

### **Navy Gold Star Program (NGS)**

Navy Gold Star is the Navy's official program for **providing long-term support** to surviving families\* of Sailors who pass while on Active Duty.

Navy Gold Star is an inclusive program – regardless of the decedents' military branch, location, or manner of death. NGS support coordinators provide dedicated outreach and support when, and for as long as it is desired. NGS Coordinators are located all over the United States and are ready to help you in any way they can.

#### - **Eligibility \***

Individuals eligible to participate in the NGS program include the **widow** (remarried or not); widower (remarried or not); each **parent** (mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption and foster parents who stood in loco parentis); **each child; each sibling**; each half-sibling; each stepsibling; each stepchild; and each adopted child of the Service Member.

Participation in the Navy Gold Star program does not provide or grant authorization to Survivors for additional benefits/privileges beyond what the Survivor was entitled to prior to the death of the service member. Fiancées are not covered.

#### - **Gold Star Pins**

The CACOs involved will receive the Lapel Pins in the Days Ahead Binder and Benefits Package via FedEx from the NAVPERSCOM Case Manager.

Eligible Family Members of Sailors who lost their lives may request a replacement of Gold Star Lapel Pin and Next of Kin Lapel Pin by reaching out to your local Navy Gold Star Coordinator for assistance or by submitting DD Form 3, Application for Gold Star Lapel Button and mailing it to:

Navy Personnel Command  
Navy Casualty Office (PERS-00C)  
ATTN: Long Term Assistance Program  
5720 Integrity Dr.  
Millington, TN 38055

**CACOs must contact their Gold Star (NGS) Coordinator within 10 days from date of notification to discuss NOK Support.**

### **DEERS (For Dependents)**

1. The surviving dependents are entitled to receive:
  - a. Three years of TRICARE at no Premium
  - b. Three years of Dental Care without premiums as well.
2. After three years they will transition to a retiree coverage program.
3. In order for this to take effect the dependents **must renew their ID Cards.**

4. In order to renew the ID Cards, they need to have and show a DD Form 1300.
5. Keep in mind you may have to escort the family to obtain their new ID cards.

#### Unpaid Pay - 365 BAH

Unpaid pay consists of whatever money was owed to the member up to the time of death. Any Leave in the books will be paid out as well any entitlements, including bonuses. The CACO will receive a DD Form 1174 from PERS for signature by the designated beneficiary.

DEPENDENTS will be authorized one Year of BAH at the current rate where they are stationed.

#### **DD Form 1300**

Navy Personnel Command/Casualty Office will FEDEX the CACO a Benefit Package which includes the Gold Star pin and ten copies of the DD Form 1300. The benefit package will be sent no-earlier than ten days from date of death via FedEx.

The DD Form 1300 is needed to apply for various benefits (example: SGLI, TSP, ID Card) and it is often requested by other entities (banks, private insurance, utility companies) as proof of death while on Active Duty, in addition to the Death Certificate.

Death certificates are issued by the State where the member died. The Funeral home is responsible for obtaining the death certificates. Mortuary Affairs (MAO) pays for six copies for the PADD. If the death certificates are lost, the MAO does not pay for replacements.

NOTE: DD-214 - It is issued to those who are discharged from the navy. The DD Form 1300 is issued (by PERS) when the member dies while on ACDU. Please explain this to the NOK so they are not confused if they are asked for a DD 214.

**The PADD's CACO must obtain a digital copy of the Death Certificate. Mortuary Affairs pays for 6 original copies of the death certificate.**

**Death Certificates are provided by the state where the member died, unless the member died at sea or in a Navy Facility.**

#### **Social Security Burial Allowance 1-800-772-1213 - M-F - 08-1900**

A maximum lump-sum benefit of \$255 is payable when a member has sufficient quarters of coverage to be eligible for Social Security benefits. Application should be made directly to the local office of the Social Security Administration within two years after date of the member's death. The benefit is payable in the following order of precedence:

- ❖ To a widow(er) who was living in the same household as the deceased at the time of death. Temporary absence or separation because of marital difficulties precludes payment unless the spouse was eligible for or entitled to monthly benefits; if none,
- ❖ To the member's (minor age) children in equal shares.