



# PURPLE UP!

Dear LMSG Supporter,

April has been designated as the Month of the Military Child since 1986. It is a time to honor and recognize the sacrifices made by children of military families and the significant role they play in our Armed Forces community. Military children, over 1.6 million of them, face unique challenges such as moving three times as much as civilian families and enduring long separations from deployed parents. Every April, we can celebrate military children by recognizing their bravery and important service.

There are many ways to recognize military children. Here are a few ideas, but we encourage you to be creative and think of what will work best for your congregation.

- Set aside one Sunday in April to celebrate the “Month of the Military Child.” Introduce and recognize all military children in your congregation following worship services. Consider doing this on April 9 or 16, the Sunday before or after Purple Up! Day, which is Saturday, April 15.
- Ask your pastor to say a special prayer during worship for military children and their families.
- Decorate an area in your church and/or school in flags, purple, and posters. Display a world map and pinpoint where military children have lived.
- Involve your school in decorating displays or bulletin boards with military memorabilia or items brought by military kids reflecting their experiences.
- Write a story about the military children in your congregation for the church newsletter. Ask the children to share what it’s like being a military kid.
- Provide a small gift or gift card to the military children in your congregation.
- Be a mentor to a child whose parent is deployed.

Other resources are available at: <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Month-of-the-Military-Child>

Military families need our encouragement. Celebrate the Month of the Military Child with us and let military children and their families know how much they are appreciated.

Dwight Johnson, LMSG Vice Chair

**Purple Up! Day**

Saturday, April 15, 2023, is a day for communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

**Military Child Logo**

Military kids are sometimes referred to as *dandelions* because they are able to place roots almost anywhere. They may move six to nine times during their school years.



**LUTHERAN MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP**  
*Shoulder to Shoulder in Service*

**Why Purple?**

Purple symbolizes the combined colors of all the branches of the military and indicates that all branches of the military are supported.