



OPERATION HONOR CARDS



★ Honoring Their Service with Ours.



American
Red Cross





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★ **Honoring Their Service** with Ours.

Thank you for your interest in **Operation Honor Cards!**

Operation Honor Cards is the joint project of Blue Star Families, the American Red Cross, and ServiceNation: Mission Serve, working together with the Veterans Administration, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Department of Defense. Inspired by the First Lady and D r. Biden's program, Joining Forces.

Joining Forces campaign for military families, the program aims to create an atmosphere of 'shared service' and a WWII sense of 'all give some' by encouraging Americans to perform service in honor of military families and veterans.

Operation Honor Cards will collect Honor Pledges of community service and maintain a running tally of hours of community service hours committed and fulfilled in honor of military families, service members and veterans. OHC will also collect physical Honor Cards that your organization can fill out to thank military families. These cards will be displayed in the Capitol Rotunda and military installations across the country.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to join **Operation Honor Cards** via the website www.honorcards.org , which will promote and collect virtual Honor Pledges of community service.

The program has already collected pledges of more than three million hours of service from the **Girls Scouts, Lions Clubs International, and the Virginia Office of Volunteerism, the Red Cross, Operation Gratitude, The Mission Continues, BAE Systems, Inc. and Blue Shield of California.**

Let's show our military families, veterans and service members how much we appreciate them by honoring their service with ours by visiting www.honorcards.org.



About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families (www.bluestarfam.org) is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and civilians.



About American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has provided humanitarian support to the United States military, veterans and their families under a trusted symbol for almost 130 years. The Red Cross provides emergency communications, supports military and veteran hospitals and health care facilities as well as providing social services to military family members.

The Red Cross is able to provide these services through employees and volunteers stationed around the world - through a network of more than 650 Red Cross offices to include supporting service members, veterans and their families far from military installations. For more information visit www.redcross.org.



About ServiceNation: Mission Serve

ServiceNation (www.ServiceNation.org) is a campaign to increase service opportunities and elevate service as a core ideal and problem-solving strategy in our society.

Mission Serve (www.MissionServe.org) is the ServiceNation campaign's civilian-military initiative, connecting civilian and military communities through a broad array of service and volunteer partnerships designed to address the challenges of our nation and our military communities.



It's easy! Here's how you get started.....

Individuals and organizations should join Operation Honor Cards via the website www.honorcards.org , which will promote and collect virtual Honor Pledges of community service.

If your organization or company would like to make a significant pledge and be listed as a participating organization on our site, please contact Loree Tillman, Programs Manager at ltillman@bluestarfam.org .

1) Register your name on the site.

Get involved by registering and encouraging others to volunteer in their communities in honor of military families, veterans and service members.

The program has already collected pledges of more than three million hours of service from the **Girls Scouts, Lions Clubs International, and the Virginia Office of Volunteerism, the Red Cross, Operation Gratitude, The Mission Continues, BAE Systems, Inc. and Blue Shield of California.**

2) Choose your service project.

Choose what act of service you will be doing in your community to honor a service member and/or military family. Examples: mentor a child, clean up a park, plant a garden, donate to a particular charity, make a meal for a neighbor in need, etc. The service does not need to be something new - if you currently deliver meals to the elderly, or your company has a current mentoring program, you can dedicate this service and connect it to the service of the military community. The purpose is to build a bond of shared service - and on-going service certainly contributes to that!

Looking for other volunteer opportunities? Visit the Service Projects tab on www.honorcards.org and click on the logos of participating organizations to get more information on their volunteer opportunities.





3) Come back to honorcards.org to let us know how much of your pledge you've fulfilled.

From time to time, come back to the Honor Card site and let us know how many hours have been fulfilled. **If you are a participating organization, you will communicate with a liaison who will enter the updates for you. Any time very large figures are entered a liaison will get in touch to verify the service.** The service hours and pledges fulfilled will be tallied for the country to see.

4) Place the pledge and service counters on your website.

Get others involved by placing the pledge counter widget on your website! Visitors to your site will be able to pledge hours right from the counter to support Operation Honor Cards.

