

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on March 16, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Les Donovan-excused

Committee staff present:

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Toni Beck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee.

Proponents:

Senator Pete Brungardt, District 68

Representative Tom Moxley, District 24

Timothy Rives, Deputy Director, Eisenhower Museum

Diane Miller, Mayor of Abilene

Others attending:

See attached list.

**SB 225 - Renaming a portion of Interstate 70 as the Eisenhower/Truman Presidential highway**

Chairman opened the hearing on **SB225**.

Senator Pete Brungardt testified in favor of the bill stating the facility would like to publicize the scholarly work housed in the presidential libraries. (Attachment 1) Representative Tom Moxley commented that Eisenhower is not just a national leader, but also a world leader. (Attachment 2) Timothy Rives testified in favor of the bill stating the Eisenhower facility received 160,000 visitors in 2010. (Attachment 3) Diane Miller testified eight million people have visited the facility since opening, with 50% coming from other states and foreign countries. In addition, the recession of the economy did not affect Abilene with the Eisenhower Museum cornerstone. They will be celebrating the 150 Kansas anniversary with school functions in the one room school house on the Eisenhower grounds that Chairman inquired about. (Attachment 4)

Chairman closed the hearing on **SB225**.

Senator Hensley made a motion for favorable passage of **SB225** out of committee. Seconded by Senator Kultala. Motion carried. Senator Brungardt will carry the bill to the full Senate.

**HB 2132 - Issuance of gold star family license plates**

Chairman opened the hearing on **HB2132**.

Lt. Col. Meier testified as a proponent in favor of the bill. She stated American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. (Article IV, Section 1) consider induction into the United States Armed Forces for mothers whose sons or daughters died while on active duty, to be included in the organization. This healing organization does not omit grieving family. (Attachment 5) She also presented Department of Defense, A Survivor's Guide to Benefits. (Attachment 6) This is inclusive for next of kin of deceased military personnel with the designation "families of the fallen".

Senator Kultala inquired if the amended bill would include the 'mother' license plate designation, which it would not, as the new license is a separate designation. Senator Reitz commented the amended bill would not satisfy family from battlefield deaths; and the issue is not mollified in committee. Senator Schmidt stated the bill needs to address concerns of the proponents and opponents in a more generic form, and thanked Lt. Col. Meier for all of her research on the issue. Senator Hensley suggested the bill be turned into a Senate Substitute and eliminate Gold Star language.

Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2132**.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 16, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Senator Hensley made a motion to adopt a ballooned amendment as a Senate Substitute for HB2132. Seconded by Senator Petersen. Motion carried.

Senator Kultala made a motion for passage favorably out of committee on Senate Substitute for HB2132. Seconded by Senator Schmidt. Motion carried.

Jill Shelley, KLRD, stated background information is now available on the KLRD website in regards to rates, state fees and penalties dealing with Electronic Verification of the uninsured motor vehicles issue. A committee could address the aspects of a legislative package on this topic for further discussion.

Senator Reitz made a motion for an Interim Special Committee request to President Morris. Seconded by Senator Kultala. Motion carried.

No additional Transportation Committee meetings are scheduled for the session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

# SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## GUEST LIST

DATE: March 16  
Wednesday

[illegible]

STATE OF KANSAS

PETE BRUNGARDT  
SENATOR, 24TH DISTRICT  
847 FAIRDALE RD., APT E  
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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS  
VICE CHAIR: PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
MEMBER: ETHICS AND ELECTIONS  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ORGANIZATION, CALENDAR AND  
RULES  
REAPPORTIONMENT  
INTERIM COMMITTEES: CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE  
JUSTICE OVERSIGHT  
STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

March 16, 2011

SB 225

Renaming a portion of interstate 70 as the Eisenhower/Truman  
Presidential Highway

The Eisenhower Library and Museum is a terrific resource in Kansas. We can be proud of the Kansas citizen who was the leading General in World War II, and the unifying President after the conflict.

Time marches on, however. I remember President Eisenhower coming through Salina in transit to Abilene. Possibly anyone younger than me has no memory to make this subject current or relevant in their lifetime.

The Truman and Eisenhower facilities are attempting to promote and re-invent these libraries as tourist attractions, and to publicize the scholarly work housed in presidential libraries.

