



# Freedom's Future 2011

## Inaugural Report

*The present value cost of the post-high school education of the children of fallen and wounded American Service members.*



# Letter from the Chairman



November 11, 2011

Friends,

Since No Greater Sacrifice (NGS) was founded in 2008, our goal has been to enable the greatness within the children of fallen and combat wounded Service members through their pursuit of higher education.

On behalf of the NGS Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the first annual *Freedom's Future 2011*. Through this report, we are now able to quantify that it will take \$1.2 billion in today's dollars to provide educational opportunities for the children we are dedicated to serve.

We have named this report *Freedom's Future 2011* as the children of America's brave warriors are indeed the personification of freedom. We issue this report as a reminder and a challenge in regard to the importance of honoring the sacrifice of our Service members. We ask individuals and organizations to invest in a future where peace of mind is felt by the families of those who have given so much for all of us.

We will continue to revise the numbers within this report annually prior to Veterans Day.

Thank you to all who helped in the creation of this important report and to all who continue to support No Greater Sacrifice as well as our cause. Please learn more and download the free report at: [www.nogreatersacrifice.org/freedomsfuture](http://www.nogreatersacrifice.org/freedomsfuture).

With deep respect,

John J. Brown

Chairman of the Board  
No Greater Sacrifice

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*“We have named this report  
Freedom’s Future 2011 as the  
children of America’s brave warriors  
are indeed the personification of  
American freedom.”*

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# Methodology and Key Inputs

Through use of public data and original analysis, NGS was able to derive key inputs to forecast the costs and project timing of need for the children of fallen and combat wounded Service members to pursue post-high school education.

## Fallen and Combat Wounded Service Members

The Military Casualty Information\* database indicates there have been 52,794 total fallen and combat wounded Service members across the three primary military operations since September 11, 2001. These numbers are representative of October 3, 2011, when the analysis model was finalized.

The table below illustrates the breakdown of these sobering numbers.

War	Fallen	Wounded
Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)	1,784	14,342
Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)	4,408	31,921
Operation New Dawn (OND)	60	279
TOTAL	6,252	46,542
TOTAL Fallen and Combat Wounded Service Members	52,794	

\*Military Casualty Information database - <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm> from October 3, 2011

## Children of Fallen and Combat Wounded Service Members

The next set of inputs feeding the present value model involved calculating the total number of children of the fallen and combat wounded. There is no publicly available source that reports on this number; therefore assumptions were

*Total estimated number of children of fallen and combat wounded*

**46,459**

used from government statistics to calculate this key input. In addition, the calculation of the estimated total number of children who will pursue post-high school education needed to be defined to ensure a realistic model. These numbers are not widely available either and involved original analysis on behalf of NGS.

The total estimated number of children of wounded and fallen was calculated to be 46,459. The following government statistics were applied to the total number of fallen and combat wounded Service members to derive this estimation: 44% of active duty Service members have children and there are an average of two children per family. When broken down further, this number reveals that there are 5,502 military children who have lost a parent and 40,957 children of combat wounded Service members.

## Distribution of Ages for the Children of Fallen and Combat Wounded Service Members

Deriving a distribution of ages for the children of fallen and combat wounded was necessary in order to model what year these children would likely enter college. The relationship between a fallen or combat wounded Service member and how old their children are is not publicly available; therefore, the model made assumptions of their age and the Service member's age. Information from a government report provided a framework for estimating the age of the children. This component was critical in determining the cash inflows and outflows across multiple years to identify the present value. Below illustrates the defined age distribution of children used in the model.

Distribution of Children (age) of Military Parents					
22	0.3%	14	3.6%	6	5.9%
21	0.4%	13	3.9%	5	6.1%
20	1.4%	12	4.2%	4	6.6%
19	1.9%	11	4.5%	3	7.0%
18	2.3%	10	4.7%	2	7.6%
17	2.7%	9	5.1%	1	7.6%
16	3.0%	8	5.2%	0	7.1%
15	3.4%	7	5.5%		

\*[http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf)

**46,459**  
total estimated number  
of children of fallen and  
combat wounded



# The Present Value of Educating Freedom's Future

Since September 11, 2001, more than 52,794 fallen or combat wounded Service men and women have sacrificed for our country. By identifying a monetary cost associated with supporting post-high school education opportunities for the children of fallen and combat wounded Service members and their families' peace of mind, we are able to put immediate focus on the urgent need for support.

The \$1.2 billion present value quantification outlined in this report is a demonstration of the importance of NGS's mission and many other organizations including nonprofits, grants, and scholarships.

By looking at the financial need in today's dollars, this report moves one step closer to helping meet the needs of tomorrow.

## Understanding the Model

The report brings to the forefront the need for immediate and increased focus on securing educational funding across resources including nonprofits, grants, and scholarships for future financial support.

## Key Considerations for the Model

NGS has made assumptions and compiled data from different sources to establish this model.

