

FAMILY LIFE LINE[®]



In the first eight years of our marriage, we were split up for half of it.

Margaret and Spencer both serve in the military—Margaret in the Air National Guard and Spencer in the Air Force. While raising their two children, this couple would often take turns deploying, which meant long periods of separation. The effects on their marriage were almost catastrophic.

Margaret and Spencer had both come from broken homes. They were determined to give their children the stability they didn't have growing up. "We wanted to break the cycle," Margaret says.

"That's what it becomes—a cycle—because it's easy to run." But with so much time separated due to deployments—sometimes as much as a year—they had both grown far apart from each other. The future of their marriage seemed bleak, like there was no bridging the gap.

Thanks to generous partners like you, Cru[®] volunteers were able



"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." —John 8:36, NIV

Continued on page 2

Continued from cover

to offer the couple a scholarship to attend a FamilyLife Weekend to Remember® getaway, which they happily accepted.

“We wanted to break the cycle.”

—Margaret

“I was willing to try anything,” says Margaret. “We felt like a door was opening and both thought, we’re definitely doing this.” Spencer agrees and is so grateful for the eye-opening opportunity. “My sole focus was my military career,” he says. “The Weekend to Remember taught me that I need to love Christ first and then to love my wife.”

Since then, the couple has renewed their commitment to each other and to God, and they have helped lead the military breakout session at subsequent Weekend to Remember events. “Our testimony is that with God’s grace we’re still together and we’re still a family,” Margaret says.

Thank you for the important role you play in bringing hope and healing to military families!

Military Families Need Your Prayers

Chances are you know a military family. But you may not be aware of the special challenges they face. Here are 6 of the top stressors these families deal with regularly—things you can pray for on their behalf.

Isolation & Loneliness

Deployment of a loved one can lead to feelings of loneliness for the entire family.

Fear at Home

Families fear for the safety of their loved one who is deployed.

Increased Suicide Rate

Active-duty suicides hit record highs in 2018.

PTSD

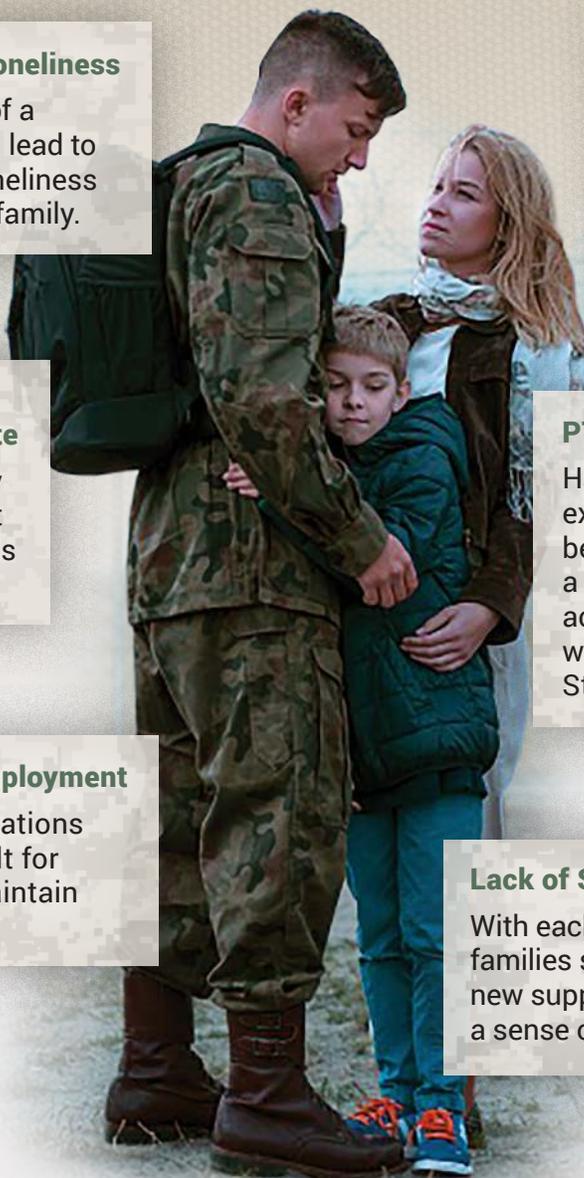
Harrowing experiences, such as being shot at or seeing a comrade killed in action, leave many with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Spousal Unemployment

Frequent relocations make it difficult for spouses to maintain steady work.