SB 225 will help publicize this effort and is worthy of your support.

Sincerely,

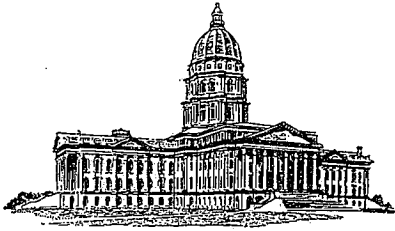
Senator Pete Brungardt  
District 24

Senate  
Transp.

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STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**TOM MOXLEY**  
REPRESENTATIVE, 68TH DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman and Colleagues of the Senate:

It is with great pride that I represent two of Kansas' greatest national heritage sites, the Flint Hills and the Eisenhower Museum/Library complex of Abilene. There is no doubt that President Dwight Eisenhower ushered in a period of peace and prosperity that we envy today. His legacy is formidable, from being the Supreme Allied Commander of the European World War II campaign through his eight years as President. For twenty years, he was not just a national leader, but also a world leader.

Many have visited the Eisenhower museum, perhaps you have, but my point is that every American, every visitor to America should visit and learn from the leadership style and accomplishments on exhibit in Abilene. Even the most casual observer of his life on exhibit will note that Ike was a towering figure in his time, and the lessons his life offers are many.

Perhaps IKE's most lasting influence on American society is the establishment of the Interstate Highway system in 1956, which now totals 46,876 miles. It is fitting that the Eisenhower/Truman Memorial Highway largely follows Interstate 70 with one end at Abilene and the other at the Truman home in Independence, MO.

SB 225 as you will hear is a collective effort of the Eisenhower/Abilene citizens and the Truman/Independence boosters to bring about an increased awareness of both of these storied Presidents and their legacies. This is a win, win combination of efforts by these two groups. A companion piece of legislation is at work in the Missouri State legislature to name their leg of this project. Kansas' naming is contingent upon the passage of the companion Missouri legislation. Private funding will cover the cost of the signage and its maintenance.

I thank you for your time and encourage your passage of SB 225 to honor these two Presidents and their legacies.

Sincerely,

Tom Moxley

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SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 16, 2011

Timothy Rives

Deputy Director, Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for opportunity to present the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home's support of Senate Bill 225, designating Interstate 70 from Abilene to the Missouri/Kansas line as the Eisenhower-Truman Presidential Memorial Highway.

I am the Deputy Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum speaking on behalf of Library Director Karl Weissenbach, who is in Washington DC today. I am honored to represent the Library, especially at a time when people around the world are rediscovering the many accomplishments of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Most Americans remember him as a successful two-term president. Our European friends remember him as the general who lead the Allied assault on the beaches of Normandy, brought an end to the death camps, and liberated millions from Nazi enslavement. The 27 million pages of records, 300,000 photographs, and 70,000 artifacts held by the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum form the documentary basis for these memories. Researcher daily visits have held steady or increased for the past 20 years. In the last fiscal year, for example, the library set a new researcher visit record. Normally, heavy on site researcher visits occurs during the first five years of a presidential library, but interest in Ike continues to grow.

This increased use of our holdings by scholars has been instrumental in Eisenhower's steady rise up the presidential rankings, where he currently resides between the fifth and eighth positions, depending on the poll. This new appreciation of the Eisenhower era, combined with increased Eisenhower Foundation support, has doubled our attendance numbers recent years from 70,000 in 2008 to 160,000 in 2010.

The creation of the presidential memorial highway would remind our fellow citizens of the relevancy of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The memorial would promote higher visitation between the two presidential libraries, and increase joint programming in Independence and Abilene. It is my belief that the memorial highway will have a positive economic impact on Abilene and Kansas. Both the Truman and Eisenhower presidential libraries will promote the memorial highway at the state, regional, and national levels.



**"The Town That Produced a President"**

**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

March 9, 2008

Diane Miller, Mayor  
City of Abilene

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for opportunity to present Abilene's support of Senate Bill 225, designating Interstate 70 from Abilene to the Missouri/Kansas line as the Eisenhower-Truman Presidential Memorial Highway.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum has a major economic, cultural and educational impact on Abilene and the state of Kansas. The Library is more than a federal installation in the heart of Kansas. It is an economic stimulus that provides employment and critical tax revenue for the city of Abilene and the State of Kansas. The Presidential Library supports community activities, and provides archival and museum programs that draw thousands of visitors a year to North Central Kansas. Eisenhower Library visitors dine in local restaurants, visit other attractions, and overnight in local hotels, which translate into tax dollars and employment opportunities for Abilene and surrounding communities.