Option 1

587 HOURS PLEDGED	103 HOURS SERVED
Operation Honor Cards	Make a Pledge »

Option 2

587 HOURS PLEDGED	103 HOURS SERVED
Operation Honor Cards	Make a Pledge »

Visit www.honorcards.org or paste html code:

```
<div id="honor-card-widget"></div>
<script type="text/javascript"
src="http://www.honorcards.org/widget.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">HCW.init({'divId':'honor-
card-widget','dark':false});</script>
```

```
<div id="honor-card-widget"></div>
<script type="text/javascript"
src="http://www.honorcards.org/widget.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">HCW.init({'divId':'honor-
card-widget','dark':true});</script>
```

5) If you want to host a letter writing and pledge party

You can hold an event with a school, business, or volunteer group to write letters and create physical honor cards that we will deliver to military community members. Through this program, you will build an "Honor Wall."

Use the attached form to print out Honor Cards. Choose a service project and fill out as you would the on-line program.

Mail the Honor Card marked "Mail Honor Card" and the other card marked "Post on Honor Wall" post on your newly created Honor Wall. The Honor Wall will enable everyone to see the direct results in your community from honoring those who serve our country you are giving back to your community in a positive way.

Honor Cards culminate on or before 11/11/11 with 'Honor Walls' will be displayed on Capitol Hill, VA hospitals, military bases, and other public venues.

Choose the type of individual to whom you would like to write your letter of appreciation. Operation Honor Cards is currently seeking letters for the following individuals:

- 1) Parent of a service member
- 2) Spouse of a service member
- 3) Child of a service member
- 4) Veteran (someone who once served in the military)
- 5) Active Duty Service Member (someone who is currently serving in the military)
- 6) Caregiver (someone who is caring for a Wounded Warrior)
- 7) Wounded Warrior

Using the enclosed honor card write your pledged hours and words of appreciation or support for the type of individual you have chosen.

On the back of your card, write the number of the category you have chosen above. This will help our volunteers sort your honor card more efficiently and get it into the hands of the recipient as quickly as possible.





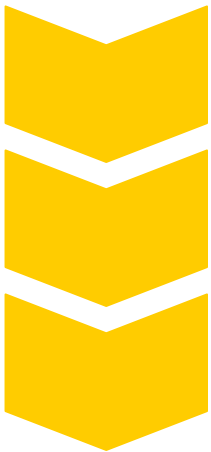
6) Mail your honor cards to:

Operation Honor Card

P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

The American Red Cross and Blue Star Families will sort and distribute your Honor Cards to deployed service members, military families, wounded veterans and caregivers.

Thank you again for your interest in this program and for supporting America's military families!



In Honor of Our Troops, Veterans and Military Families!



**OPERATION
HONOR CARDS**

www.honorcards.org

Inspired by your service to our country, I pledge
to do _____ hours of community service in
your honor, I will _____

Post to Honor Wall

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HONOR CARDS**

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Inspired by your service to our country, I pledge
to do _____ hours of community service in
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Write a special message of appreciation and support:

Mail Honor Card

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Sample Letters

Dear Military Family,

Our family is thinking of you and your service member and wishing you all the best. We know it isn't just the service member who serves but the entire family. We'd like to reach across the miles that separate us to let you know our family appreciates what your family is doing.

Sincerely,

Dear Military Child,

Our family would like to tell you how much we appreciate what you do as a military child. Your whole family serves alongside your parent and you must be so proud of what your family is contributing by giving of yourselves. It must be hard at times, when your parent has to deploy, so we want you to know we appreciate it and are thinking of you.

Sincerely,

Dear Military Parent,

Thank you for raising a child who has grown up with the desire to volunteer in our armed forces. Our family appreciates your sacrifices and we want to say "thanks!" and that we are thinking of you and wishing you and your family all the best.

Sincerely,

Dear Military Spouse,

Our family is thinking of you and your service member and wishing you all the best. We know it isn't just the service member who serves but the entire family. We'd like to reach across the miles that separate us to let you know our family appreciates what you and your family is doing.

Sincerely,

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your service to this country. Our country is a better place because of people who stand up and volunteer. Our family honors you and wishes you all the best.

Sincerely,





American Red Cross



girl scouts



Thank you participating organizations!

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