Lack of Support

With each move, military families struggle to develop new support networks and a sense of belonging.



You Can Help!

FamilyLife’s Weekend to Remember getaways equip married military couples with biblical principles and tools to manage their unique struggles. See page 4 to learn how you can help provide scholarships so more couples can attend!

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**CONSIDER
YOURSELF
SALUTED!**
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“... we were not prepared for what the Lord was going to do at Weekend to Remember. **We absolutely needed this at a dark time!** ... We are so thankful for the military scholarship, and we couldn’t have come without that.”
—Military couple

The Time You Helped a Green Beret

Here at FamilyLife, we're all about making personal connections with friends



David Robbins
President & CEO

of the ministry. This is especially important when it comes to military families, who often feel disconnected and isolated due to deployment and relocations.

Recently, we received a note from an attendee of one of our Weekend to Remember getaways who shared:

"I just wanted to thank you for the incredible weekend. My husband is military, Special Forces, Green Beret, and carries a lot of the past with him. After the men's session on Sunday, one of your staff prayed with him. That time of prayer was obviously Holy Spirit guided and clearly was exactly what my husband needed in that moment. It opened and profoundly touched his heart."

What a blessing! And not just for this brave soldier and his wife, but for you and me who had the privilege of helping in their time of need. Thank you for standing with us ... and with them!

David Robbins

Your Support Is an Anchor for Navy Families Like Sara's

My name is Sara, and as the wife of an active duty naval officer, I can clearly look back on the 28 years my husband has served and say that FamilyLife has been critical to our spiritual success as a couple and as a family.

In the earlier years, the radio shows and resources were practical, nearly daily tools to help us learn how to be married well and also how to parent our kids. There were themes that became woven into the programs, which inevitably were woven into our lives—like *Faith is the refusal to panic*. And because we were moving every two years for the first 22 years of Navy life, it was highly important to have a ministry we connected with.

"Beyond all of the practical help is our overwhelming gratitude for FamilyLife."

You see, finding a new church and supportive community can take time after a military move. So, having the familiar voices of Dennis and Bob broadcasting encouragement, as well as the resources of Bible studies, Passport to Purity and other materials to use with our kids really bridged the gap. In addition, we have been able to enjoy a couple of Weekends to Remember, as well as bless

others with the gift of going or the recommendation to attend.

The pace of military life—separations, deployments, long distances from supportive extended family units—causes great stress on the families left behind. So, beyond all of the practical help is our overwhelming gratitude for FamilyLife.

"This is our 3rd getaway and each one has affected each stage of our life at the time we attended ... this one as we begin our life as empty nesters. ... So great to continue to be encouraged in a Christ-centered marriage each time."
—Senior military wife





FROM A GRATEFUL WIFE:

“Weekend to Remember has been such an incredible blessing.”



“My husband is a captain in the Air Force. We’ve dealt with our fair share

of struggles, from deployments to overseas moves away from family and friends. And with three young kids, we’ve only had time for the occasional date night, but definitely not overnight getaways. After an extremely trying year for our marriage, Weekend to Remember has been such an incredible blessing. The sessions, as well as the opportunity for this time alone as spouses with the projects, breaks and date night, offered such a wonderful rejuvenation for our marriage.”

Your continued support today will bless other military couples by helping to provide them with scholarships to attend Weekend to Remember. Please give generously!

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Military couples sacrifice much for our freedom. Help protect their marriages with a Weekend to Remember scholarship!

Your support is urgently needed to help provide scholarships for military couples to attend a Weekend to Remember getaway this fall. A record turnout is expected, and we want to ensure that every couple who wants to attend has the opportunity.

These life-changing events present God’s design for a lasting marriage, and many of the getaways include breakout sessions specially created to address the unique challenges of those serving in the Armed Forces.

Our scholarship fund is dangerously low.

In this July 4th season, please help ensure that our military couples receive the help and support they need to strengthen their families:

- \$60** sends one person to Weekend to Remember.
- \$120** sends one married military couple.
- \$240** sends two married military couples.
- \$360** sends three married military couples.

\$125,810 NEEDED BY AUGUST 31!

You could be the difference in a couple’s marriage.

Give Now!



TEN-HUT!

Weekend to Remember scholarships available

If you or your spouse is active military and would like information about receiving a scholarship for an upcoming Weekend to Remember getaway, please visit www.familylife.com/military or contact us at **1-800-358-6329**. We’d love to have you!

FAMILYLIFE
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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