Together We’re Stronger

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Our Mission

To fight for benefits and programs that strengthen and protect uniformed services families and reflect the Nation’s respect for their Service.
About Us

• Founded over 40 years ago by military wives concerned about military widows

• Decades of expertise in family issues

• Only organization that serves all Services, ranks, components

• Work nationally, but respond to grassroots

• Use all program work to support advocacy mission

• Go-to group for Congress, Department of Defense, the White House, and millions of military families
How We Serve Our Community

- **Advocacy**
  - Outreach
  - Policy Development
  - Research
  - Training

- **Direct Service Programs**
  - *Operation Purple Program®*
  - Spouse Scholarships
Work Regularly with White House, DoD, Service Branches, and Capitol Hill

- Key organization for White House / Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden to help shape Joining Forces initiative
- Asked to participate in Joining Forces Working Groups
- Serve on DoD Military Family Readiness Council and variety of other advisory groups to Pentagon
- Testify regularly in front of Congressional Defense Committees
## The Issues We Address

- Deployment related issues
- PTSD and other war-related challenges
- Family reintegration when service members return
- Military children’s education
- Military spouse education and jobs
- Access to quality health care
- Protecting effective family programs and benefits
Lots of Issues Facing Military Families Now

- Nation still at war
- Determining legacy of ten years of war on military families
- Economy in downturn
- Nation’s debt rising
- Pressure on military families and the Nation
State Support for Military Families is Critical
Today’s Military Spouse

Military Spouse

Nurse
Hair dresser
Pharmacy Tech
Accountant
Attorney
Teacher
Nurse Aid
Social Worker
Guidance Counselor
CPA
Nail Tech
Cosmetologist
Dental Hygienist
Registered Dietitian
Audiologist
Pharmacist
The Solution: iPad App
Joanne, Marine Corps Spouse

Joanne is a respiratory therapist at the hospital in Jacksonville, NC. She just found out that her husband received orders to move to San Antonio, TX in four months.

Accessing the Spouse Employment track on the Association’s application, Joanne finds out that Texas does accept some professional licenses but she must take specific actions to transfer her license so she can begin to work immediately after moving. The App provides the link to the appropriate website with instructions.
Resource for State Legislature
State and Local Government Officials

On May 12, 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama issued a national challenge, a challenge to every sector of American society to mobilize and take action to support and engage our military families. In that same speech, the First Lady announced a new Presidential Directive requiring the National Security staff to lead a ninety-day review to develop a coordinated Federal government-side approach to supporting and engaging military families.

State and local governments can follow the Federal government’s lead and do their own review of agencies. Do you mention military families and families of the fallen in your communications about services? How can state and local government agencies support military families and military spouses that have lost their loved one?

Action Items:

• Elected officials have the leadership position, staff, and resources to help their local communities assist the needs of military families. Make supporting your state’s military families a key priority for your administration and this will encourage others to get involved.

• Hold community meetings to bring together people who want to help and provide examples of what other communities are doing to successfully support their military families.

• Local leaders can help build a roadmap or guide to the services available in the community. Provide the information to all families, including military families, in the community so they know where to go when they need help.

• Use a variety of community recognition tools—such as community awards, citizen of the week programs, and reward programs for to school children—to honor those who have done a good job at supporting military families and families of the fallen in their community.

• Contact your member organizations (U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Association of County Officials, or the National Governors’ Association) and organize a leadership table of your peers to share best practices and create new efforts where none exist.
Contact Us

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