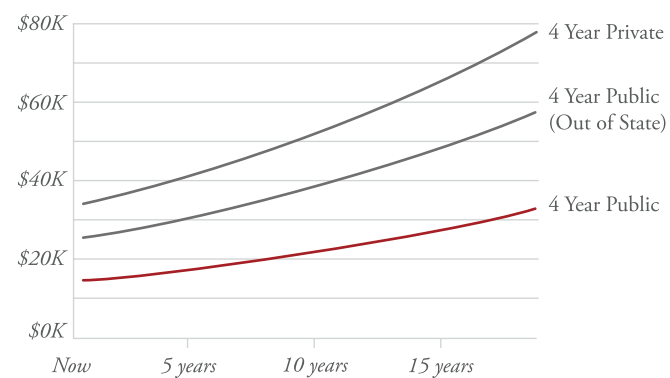
- NGS cannot predict the end of the war; therefore, the model assumes the war ends October 3, 2011, when the model was finalized.
- The report does not calculate and provide analysis on current funding from government and private entities for this cause due to a lack of consistent and available data.
- The present value model recognizes that not all children may want to pursue a post-high school education.
- The model represents children as ages 22 years old or younger will be pursuing post-high school education in the coming years.
- Based on the defined distribution of children of the wounded and fallen there are, 37,453 children are eligible to pursue a post-high school education in the future.
- Of the 37,453 children, 26,217 or 70% are likely to pursue a post-high school education.
- NGS also recognizes that the military is a unique community and does not trend like the rest of the country as this model might suggest.

- The model was unable to account for the number of military children who enlist in a branch of the military or enroll at one of the Academies after high school rather than attending a 4 year public, private, or trade post-high school institution, because this number has not been tracked or released publicly.
- Marriage trends were not incorporated due to lack of availability of supporting relevant demographics.
- The model reflects a conservative approach to analysis because NGS would like to be as accurate as possible and would prefer to overestimate rather than underestimate.

The model will be updated on an annual basis to reflect changes in key variables including: number of wounded and fallen, number of children of the wounded and fallen, number of expected children to attend college and to reflect any new data that becomes available.

## The Increasing Cost of Secondary Education

The following breaks down the increasing cost of one year of tuition over the next 5, 10, and 15 years and was a key driver into the creation of this report.



# \$1.2 Billion

the cost of post high school education of children of fallen and combat wounded Service members



# Sources, Additional Model Inputs and Information

## Sources

### Fallen and combat wounded Service members

- Military Casualty Information - <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm> from October 3, 2011

### Percent who have children

- DOD Demographics 2009 Report - Section 3.08, Page 53
- [http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf)

### Average number of children

- DOD Demographics 2009 Report - Section 3.18, Page 59
- [http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf)
- Children include minor dependents age 20 or younger or dependents age 22 and younger enrolled as full-time students

### Age distribution of children

- DOD Demographics report 2009 Section 3.22
- [http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf)

### Marital Status of Service members & Income breakdowns

- DOD Demographic report 2009
- [http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/12038/Project%20Documents/MilitaryHOMEFRONT/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf)

### College Tuition

- College Board - <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/trends-in-college-pricing-2008.pdf>

### Education inflation

- College Board - <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/trends-in-college-pricing-2008.pdf>

### Likelihood to go to college

- National Center for Education Statistics - <http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372>

### High School Dropout Rate

- National Center for Education Statistics - <http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372>

### Post 9/11 GI Bill

- VA - [http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/Benefit\\_Comparison\\_Charts.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/Benefit_Comparison_Charts.pdf)

### Yellow Ribbon

- VA - [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/CH33/YRP/Yellow\\_ribbon.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/YRP/Yellow_ribbon.htm)

### Fry Scholarship

- VA - [http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/fry\\_scholarship.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf)

### Fry Scholarship

- Department of Education - <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html>

### Disability information

- <http://www.disabled-world.com/news/veterans/va-disability-benefits.php#ixzz151yRHUdT>
- <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/va-compensation-tables#BM04>

## Model Inputs

### Number of children

- Marriage status of an active duty Service members
- Percentage of active duty Service members with children
- Average number of children per active duty Service members
- Current age distribution of the children of active duty Service members

### Financial and Economics

- Income of an active duty Service member
- Current cost of education
- Education inflation rate
- Portfolio / Investment considerations
- Historical investment returns
- Projected investment returns

### Education

- Type: Public vs. Private
- Years of college funded
- Age cutoff for funding
- Scholarship eligibility
- Post-9/11-GI Bill
- High school dropout rate
- Likelihood of high school graduate to pursue post-high school education

### Wars

- Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)
- Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Operation New Dawn (OND)

## Additional Information

- For our complete analysis and all the calculations included in this report, please download the model spreadsheet from: [www.nogreatersacrifice.org/freedomsfuture](http://www.nogreatersacrifice.org/freedomsfuture)

# 5,502

children of Service  
members will not see  
their parent again



Honor their sacrifice.  
Support Freedom's Future.  
Donate now.

**TEXT NGS TO 20222  
TO GIVE \$10**

Message and data rates may apply.

Or visit [www.NoGreaterSacrifice.org](http://www.NoGreaterSacrifice.org) to learn more.

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## **Our Vision**

Honoring the sacrifices of our Service members by investing in their children's capacity for greatness through education.

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## **Mission**

NGS is dedicated to the 46,459 children of our nation's fallen and wounded Service members by delivering scholarships and resources to improve their quality of life through the pursuit of higher education.

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[www.nogreatersacrifice.org](http://www.nogreatersacrifice.org)

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