MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
PROCLAMATION

To the Children and Youth of Our Brave Soldiers:

Since 1986, the Department of Defense has celebrated April as the "Month of the Military Child" and has teamed with various partners to recognize the courage and sacrifices of military children. More than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the military. There are more than 900,000 Army military children. Of these, approximately 40 percent are Army National Guard children whose Soldier-parent has deployed one or more times.

You know firsthand that Soldiers often have to leave their homes to defend our Nation or respond to State emergencies. Your parents are brave men and women who make a tremendous sacrifice when they leave you behind to fulfill their duty. These Soldiers, your parents, are heroes. America is grateful every day for what they do.

The Army recognizes that every Army National Guard child makes sacrifices. We also recognize that, as military children, you are proud and ready to support your parents as they defend the Nation. You face personal and family challenges related to your parents' military service, whether they are deployed overseas or on a Stateside mission. Thank you for being strong and supportive of your parents when they need you the most. The Army applauds your pride, readiness, and resilience.

You are the future of our Nation. The Army is committed to the promises we made in the Army Family Covenant. We will continue to empower you with the skills to stay proud, stay ready, and stay resilient!

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Command Chief Warrant Officer
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