

Joanne M. Steen, MS, NCC

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Joanne Steen is the widow of a naval aviator who was killed in the line of duty. Turning her tragedy into a greater good, Joanne co-authored *Military Widow: A Survival Guide*, a first-of-its kind book on military loss. With her co-author, Joanne is the 2007 Author of the Year for the US Naval Institute Press. She also is the founder of Grief Solutions, LLC, a company dedicated to teaching America how to respond to all forms of military loss.

Joanne is a nationally certified counselor with a focus on traumatic grief. She is a natural leader, a compassionate counselor and an accomplished educator.

Joanne is a founding Board of Directors member for Young Widows and Widowers, Inc. (YWOW) of Virginia Beach, VA. During her Board tenure, she facilitated the YWOW Strategic Plan, and designed, developed and implemented training programs for support group leaders. As a crisis responder, Joanne has responded to over a dozen individual and mass casualty military disasters.

Prior to becoming a counselor, Joanne had twenty years of experience in leadership and management, strategic planning and instruction with two Fortune 50 companies and the Department of the Navy. In the corporate sector, Joanne held engineering and management positions with General Motors and Johnson & Johnson. With the Department of the Navy, Joanne was a senior instructor and strategic planning facilitator, working with senior leaders of the US Navy, the US Marine Corps and allied military leaders.

Joanne holds a MS in Counseling from Old Dominion University and a BS in Manufacturing/Industrial Engineering from Rutgers University. Joanne was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in 1997 for her work with the Department of the Navy. She was certified as a National Certified Counselor in 2003.