

givingback



Caryl Armour, first scholarship recipient of That Others May Live, accepts tuition assistance check from Michael Agin, cofounder and chairman of the foundation.

## A 'Noble' Mission

That Others May Life foundation helps children of fallen Air Force heroes

By BARBARA JARVIE CASTIGLIA

**I**t's an unfortunate truth that some things are born of tragedy. On September 3, 1998, a dozen airmen were killed in a mid-air collision of two helicopters, Jolly 38 and Jolly 39, at Nellis Air Force Base in Clark County, Nev. Founded in 2002, That Others May Live (TOML) aims to honor those and other fallen heroes of the Air Force Search and Rescue community by helping their children get a helping hand.

"The foundation's mission is nothing short of noble," says Michael S. Agin, TOML chairman of the board and cofounder. "What it does is critical in honoring those who sacrificed all to save the life of another human being. Ensuring the children of these fallen heroes get an education is the least America can do to honor their service and sacrifice."

The foundation provides assistance to achieve adult goals in the form of scholarships, business start-up aid or first-home purchasing assistance to the children who have lost a parent or legal guardian in the conduct of the Air Force Search and Rescue mission, explains



Gretchen Rauch, who serves as executive director and president of the Las Vegas-based not-for-profit group.

Agin says the foundation is filling a niche that no one else is addressing at this time. "We treat all USAF Rescue Warriors equally. If you train as you fight and die doing so, TOML foundation will support your children's advance education needs – other foundations only cover you if you are on an operational mission. We also cover the awesome men and women who fix and maintain the Combat Rescue equipment."

Last year, TOML awarded its first three scholarships. Funds went to Caryl and David Armour whose father, Technical Sergeant Jeffrey Armour, a Flight Engineer from the 66th Rescue Squadron, was killed in the 1998 Nellis accident. The third recipient was Kyle

Maltz whose father, Master Sergeant Mike Maltz, a Pararescueman from the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, was one of six killed while flying in a humanitarian rescue mission in Afghanistan on March 23, 2003.

"Today is really bittersweet for me and my family," says Caryl Armour. "I'm really proud of my dad and his service with others to our country. With the Foundation's assistance, I'll be able to continue my education and accomplish my goal of being a special education teacher like my mom. I think my dad would be really proud of his kids."

"I can't describe the personal and professional fulfillment I and the Foundation Team received on that day," says Agin. "I have achieved much in my life and that experience tops the list. Try to envision the enormity of the accomplishment – due to the foundation there is someone who got dealt some rather crummy cards in life who is now going to get a quality education and much improved chance to succeed in life."

Rauch says the foundation plans to grow its membership and have individuals and groups champion events that raise funds for the Foundation. "We have set the wheel into motion to assist with fundraising efforts across the nation," she says. "Individuals have contacted us wanting to run marathons and raise money for our Foundation while they compete in these events. Links to their efforts and personal fundraising pages are on our website."

Rauch says she's been so touched by the people she's met since her association with the foundation. "I have had conversations with widows, former comrades, and other family members of those lost. Although the circumstances that have brought us together are tragic, never, never have I felt or heard anything but pride and respect for the lives these warriors lived and their ultimate sacrifice. As a military retiree and daughter of a police officer, I know this is common throughout the military and in fire and police departments throughout the country, but there is truly something sobering about someone dying while executing a mission that exists only to rescue people, rich or poor, young or old, in war or victims of a natural disaster like Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ivan. As they say, "These things we do, so That Others May Live."

To learn more about the foundation, visit [thatothersmaylive.org](http://thatothersmaylive.org) or call 229-563-3549.