A MESSAGE FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our freedom as Americans is unique in this world, and there is no greater act of patriotism than that of an American soldier, sailor, airman or marine laying down his or her life to protect that freedom. That is why I am honored to lead The Folded Flag Foundation in its mission to help secure the future of these patriots’ family members through education.

As a West Point graduate and former Army Field Artillery Officer, I have an unmatched respect for the sacrifices our military and their families make every day. As Executive Director of The Folded Flag Foundation, I have the indescribable privilege of helping Gold Star Families prosper as they set out to carry on the legacy of their fallen heroes.

The mission of The Folded Flag Foundation is to provide educational scholarships and support grants to the spouses and children of the U.S. military and government personnel who died as a result of hostile action or in an accident related to U.S. combat operations.

More than just funding, The Folded Flag Foundation is also about embracing families after loss, using education as the cornerstone. For us, this means not only helping spouses secure a college degree so they can effectively provide for their children, but also helping to ensure their children are on a successful educational path.

After only our second year in operation, The Folded Flag Foundation has granted over $500,000 to more than 60 spouses and children. But, we have a long way to go. Since 2001, more than 7,000 men and women have died while serving in the Global War on Terror, leaving behind thousands of spouses and children. Our goal is to connect with each of these individuals and help secure their future by providing scholarship support at all levels of education.

Thanks to the generosity of our underwriting sponsors, Black Knight and ServiceLink, 100 percent of all donations we receive goes directly to our Gold Star Families through educational scholarships and support grants. With a projected need of $100 million over the next 17 years for these families, being able to dedicate the money we raise towards our grants and scholarships is so important.

It is with the highest honor that I serve as Executive Director of The Folded Flag Foundation and help give back to the families of those who have given so much for this great nation.

John Coogan
The Folded Flag Foundation’s mission is to provide educational scholarships and support grants to the spouses and children of the U.S. military and government personnel who died as a result of hostile action or in an accident related to U.S. combat operations.

There will be some tough and scary times ahead in the near future. When they happen, be tough, be brave and remember you are an American and ready to fight for your freedom as veterans have before you. If you are afraid or you run and stick your head in the sand, the bad guys win. And that is unacceptable.

Lieutenant Commander Scott Allen Zellum
Killed in Combat Accident
Aug. 10, 2004

Crystal Blasjo
Wife of Sergeant Aaron Blasjo, who served in the Special Forces and was killed in action on May 29, 2011.

2016 Scholarship Recipient
In recognition of our fallen heroes, The Folded Flag Foundation awards educational grants and scholarships to families of the U.S. military and employees of the U.S. government who have lost their lives while deployed in combat. Scholarships and grants are available to qualifying spouses and their children under the age of 26 to assist with a wide range of educational needs, including K-12 tuition and tuition for college/trade school.

“Because of The Folded Flag Foundation, I’m able to fulfill my educational dream of becoming a pediatric cardiac nurse and help children struggling with heart trauma.”

Madison Marcum
Daughter of Navy SEAL John Marcum who was killed in action on Sept. 11, 2008, when Madison was only 8 years old.

2016 Scholarship Recipient

WHAT WE DO

• PROTECT THE LEGACY of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.
• SUPPORT THE FUTURE of the families that have been left behind.
• SHOW APPRECIATION to military and governmental personnel, and their families.
• MAINTAIN A STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES dedicated to supporting our Gold Star Families.

OUR COMMITMENT
THE NEED

We have identified 5,800 students who will need additional educational funding over the next 17 years. The Folded Flag Foundation’s goal is to raise $100 million to fill the gap.

In 2016, The Folded Flag Foundation awarded $387,171 in scholarships to 50 students.

5,800
Number of students who need additional funding over the next 17 years

$100,000,000
The Folded Flag Foundation’s fundraising goal

Haley Hartwick
Daughter of CW3 Michael Hartwick who was killed in action serving in Iraq in 2006, when Haley was 11 years old.

2016 Scholarship Recipient
2016 SCHOLARSHIP TOTALS

- **50 STUDENTS**
  - $387,171
  - $7,743 AVERAGE PER STUDENT

RECIPIENTS

- **5 SPOUSES**
- **45 CHILDREN**

AWARDS BY SCHOOL LEVEL

- **25 GRADE SCHOOL**
- **25 COLLEGE**

AWARDS BY BRANCH

- **ARMY**
  - 26
- **NAVY**
  - 4
- **AIR FORCE**
  - 2
- **MARINES**
  - 6

THE RESULTS

All administrative expenses are underwritten by Black Knight and ServiceLink, so 100 percent of all public donations goes directly to the qualifying families.

The Folded Flag Foundation raises money through various means, including corporate partners, individual donations and special events.

Additionally, several individuals throughout the nation volunteer as ambassadors and host events in their communities to benefit The Folded Flag. These special and valued individuals are creating a grassroots movement to create awareness and raise funds for The Folded Flag.

THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2016* IS AS FOLLOWS:

- **$1,816,526** Total contributions
- **$558,976** Total program expenses
- **$387,171** Total grants/scholarships paid
- **$529,921** Total reimbursed by Black Knight and ServiceLink

*I couldn’t go to [Southwest] College if it weren’t for The Folded Flag Foundation. They’ve helped me every year, and it means so much to me to know they’re helping me get my education and honor my dad’s legacy.

Craig Thurber
Son of Master Sergeant Bernard Deghand who died on Sept. 15, 2006, in Afghanistan’s Kandahar province.

2016 Scholarship Recipient