



IN HONOR OF SOC (SEAL) AARON VAUGHN

Elite Navy SEAL, Aaron Carson Vaughn, was killed August 6, 2011, when a Chinook helicopter carrying 30 American troops was shot down in Afghanistan. Aaron had just celebrated his 30th birthday.

After serving with SEAL Team One for many years, Special Operations Chief Vaughn, in May of 2010, began rigorous selection and training with Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He endured several months of the most rigorous training offered in the military and upon successful completion reported to Development and Evaluation Squadron Three in December 2010. Aaron completed many deployments around the world, including several combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

He was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards including the Joint Service Achievement Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism (Service) Medal, Global War on Terrorism (Expeditionary) Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decoration. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

On August 6th, 2011, our family awakened to the reality of tragedy that so many families have lived. My bigger-than-life brother, Aaron Carson Vaughn was KIA. Those letters seemed insufficient to describe the fullness of their meaning. Nevertheless, it was true. As we muddled through the next few months of this new life without him, we had a strong desire to somehow add value to our family's great loss.

Aaron was a man's man, but a child at heart. He always made everyone laugh and was constantly forcing us all to join in his child like shenanigans. We happily obliged. He was always up for an adventure and lived everyday to the fullest. His love of God, family and country was unparalleled. He truly had the heart of a warrior.

It is only fitting that to honor him, we give kids who have lost so much, the opportunity to live like Aaron... if only for a short time.

In the initial months after Aaron's death we became acutely aware of the love our community shared for not only Aaron, but all of those like him that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Because of their support and partnership we were able to bring this dream to life.

In everything we do, we seek first to bring glory to our Lord Jesus, and second to honor Aaron and his legacy.



Tara Bolden

CO-FOUNDER
& PRESIDENT



OPERATION 300
IN HONOR OF
SOC AARON VAUGHN



WWW.OP300.ORG

WHAT IS OP300?

We believe that when a member of our Armed Services gives his life in defense of our great nation, the least we can do is pledge to honor that sacrifice by caring for his family. This is the heart behind Operation 300, a registered 501(c)3 not for profit organization which hosts weekend-long adventure camps for children who have lost their fathers as a result of military service, pairing each child with a father-aged, male mentor who spends the weekend doing things with the children they might have done with their dad.



COST & ELIGIBILITY

All costs, including travel, lodging, food and activities are covered by Operation 300. This includes both the children and camp parent attending the retreat.

Any child between the ages of 8-18 years old who have lost a parent through military service and their surviving spouse. Op300 serves all branches of the military.

GOLD STAR FATHER RETREATS

Op300 also offers Gold Star Father retreats for those who have lost a child serving in our military. Please email for details for this incredible time of fun, adventure, and healing with fellow Gold Star Fathers.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you have a heart to serve, Operation 300 is run through a strong volunteer base. From becoming a mentor at camps to hosting or helping through fundraisers, we have something for everyone. Applications are available on the website.

EVENTS

Op300 holds multiple events for fundraising throughout the year. From the Red, White & Blue Bash, to Stars & Cars and the Aaron Vaughn Frogman Swim + Run... these are events you don't want to miss. Follow our social pages and sign up for emails to stay in the know.



CAMP VALOR

Camps run year around in South Florida. Over the course of a camp weekend, attendees can expect to participate in a wide range of activities which embody the spirit of their military parent. From saltwater fishing, sailing, archery, shooting, camp competitions, flying small planes, and more, no two camps are alike and are sure to have something for everyone.



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