The economic impact of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum on Abilene and the State of Kansas is as follows:

- Tourists and Special Event visitors to the Eisenhower Presidential Library had an economic impact in Abilene of about \$9 million for FY 2010. These visitors travel through Kansas, making additional stops and spending money along the way.
- Using a conservative \$50 number, the economic impact on Abilene since the inception of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum is a minimum of \$400 million.
- Since the facility opened nearly 8 million people have visited.
- In FY 2009 and 2010, attendance was over 160,000.
- In FY 2008, 70,710 people visited the Eisenhower Museum.
- In FY 2007, 64,395 people visited the Eisenhower Museum. As you can see, the numbers have increased immensely
- 50% of the visitors come from Kansas while the other 50% come from other states and foreign countries.
- Researcher visits have increased over the past 20 years. This past year, the one thousandth researcher spent time in the presidential archives. These researchers come from all over the world, to Abilene Kansas, and most spend at least one week.
- The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum could have been built at Gettysburg or in Ike's birth state of Texas. But it wasn't. Ike had a passion for his home state of Kansas and his hometown of Abilene. He summed it up in his homecoming speech on June 22, 1945 when he stated "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene."

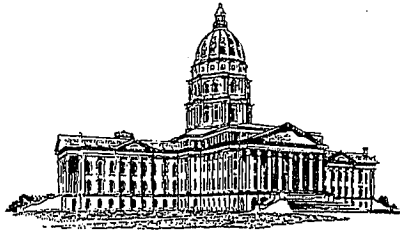
Thank you ladies and gentlemen for considering the designation of I 70 to memorialize two great presidents.

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MELANIE MEIER  
40TH DISTRICT

February 15, 2011

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of HB 2132, a measure that will provide for the issuance of a Gold Star Family license plate.

The Gold Star Mothers in my District and across the United States wish to educate the public and their local communities about the important story of the Gold Star Family. The sacrifice of less than one percent of our nation, those who volunteer to put their lives on the line for our freedoms, cannot be ignored or forgotten. They must be honored and remembered.

Gold Star Families intimately know the cost of sacrifice. They lost a loved one in service to our country. With the issuance of the Gold Star Family license plate, the Gold Star Families will raise awareness in their communities and remind all of us that we are still a nation at war and we still need those who are willing to volunteer to protect us. These plates will show the Gold Star Families' neighbors that they actually know or live close to someone who had loved ones willing to sacrifice everything.

In today's military, all service is honored. If a service member dies in battle or a training accident or a vehicle rollover or waiting in line inside a "soldier processing center" for immunizations, the families are recognized. If a service member dies in Iraq or Fort Hood or standing in front of the recruiting center in Little Rock, Arkansas, the family is recognized.

I have attached excerpts from Army Regulation and the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. website that illustrate the military's appreciation for the sacrifice of the Gold Star Family of today. There are two Gold Star pins. One is awarded to families of service members killed in combat and the other to families of service members killed while on active duty but not in combat. In the words of Diana Pitts, the President of the NE Kansas chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.:

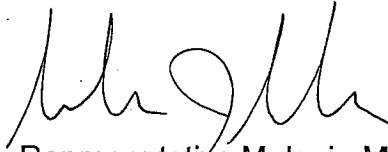
"DoD does not differentiate between KIA and Non-Combat deaths any longer. They pay out the same death gratuity and SGLI. The mind set of this nation is turning to honorable service and not where and how they were killed. This is why we asked for this bill to be written, because the families of those killed non-combat are also Gold Star Families.

