

For the 21st consecutive year, the Alaska Veterans Museum is supporting our armed services personnel serving world-wide through this card writing campaign helping local students communicate with and support American troops. If you really want to support our troops, nothing beats the old-fashioned way-with cards and letters! We request your help in teaching your students the true meaning of Veterans Day through this project. America is free today because of the sacrifices of our brave service personnel.

Our goal is to deliver thousands of letters to Friends of Our Troops (FOT) headquartered in New Madrid, Missouri, where our cards are mixed with cards from across the country and sent wherever personnel are stationed/deployed around the world. In 20 years, we have sent 123,991 cards. FOT's predecessor, Vietnam Mail Call, was started in 1965 by a group of patriotic Americans to support the U.S. forces in Vietnam. This year is its 57th anniversary. FOT sends cards and letters to military units, bases, ships, hospitals, etc. around the world and across the U.S. to provide encouragement and boost morale of U.S. troops.

Veterans Day is Thursday, November 11th. You can use this project to teach students the real meaning of Veterans Day. Please return completed cards (and unused cards-we can use them next year) to the school office/coordinator **no later than COB Monday November 8th**. Someone from our organization will **begin pick up from school coordinators/offices starting November 9-12th**. Cards must be available for pickup starting November 9th or they will not be included. We do not have the volunteer staff to return for pick-ups at later dates.

Troops will begin receiving these morale letters around Christmas but could get them anytime during the coming year. Our military personnel around the world need to know that America fully supports them in completing their mission wherever they are!

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS (Critical! Must be Followed!)

DO:

- Must have **BOTH the STUDENT'S and the TEACHER'S name PRINTED** on the lines on the first page. **SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS** must be added in the open space below the names unless the school coordinator has already placed a school mailing label/stamp there. **Cards without the school name and address will not be submitted!**
- **Teachers must review all cards for appropriateness.** Remember, our sole purpose is to raise morale of troops in the field. **Please screen out all negative cards or cards with negative ideas.** Phrases such as "I hope you don't get killed", "come home soon", "hope you're home for the holidays", "I don't like war", and PEACE SIGNS are **considered inappropriate** for this program. Soldiers need positive phrases and need assurance we fully support them in completing their assigned mission wherever they are stationed around the world. **All unsuitable cards will be screened out by Mail for Our Military and Friends of Our Troops personnel.**
- Students can be creative (within guidelines below) in sending Thank You messages to the troops. They should concentrate on **encouraging and supporting words**, drawings, mention Alaska activities, etc.
- Rubber band or otherwise fasten together as a unit the group of cards for each classroom and/or teacher.
- **Return all cards (completed and leftovers) to the school coordinator/office NO LATER THAN 8 NOVEMBER.** They will be **picked up beginning 9 NOVEMBER THROUGH 12 NOVEMBER.**

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

DO:

- **Print your first and last name legibly, your teacher's name and class and the school name and full mailing address (if not already there)**
- You may, if the teacher allows, write more than one card. Also, you can use your own paper only if it is folded exactly like the cards provided, including the exact information that is required on the front of the card.
- **BE CREATIVE! POSITIVE! UPBEAT! CHEERFUL! SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM! MAKE A HAPPY DAY FOR THE SOLDIERS!**
- On the inside pages and back, you may use either a "greeting card" or a "letter" format.
- Decorate the cards on all pages using pencil, pen, crayon, markers, etc. if you choose.
- You may make or use flat illustrations only; i.e., drawings, clip art, stickers, etc.

DO NOT DO THE FOLLOWING: No glitter, staples, or metal of any kind. No envelopes. No "bulk" of any type. No candy, gum, food, etc. No gifts. No three-dimensional objects. Add NOTHING that could fall off or out of the card.

THANK YOU. I can assure you that our troops around the world appreciate receiving your cards of support! If you have questions: Alaska Veterans Museum coordinator: Mercedes Angerman, 907-317-1701; mercedesangerman@hotmail.com; Friends of Our Troops: email: letters2soldiers@usa.com, website www.SalutingFor50Years.net

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