ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

NEXT OF KIN
CASE FOR SUPPORT

A FINAL SALUTE

Next of Kin endowments at the U.S. Air Force Academy



Emotions run deep as classmates gather at the grave site of one of their own who has recently passed. It's a scene replayed dozens of times each year on the grounds of the U.S. Air Force Academy Cemetery.

Standing at attention and facing the flag-draped casket, fellow USAFA graduates render a final salute to their friend as the sound of *Taps* echoes across the landscape. Moments later, classmates step forward to place a coin on the new grave marker — a solemn sign of respect and admiration for the deceased.



[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAFA]

EXPANDED SERVICES FOR A GROWING GRADUATE COMMUNITY

It's difficult to gauge the full range of emotions felt by those who attend a service at USAFA's cemetery or memorial pavilion. Tears shed can be signs of both sadness and celebration. The sense of loss crashes like a wave over some, while others laugh from shared memories of days gone by.

Whatever the mood, it's clearly a powerful moment as family, classmates and friends bid their final farewells. Prayers, hugs and a shared meal usually ensue. At some point, those assembled raise a toast to the departed. Throughout the day, the everlasting bond of the USAFA graduate community is always on full display.

The U.S. Air Force Academy Association & Foundation is committed to supporting the graduate community and families as they navigate the endless details leading to this final celebration of life. In recent years, the Next of Kin Program has expanded to help families and classmates plan and execute travel plans, on-site funeral services, graveside ceremonies, receptions and memorial gifts. Those who are grieving always appreciate the help.

The Association & Foundation is working to establish an enduring funding source that will provide Next of Kin benefits for Air Force Academy graduates and their families in perpetuity. You and your classmates can ensure that this solemn final salute will be offered to every generation of graduates going forward.

Your generous donation can help demonstrate the incredible bond the graduate community enjoys and untangle the many details surrounding a fellow graduate's journey to their final resting place and emotional farewell.



[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAFA]



"I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AND PLEASED WHEN THE NEXT OF KIN SUPPORT SPECIALIST REACHED OUT TO ME AFTER THE PASSING OF MY HUSBAND, CAMDEN. SHE WAS HELPFUL TO ME IN SO MANY WAYS, AND I UNDERSTAND WHY CAMDEN WAS A MEMBER OF AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. THE NEXT OF KIN PROGRAM IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT."

— JUDITH COBERLY, SPOUSE OF CAMDEN A. COBERLY '64

[Photo by Ryan Hall]


[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAFA]

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT GRADUATES AND THEIR FAMILIES

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THEIR TIME OF NEED

Endowment: $1 million +

This endowment would provide funding to support family members of the deceased, including:

- Offering assistance with funeral, burial and reception planning for graduates buried at the Air Force Academy Cemetery
- Coordinating and assisting with travel and accommodations for immediate family traveling to Colorado Springs for funeral and graveside ceremonies
- Supporting the Family Reception held in conjunction with the annual USAFA Memorial Ceremony
- Funding reunion fees and lodging costs for the surviving spouse to attend the reunions planned by the classmates of the graduate who passed

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN MEMORIAL PUBLICATION

Endowment: $2 million

This endowment would provide funding to support the production of this keepsake publication that highlights all graduates who passed away during the previous year, including:

- Gathering and editing memorial article submissions from family members and classmates
- Covering the cost of printing the high-quality publication
- Supporting website enhancements



NEXT OF KIN PROGRAMMING

Endowment: $2.5 million

This endowment would provide funding for:

