations where they can reunite and become stronger.

See both of these [videos](#) and others at [woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org](#) to learn about our [other programs and services](#).

**Semper Fidelis!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Folsom".

[John D. Folsom](#)

Colonel, United States Marine Corps, Reserve  
Founder, *Wounded Warriors Family Support*

*“When America Goes to War, Our Families go to War.”*

## The Situation: Physical and Emotional Effect on Families



Military life has always been tough, especially on young children. Overseas deployments, even in peacetime have adverse effects on military families.

Today, Operations “Enduring Freedom” and “New Dawn” require more deployments of active and reserve component units to Iraq and Afghanistan, which puts stress on family members, especially children. As a consequence, we have seen an increase in divorce for military personnel.

Thousands of families in the United States have either buried or are caring for severely wounded loved ones. Stress and psychological problems with children are increased in those instances where a deployed parent has been injured, wounded or killed while deployed.



*More than ever, “When America goes to war, our families go to war.”*



# WOUNDED WARRIORS FAMILY SUPPORT

## Mission, Goals and Objectives: Effective Partnership



*Wounded Warriors Family Support's* mission is to provide support to the families of those who have been wounded, injured or killed during combat operations. The families of our casualties suffer in many ways: some financially, some psychologically.

When our wounded warriors return home to their families, their lives have changed forever. Even when physical needs and requirements are met, rebuilding emotional ties may take much longer. Doctor visits, therapy schedules and making ends meet can be constant hurdles to overcome.

*Wounded Warriors Family Support* mitigates their trauma by allowing them to find peace and solace as a family once more in family-friendly resorts that we provide free of charge.

A carefree family vacation in a barrier-free environment is financially out of reach for many of them. Wounded Warriors Family Support seeks to fill that unique niche by providing all-expense paid vacations to our ADA compliant condominium at Bahama Bay Resort in Orlando, Florida.

We partner with Orlando theme parks including Universal Orlando Resort, Wet 'n Wild Orlando, and Sea World Orlando to provide our troops and their families with a complete vacation package.

Without question, the value of a week-long vacation helps accelerate the healing process and provides lasting impact. The heartfelt words of thanks from these families inspire us to continue our mission and reach even more military families.



## Pairing NPHA and Wounded Warriors Family Support Resources

*Wounded Warriors Family Support* has created relationships with more than 200 military families, and built effective partnerships with theme parks, programs and medical facilities that focus on veterans.

With eligibility and selection criteria already in place, *Wounded Warriors Family Support* can assist the National Park Hospitality Association with scheduling and arrangements to help ensure that even more military families can enjoy a special vacation.



## Benefits Provided by Wounded Warriors Family Support

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**Wounded Warriors Family Support** will support the National Park Hospitality Association's efforts to allow military families to use its properties free of charge by facilitating a variety of administrative functions including:

**Individual National Park Hospitality Association property web pages.** We will construct a web page with an availability calendar on the Wounded Warriors Family Support website so our families will know when they can plan their vacations.

**Publicizing the National Park Hospitality Association program.**

We will inform Warrior Transition Units (WTU) and family support programs about this new benefit through press releases to military and other publications, social media and direct communication with the WTUs.

**Reviewing family application criteria.** We will use the same eligibility criteria as our other programs. Once we approve the applications, we will make the reservations with the property reservations staff and communicate with our families.

**Assisting military families.** Wounded Warriors Family Support will assist military families by processing their applications, making reservations on their behalf, providing timely communication and other arrangements necessary to ensure a pleasant experience.



*Example of individual property description page at [woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org](http://woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org) for Jenny Lake.*