

A HERO'S SALUTE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

This program is designed to assist families of Massachusetts service members killed-in-action in the days immediately following the death of their loved one. This program offers grants up to \$1,000 for direct assist for family expenses. This program was launched in February 2010 and is the first Military Friends Foundation program to assist families of both active and reserve components.

Funding for this program comes from the Mass. Military Family Relief Fund and the generosity of private donors.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Family of service member (active or reserve components), whose Home of Record is Massachusetts, and was killed-in-action on or after February 1, 2010.
- Next-of-Kin or family representative may apply for assistance.
- Copy of certified casualty report or confirmation by casualty assistance officer of future availability of certified copy of casualty report.
- Completion of 1-page application
- Copy of government issued identification of applicant
- A signature of the applicant will need to be secured prior to grant distribution.

GRANT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

Grants are available in amounts up to \$1,000 for family expenses in the days immediately following a death. Although this program cannot assist in funeral expenses, we can assist families with most other financial hardships during this difficult time. Areas of assistance may include travel costs for family members, lodging, and food along with various other expenses.

As with all Military Friends Foundation grant programs, all grants are paid directly to the vendor(s). We encourage those needing assistance to contact us directly at (617) 733-3994 so that we can make arrangements to provide grants. We seek to assist families as quickly as possible. We make ourselves available to meet with the Next-of-Kin or family representative if this assists in expediting grants.

UNITED STATES HANDHELD FLAG DISPLAY:

As part of *A Hero's Salute*, the Military Friends Foundation offers every family, upon request, a display of handheld United State Flags during a funeral procession route or memorial service. Members of the Military Friends Board of Directors and volunteers will be available to donate and distribute handheld flags as part of a final salute to a fallen Hero. Please call the Military Friends Foundation at (617) 733-7994 for more information about this program.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

To ensure a quick response, please contact us (617) 733-7994. Applications and other documentation can be submitted via email (to sarah@militaryfriends.org) or fax. To fax an application, please call (617) 733-7994.