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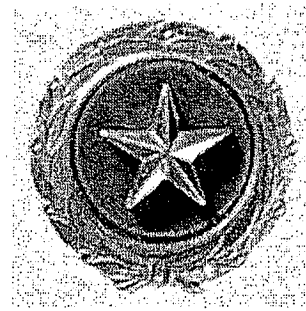
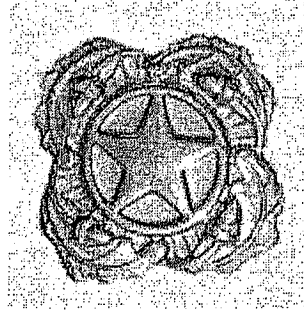


They also get the same assistance through SOS, survivor outreach services, provided on Army installations. This license plate is about awareness, not status."

Thank you for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Meier', with a stylized, cursive script.

Representative Melanie Meier



**Quote from the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. website:** (<http://www.goldstarmoms.com>)

“The Gold Star pins, so intimately associated with Gold Star Mothers are, in fact, not awarded by us nor are they limited to mothers. They are awarded by the Defense Dept, usually through your casualty officer.

There are 2 different pins. Which one you are awarded depends on the circumstances of your loved one's death.

However, membership in American Gold Star Mothers is available to mothers with either pin. We make no distinction. Each child is precious and we don't believe that the circumstance of your child's death, is important. All served and all undertook the associated risks.”

#### **Army Regulation 600-8-22 Dated December 11 2006**

##### **6-18 Lapel Button for Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel**

The Lapel Button, Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel is provided to widows/widowers, parents, and primary next of kin of armed services members who lost their lives while serving on active duty or while assigned in an Army Reserve or Army National Guard unit in a drill status.

**a. The button consists of a gold star within a circle (commemorating honorable service) surrounded by sprigs of oak, (referring to the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard).**

b. One lapel button will be furnished without cost to the widow or widower, to each of the parents, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half brother, sister and half sister of a member of the armed forces who lost his or her life while on active duty. The term widow or widower includes those who have since remarried, and the term parents includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis.

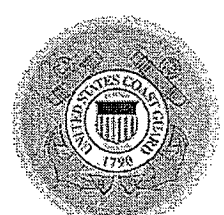
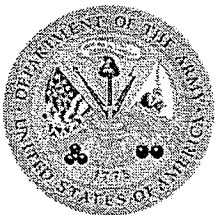
c. Casualty area commands will stock the button and ensure that survivor assistance officers issue them to eligible next of kin.

d. The Lapel Button, Next of Kin Deceased Personnel is authorized for issue retroactive to 29 March 1973.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



A Survivor's Guide to Benefits  
TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILIES



Current as of February 23, 2011

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## Burial Location

The PADD, who is designated by the service member, will determine where the burial will take place. If a designation is not recorded, the PADD is determined by the Service in accordance with existing laws and regulations. The Military Service will provide all necessary assistance to satisfy the PADD's decision on burial location to include burial in a national, state, private, or public cemetery. All active duty service members are eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery or any national cemetery that has available space. Information on burial in a national cemetery is available from any local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Spouses and children under eighteen years old may be buried with their loved ones in VA national cemeteries. Your funeral director will assist you with burial arrangements for any cemetery in the National Cemetery System, including Arlington National Cemetery.

## Transportation of Family

### *Travel to Burial*

The government will provide transportation to the burial site for members of the service member's immediate family, including the surviving spouse, children, siblings of the service member, the parents of both the service member and the surviving spouse, and the PADD. If family members prefer to make their own arrangements they may be reimbursed up to the government rate. Eligible family members can be authorized to receive travel and per diem expenses to attend the funeral. The PADD may elect two close family members if no authorized travelers use their travel entitlement. We recommend that family members not make any travel plans until they have spoken with their casualty assistance officer or mortuary officer.

### **Gold Star Lapel Button and Lapel Pin**

These will be presented to the spouse, parents, siblings, and children of deceased active duty members prior to the funeral or interment service.

The Gold Star Lapel Button is provided to the family of service members who lost their lives under hostile conditions. The Gold Star Lapel button consists of a gold star one-quarter inch in diameter, on a purple disc three-quarters of an inch in diameter, within a wreath of gold laurel leaves. The reverse has the inscription, "United States of America, Act of Congress, 1 August 1947."

The Lapel Pin is provided to the family of service members who die while on active duty under non-hostile conditions. It is a symbol of our appreciation of a service member's tremendous sacrifice to country and Service, and of the families of these brave men and women. The Pin is gold in color. The star within the circle commemorates honorable service and the sprigs of oak refer to the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force.

