

Media Advisory



GARY SINISE FOUNDATION AND AMERICAN AIRLINES HOST SEND-OFF CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN MILITARY HEROES ATTENDING SNOWBALL EXPRESS AT SALT LAKE CITY INTERNATIONAL

The Gary Sinise Foundation is hosting 1,600 family members of fallen military heroes at Walt Disney World Resort for an annual Snowball Express event right before holidays

American Airlines – the presenting sponsor of Snowball Express – is providing numerous charter aircraft and space on commercial flights throughout its global network.

This Saturday 12/7, the Gary Sinise Foundation, and presenting sponsor American Airlines, will bring 1,600 family members of our nation's fallen heroes - those whose loved ones have lost their lives serving in the United States military – to Orlando for a special trip to Walt Disney World (WDW) Resort. This special event through the Gary Sinise Foundation's Snowball Express program hopes to help these families create new, happy memories during this difficult time of year.

Families will travel on 11 donated American Airlines charter aircraft staffed with all-volunteer crews. The charters will make stops in 19 cities across the country with hundreds of additional participants traveling from around the world, including Guam, Frankfurt, and Japan. Our local families will begin on a commercial aircraft and connect with a charter aircraft in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Gary Sinise Foundation supports thousands of families of our fallen military heroes year-round through their Snowball Express program with empowerment workshops and regional community events, as well as their annual five-day experience at WDW from December 7-11, where family members spend time together, honoring their fallen loved one while cultivating relationships and making special memories together in a warm and welcoming environment.

This year's theme at Salt Lake City International Airport is a Circus. We'll be having Circus booths with games, a balloon, a magician, and treats you would find at the circus.

Media are invited to attend the send-off party at gate B13 for children and families aboard the SLC Airport Snowball Express. Festivities at Salt Lake City International Airport begin at 5am. The VIP passengers depart on a flight just after 7am.

WHAT: Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express, along with presenting sponsor and official airline partner American Airlines, will fly 1,600 family members of fallen U.S. military heroes to Disney World in Orlando, FL Dec. 7-11.

Before departing SLC, families will enjoy special events and a send-off ceremony at Gate B-13.

WHERE: Salt Lake City International Airport Terminal
Meet at the American Airlines Ticket Counter on Level 3, east side of the Terminal

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024
Meet at 4:30 a.m. to pick up a gate pass. You will need to bring a driver's license and will be going through security screening. So do not bring any prohibited items.

WHO: Children and spouses of service members who have died while on active military service
American Airlines team member volunteers including pilots, flight attendants, airport operations teams and more

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance with Nancy Volmer **with your full name as shown on your government-issued ID, birth date and gender** for security clearance purposes.

CONTACT: Nancy Volmer, nancy.volmer@slcgov.com, (801) 209-5774.

This program is part of the Gary Sinise Foundation's year-round programming and support for families that honors their fallen hero, encourages them to make new memories, and provides opportunities to connect with others who know what they've been through.

About American Airlines Group

American's purpose is to care for people on life's journey. Shares of American Airlines Group Inc. trade on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol AAL and the company's stock is included in the S&P 500. Learn more about what's happening at American by visiting news.aa.com and connect with American on Twitter [@AmericanAir](https://twitter.com/AmericanAir) and at Facebook.com/AmericanAirlines.

About The Gary Sinise Foundation

[The Gary Sinise Foundation](http://GarySiniseFoundation.org) was established under the philanthropic direction of award-winning actor and humanitarian Gary Sinise, who has been an advocate of our nation's defenders for nearly 40 years. The Gary Sinise Foundation's mission is to serve our country by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. The Foundation's four programmatic pillars are our way of "doing a little more" for those who sacrifice so much for our country. As our Founder and Chairman Gary Sinise always says, "While we can never do enough for our defenders and their loved ones, we can always do a little more." That spirit of service is the bedrock of all of the Foundation's programs, which include [R.I.S.E. \(Restoring Independence Supporting Empowerment\) Program](#), [Relief and Resiliency Program](#), [Community and Education Program](#), the [First Responders Outreach Program](#). For more information, please visit GarySiniseFoundation.org.