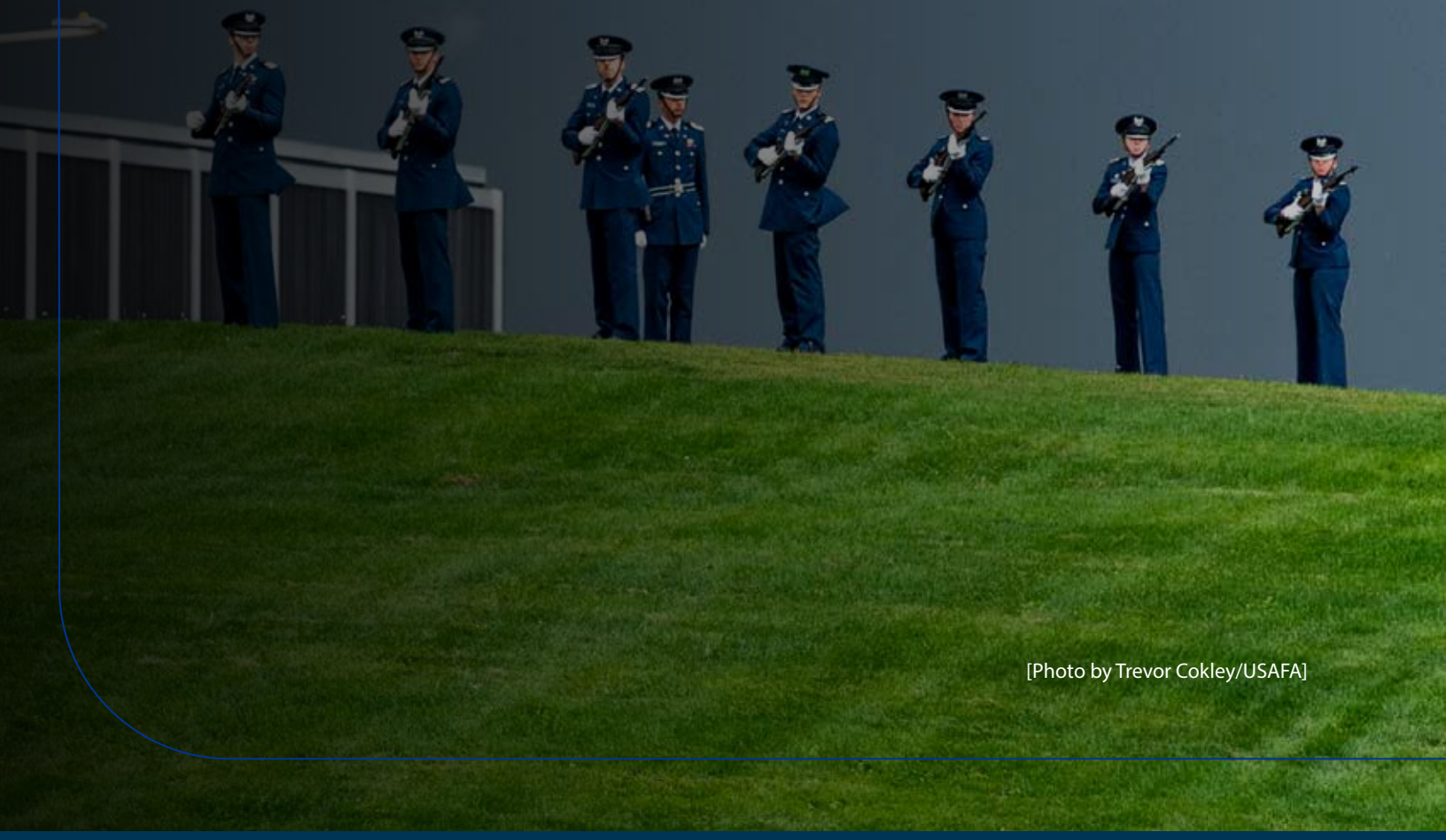
- Coordinating alerts to classmates about a graduate's passing
- Gathering Gone But Not Forgotten memorial articles from family members or classmates to preserve online and inspire future cadets and graduates
- Maintaining a new online repository for graduate obituaries
- Sending flowers or a memorial donation on behalf of the class
- Supporting memorial ceremonies during class reunions
- Updating Association & Foundation records
- Facilitating the annual USAFA Memorial Ceremony and inviting family members to attend
- Providing requested videographer support to record on-site ceremonies



"WHEN MY HUSBAND DIED AFTER YEARS OF BATTLING CANCER, I WAS UNPREPARED FOR THE MYRIAD OF DETAILS FOR A FINAL SERVICE. THE NEXT OF KIN SUPPORT SPECIALIST WAS INVALUABLE. SHE HELPED WITH ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ATTENDEES, RECORDED THE CEREMONY, ARRANGED THE PLACE FOR THE RECEPTION AND PROVIDED SUGGESTIONS FOR MANY OF THE LITTLE DETAILS. I AM SO THANKFUL FOR THIS SERVICE, AND I ENCOURAGE SURVIVORS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROGRAM."

— CHARLENE PAGE,
SPOUSE OF ROLAND J. PAGE '65

Ultimately, the Next of Kin Program celebrates and preserves the history and heritage of the Academy and the graduates who have gone on to impact their communities, the nation and the world. As the Association & Foundation seeks to cement memorial and funeral care for graduate families, please consider joining this noble cause.



[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAFA]

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT USAFA.ORG/NOK