



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CHILDREN & YOUTH



SOUTHERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2021



April is the Month of the Military Child

Each year, April is set aside as a military child appreciation month, officially known as Month of the Military Child, recognizing the important role military children play in the military community, the sacrifices they are making and the challenges they have to overcome.

If anyone deserves recognition and appreciation for their selfless service, it is military children. Often born in military hospitals around the globe, frequent good-byes become a routine part of their lives. Someone states ones that “at some point in their toddler years, they inevitably will hug a camouflaged leg of someone other than their uniformed parent by mistake. They will move repeatedly, usually at the precise point in time when they feel most settled”.

THE OFFICIAL FLOWER OF THE MILITARY CHILD IS THE DANDELION. WHY?

Dandelions put down roots almost anywhere and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good-looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates.

Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the Army..... planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.

Military children are well-rounded, culturally aware, tolerant, and extremely resilient, they have learned from an early age that home is where their hearts are, that a good friend can be found in every corner of the world.

They learn that to survive means to adapt, that the door that closes one chapter of their life opens up to a new and exciting adventure full of new friends and new experiences.

The infographic features a background of stylized dandelions in various stages of bloom. The text is arranged in a vertical column on the right side of the image, with the title at the top. The overall color scheme is green and white.

The American Legion Family joins the Department of Defense in celebrating these young warriors.

The Military Child's Table Ceremony

The Military Child's Table Setting was inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.

The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that they may flower and flourish where planted.

The Hand Spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new location any place in the world at a moment's notice, where they become fully immersed in the culture, make new friends and acclimate themselves to a new school.

The Birthday Hat and Unlit Candles...Baseball Glove and Ball...and Ballet Slippers represent the fact that, sometimes special occasions are missed by one or both parents while serving their country.

The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed parent represents the foundation of our country's strength.



Source: alaforveterans.wordpress.com

Families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad...to ensure that our flag continues to fly free.



April is the month for military children; however, the 15th of April holds a special place in that observance. It is a day for Department of Defense Education Activity communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

Although activities are limited due to the current COVID19 pandemic, there are still lots of things to do to honor our military children:

- Wear Purple on April 15th
- Go grassroots and make requests of your schools, elected officials, and local businesses to wear purple on April 15th in support of the occasion
- Recognize military children on April 15th
- Involve schools, sports teams, youth organizations, clubs, after school programs, fraternal organizations, social clubs, coworkers, members of your organizations
- Publicize military installation events scheduled on Purple Up! Day
- Request that your local school newsletters/newspapers/social media publicize Month of the Military Child events and activities hosted by the installation/community on or around the 15th
- Partner with local schools to find creative ways schools can contribute to the celebrations on April 15th
- Ask local, regional, state, and federal officials to wear purple on Purple Up! day
- Request local businesses, stores and restaurants post a Purple Up! message
- Suggest companies and businesses ask their employees to wear purple

Virtual Purple Up! Day Ideas

- Encourage your social community to participate in Purple Up! Day
- Wear purple during online classrooms via Zoom, Skype and Hangouts
- Invite military parents to attend one of their children's online classrooms
- Make a Tik Tok video dedicated to Purple Up! day or honor military children
- Share your activities and photos on social media #purpleup
- Teachers can honor or recognize military children during their online classrooms
- Hold an online contest by asking children of military families to share their "Hero Story" of what they think it takes to be a hero word essay, a drawing or a video

Let's give these children a big salute for their sacrifices.

Please note that May will be here before we know it and you know what that means.....it's End-of the Year reporting time. Let's make sure that the Southern Division is at 100% reporting this time.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please contact me at (706)951-3906 or barnettgabriele@hotmail.com

Thank you for everything you do for our programs.

For God and Country,

Gabriele Barnett