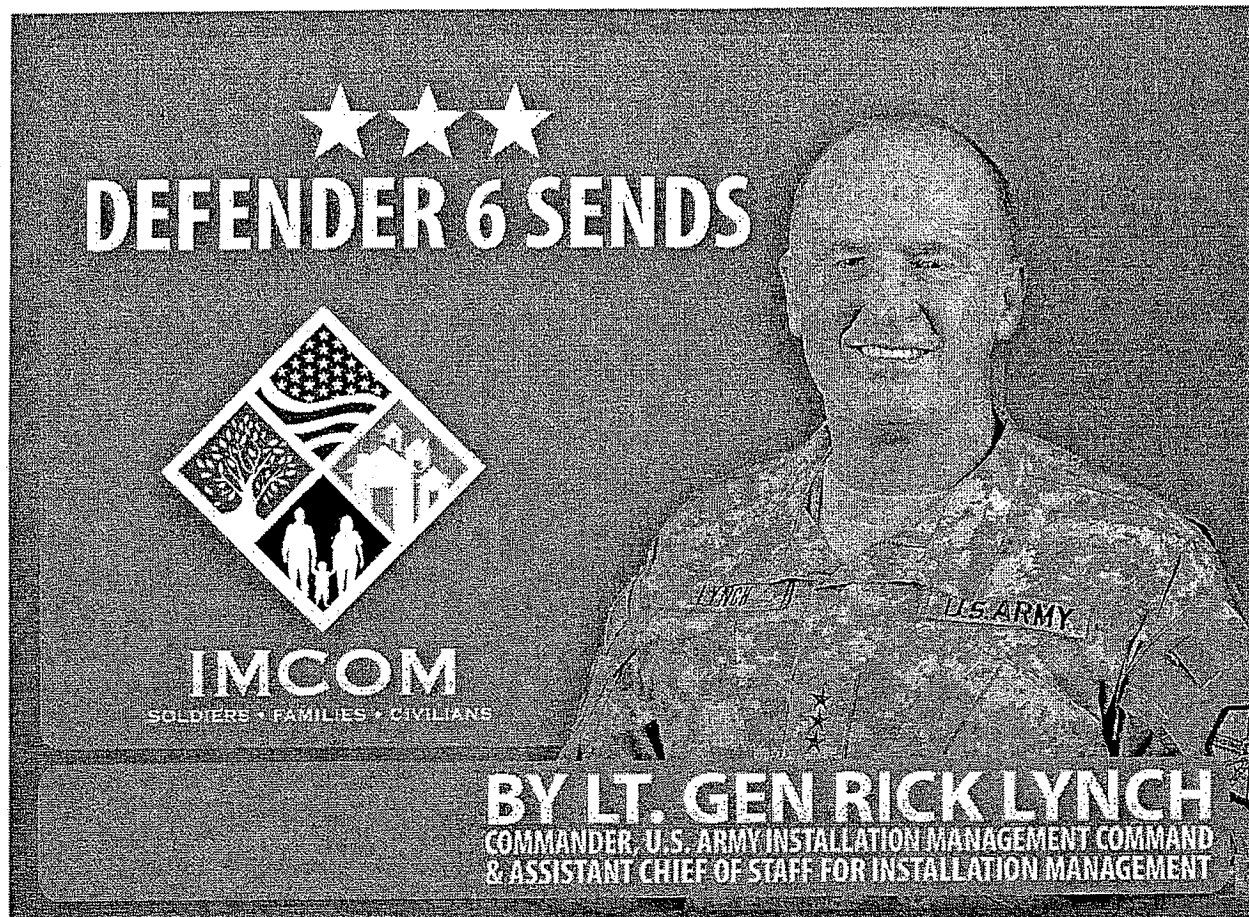
### *Travel to Memorial Service*

Your loved one's military unit may schedule a memorial service as a way for fellow unit members to honor him or her. You may be eligible for funded travel to the memorial service. Your Service can provide you with details.

