



# BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION



**2021**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF PROGRAMS  
AND FINANCIALS**



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# REFLECTION & PROJECTION

A Message from Our Executive Director

2021 was a challenging year for the Army Aviation Community. Mishaps in January and February tested our spirit. True to form, the members of this great community stepped up and came together to support the affected the families. Despite continued lockdowns and financial stress, you helped us provide over \$18,000 in financial aid to the Gold Star Families of the New York Dustoff and Guardian MEDEVAC crews.

2021/  
2022

Behind the scenes at the Blue Skies Foundation, we were able to make great progress in 2021. We successfully hosted our first in-person fundraiser in Austin, TX and implemented the first series of Memorial WODs honoring fallen aviators and crew members.

In the coming year, we will institute several institutional and organizational changes. Namely, bolstering our board of directors. This added leadership will better enable us to respond to the needs of our Gold Star Families. Service to the Army Aviation community is our calling and passion. We are not satisfied with ourselves until we are certain that the needs our Gold Star Families and our community have been met with excellence.

As always, the Brotallion Blue Skies Foundation extends our sincerest gratitude to the generous donors, volunteers, and staff who enable us to make good on these promises. It is your selflessness which enables us to support Army Aviators and their families.



Blue skies and tailwinds,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Spencer Payne'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Spencer Payne**  
Executive Director



# OUR **VISION**

THE MISSION OF THE  
BROTALION BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION IS  
TO SUPPORT THE NEXT-OF-KIN OF  
FALLEN ARMY AIRCREW.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## Gold Star Family Financial Support

As a matter of practice, we step in and aid the affected families of a Class A (fatal) Army Aviation mishap.

In addition to immediately donating funds that have been raised through charitable donations and fundraising, the foundation's sister company designs a t-shirt unique to each mishap that we support. 100% of the profits of these shirts are donated to the foundation and are then distributed to the Gold Star families. These funds provide assistance with family travel, lodging, and incidentals.

Our support does not end there. The shirts remain available with all profits being donated to the families each month, indefinitely. It is our hope that the shirts honor our fallen brothers and sisters, keep them present in our hearts, and serve as a reminder that what we do serves a higher cause.

## Education Assistance

In its 2020 report, Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid, the College Board reports that a moderate college budget for an in-state student attending a four-year public college in 2020-2021 averages \$26,820 per year. The Blue Skies Foundation will provide financial assistance to the sons and daughters of fallen aircrew to help with the burden of tuition, room and board, and books and supplies.

## Legacy Preservation

The foundation provides financial support for memorials and monuments across the country which honor our fallen brethren.



**GUARDIAN  
MEDEVAC**

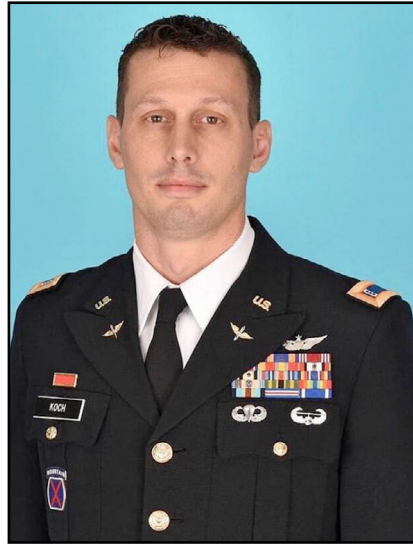
**1-168**



# THE 2021 MEMORIAL WALL



**CW2 Daniel Prial**  
New York National Guard  
20 JAN 2021



**CW4 Christian Koch**  
New York National Guard  
20 JAN 2021



**CW5 Steven Skoda**  
New York National Guard  
20 JAN 2021



**CW3 George Laubhan**  
Idaho National Guard  
2 FEB 2021



**CW3 Matthew Peltzer**  
Idaho National Guard  
2 FEB 2021



**CW4 Jesse Anderson**  
Idaho National Guard  
2 FEB 2021

The Brotallion Blue Skies Foundation takes transparency and efficiency seriously. We currently maintain an all-volunteer staff, and will continue to do so as long as there is not a negative effect on the growth and impact of the foundation.

Our key financials, including IRS filings, may be viewed at [www.thebrotallionblueskiesfoundation.org](http://www.thebrotallionblueskiesfoundation.org), or upon request. We maintain the highest standards of integrity, in order to ensure that our donors, partners, and supporters know exactly the manner in which their contributions are being used to support the Army Aviation Community.

In 2021, the Blue Skies Foundation invested 75 cents of every dollar donated into our programs and services. All in all, we invested \$38,000 between our programs.

The foundation was awarded the Silver Seal of Transparency by GuideStar and was rated a 2021 Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits.

## SINCE FOUNDING BBSF:

**16 LIVES**

Lost to Class A  
(Fatal) Mishaps

**15 FAMILIES**

Supported by the  
Blue Skies Foundation

**\$81 K**

Provided in  
financial  
support

## 2021 AT A GLANCE

Foundation Net Income

**\$50,415**

Fundraising Expenses

**\$6,724**

Administrative Expenses

**\$3,377**

**75% OF EVERY DOLLAR WENT DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT BBSF'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

**IN 2021 WE INVESTED \$38,077 INTO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BENEFITING 15 GOLD STAR FAMILIES.**



**\$25,577**

Gold Star Financial Assistance



**\$7,500**

Fund for immediate mishap support



**\$5,000**

Financial Assistance Program



**OUR** **TEAM**

# THE BLUE SKIES BOARD & STAFF



**Spencer Payne**  
Board Chairman &  
Executive Director  
Army Aviation Veteran



**Brett Kroll**  
Board Treasurer &  
Director of Operations  
Michigan National Guard



**Kyle Kilroy**  
Board Secretary  
Army National Guard



**Brittany Deslauriers**  
Events & Fundraising  
Active Duty Army



**Hunter Carpenter**  
Operations Manager  
California National Guard



## CONNECT & SUPPORT



[www.thebrotallionblueskiesfoundation.org](http://www.thebrotallionblueskiesfoundation.org)  
[www.brotallion.com/collections/blue-skies-collection](http://www.brotallion.com/collections/blue-skies-collection)



@blue\_skies\_foundation



Brotallion Blue Skies Foundation