## Military Honors

Your casualty assistance officer or mortuary officer will be able to discuss with you any military honors due to your service member. If you choose a military funeral, the casualty assistance officer or mortuary officer will help plan the funeral service. This could include coordinating with military or civilian clergy, arranging for the funeral honors detail, obtaining interment flags and presenting the flags, and other awards. During the funeral honors ceremony, the spouse of the service member,





March 7, 2011

## Survivor Outreach Services: Supporting Survivors and honoring Soldiers

I commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart as part of the surge in Iraq in 2007-8. During that time, 153 Soldiers died in combat, in a place on the battlefield where I put them. I pray for those Soldiers and their Families every day. Their loss is something I have to live with. For any leader, the loss of a Soldier hits hard. But the loss that Survivors experience is magnitudes deeper and wider, because they have lost not just a Soldier, but a friend, a son or daughter, a husband or wife, a father or mother.

When I visit installations, I meet with those who have lost loved ones on active duty. I make sure to talk with Survivors for two reasons. One reason is that now, as the commander of Installation Management Command, I need to know how we are doing with one of our newest programs, Survivor Outreach Services. The other reason is that Survivors need to know that the Army recognizes and honors their Soldier's service and sacrifice.

The best, most meaningful thing we can do to honor our Fallen Soldiers is to support and care for those they left behind. Survivor Outreach Services was established in April 2008 to do just that, in a more comprehensive manner than ever before.

The Army is fortunate to have a leader like Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., who had the vision and compassion to propel the effort to support Survivors beyond casualty assistance alone. Casualty assistance officers work with Families during a very difficult time, a heart-rending time, when Families are notified of their Soldier's death and have to make funeral arrangements and decisions about entitlements and benefits.

But grief is very personal—it cannot be standardized or resolved in a set time period. With the help of a panel of Survivors selected by Gen. Casey, SOS was developed to provide longer-term, expanded support and care, taking up where casualty assistance ends.

SOS offers support through benefits coordinators, who help Survivors understand and apply for local, state and federal benefits; financial counselors, who assist through investment and estate planning education; and support coordinators, who facilitate support groups, provide life skills education and connect Survivors with counseling resources.

More than 200 SOS personnel are now working on installations throughout the United States and overseas, to include National Guard and Reserve locations. The three components work and train together very closely on this One Army program, to provide SOS services closest to where Survivors live.

It does not matter how a Soldier died, and there is no time limit on SOS services. SOS coordinators extend a hand as Survivors are working with casualty assistance officers in the first few months after a Soldier's death, but Survivors do not have to accept assistance right then or ever. They can decide to return months or years later. The important thing is for Survivors to know that the support is there. They are not alone—they are part of the Army Family for as long as they want to be.

There are also no exclusions in the definition of a Survivor. For the SOS program, a Survivor is anyone—immediate Family, extended Family, a friend, a fellow Warrior—who feels the loss of a Soldier. Every Survivor is not entitled to the same benefits under law or regulations, but SOS coordinators will work with any Survivor to access counseling and other resources. Our partnerships with local and national support organizations make this more expanded, inclusive approach possible.

SOS staff have made tremendous progress in a short time, receiving more than 24,000 cases from Casualty and Mortuary Affairs and continually reaching out to Survivors, both those who have suffered a loss recently and those whose loss pre-dates the program. As the program becomes established, they continue to refine and enhance services as more Survivors provide feedback on their challenges and needs. For example, this past year, when it became clear that Survivors who do not have ID cards were having difficulty getting onto post to use services, SOS developed a Survivor vehicle decal program to

ease access and provide special recognition. The decals are currently being distributed through SOS offices.

More information on SOS services and Survivor resources is available on Army OneSource ([www.myarmyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsandServices/SurvivingFamilies/SurvivorOutreachServices.aspx](http://www.myarmyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsandServices/SurvivingFamilies/SurvivorOutreachServices.aspx)), the SOS Facebook page and garrison SOS webpages. There are also links to partner organizations whose support is so critical to connecting with and providing for Survivors.

The loss of a Soldier is not a topic people want to talk about, but it is a reality of military life. We do what we can to prevent losses. We train for and plan our combat operations. We stress safety in garrison. We have enhanced programs to prevent risky behaviors and suicide. In the end, though, despite our best efforts, we cannot prevent every loss. That is why Survivor Outreach Services is so crucial. To honor the Fallen Soldier's service and sacrifice for our nation, we can do one last thing—offer support for the loved ones the Soldier left behind.

*Support and Defend.*

***Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Defender 6***