

“November Marks Military Family Month”

Military Family Month was established by the Armed Services YMCA in 1996, and the U.S. Government has acknowledged the occasion every year since then. Each November, the President signs a proclamation that pronounces November as Military Family Month. With thousands of service members deployed overseas, it is important to take adequate time to recognize the sacrifices made by military families across the country. In former President Barack Obama’s proclamation last year, he encouraged Americans across the country to honor military families through private actions and public service, and to respect the contributions they make to support the service members of our Nation. This year, President Donald J. Trump encouraged all communities and sectors of society to acknowledge and honor the services and contributions of veterans and military families. Throughout the month, our Bullet Blocker family will recognize and appreciate the immense sacrifices Military families make.

Week One - Issues and Stressors

This week, we will focus on bringing light to the top issues and stressors that military families face.

Military families across the country endure hardships along with those who defend our Nation. Blue Star Families conducted a [military lifestyle survey](#) in 2010, and found that 92% of military families felt that the civilian population did not understand or appreciate the sacrifices they are forced to make. Regardless of whether that is a perception of reality, it is a problem nevertheless. It is necessary to bring light to the hardships that military families have to make. They can be separated from their loved ones for months on end, and relocated across the country, or even around the world. Because of the frequent relocations, they can be estranged from their extended families, and have to celebrate holidays and milestones with empty seats at their table. Military spouses have the responsibility of making ends meet while their loved ones are away, and of securing new employment with each relocation. Children of service members often grow up without one true place to call “home,” as they are often moving to new cities, schools, and neighborhoods.

In [last year’s survey](#) conducted by Blue Star Families, military families ranked their top stressors related to time in the military. The top response was employment, followed by deployments, financial issues, and relocation issues. Over half of the spouses rated separation as a top stressor, as well as isolation from family, and limited social support. Despite the hardships that arise with the frequent change and transition, military families are a continual example of strength and nobility in the face of difficulty.

For years, Bullet Blocker has offered a 5% discount on all products for all military service members as a way to express our immense appreciation and respect. We sell a variety of [tactical gear](#) and body armor ideal for any law enforcement, federal, military and public safety professionals seeking extra protection on the job. Our bulletproof [backpack panel inserts](#) are a great product to keep the whole family safe and protected while at school, work, or travelling. As military families are frequently relocated to unfamiliar and new places, having the peace of mind that the whole family is protected and safe on the way is crucial. Our discrete backpack panel inserts come in two standard sizes, but can also be customized to fit your own backpack’s unique dimensions. They covertly make your pre-owned item bulletproof by offering Level IIIA anti-ballistic protection while still remaining compact enough to fit into purses, notebook portfolios, and backpacks.

This month, we hope you will join us in recognizing November as Military Family Month. As you go about your week, support military family members by attempting to empathize with the hardships they face, and offer help in whatever way you are able.

Week Two: How to Support Military Families

Last week, we kicked off National Military Family Month, and we will continue to honor this occasion over the next few weeks. This week, the focus is on how to best support and express respect for military members and families alike throughout this month and the rest of the year. As we saw last week, military families across the country endure hardships that most of the general public are unaware of. These include frequent relocations, separation from family and friends, financial difficulties, and a general lack of emotional and social support.

There are many services provided locally and nationwide to show appreciation during Military Family Month. The [Armed Services YMCA](#) provides specialized programs and support services to military members and families. The goal of their programs is to help families come and stay together in the face of difficulty. Some of their services include Operation Hero, which is a free afterschool program tailored to the unique struggles of military children, designed to help military kids get back on track in school and at home. Another one of their programs is Operation Holiday Joy, which aims to make the holidays brighter for military families. Since 2004, supporters have donated

more than \$1.5 million for military families, ensuring that each family will have gifts for their children and food on their table for the holidays. As the holiday season approaches, consider making a [donation](#) to this great cause to honor the sacrifices made by these families and service members. Sears [Heroes at Home](#) is another organization committed to providing support to military service members, veterans, and their families through joint efforts with non-profit organizations. Operation Homefront is just one of their partnerships, with the mission to build strong, stable, and secure military families so they can thrive in the communities they work hard to protect.

There are also ways that you can help directly within your community to increase awareness and provide support to military members. Writing a thank-you note to a family or service member for their sacrifices is an easy and inexpensive way to show gratitude. Making a spouse or service member Care package is a great way to ease stress during a deployment. Some things to include would be toiletries, forms of entertainment such as books, magazines, or DVD's, and clothing. Making a donation to a military organization is another great way to support members and their families, especially as the holiday season approaches.

As mentioned last week, we sell a variety of [tactical gear](#) and body armor ideal for any law enforcement, federal, military and public safety professionals seeking extra protection on the job. The [Gabriel](#) Ballistic Base Layer Compression Vest is our featured product this week. As one of our classic items, it provides the same anti-ballistic protective coverage area as traditional law enforcement body armor vests. It meets threat level NIJ IIIA, which is the highest level of protection available in soft body armor. Its covert design makes it an ultra-concealable and lightweight option, ideal for military, police, and civilians alike. Its customizable fit and features ensure comfort and ease of mobility for all wearers.

As we near the halfway point through National Military Family Month, show support and respect to military service members and families in whatever ways you are able. And to all the brave military members who served our country, we want to express our gratitude and immense respect this Veterans Day. Thank you for your service!

Week Three: Holiday Support For Military Families

As the holiday season approaches, it is important now more than ever to express support and respect for military service members and their families. As we saw last week, there are many organizations in place to support military families throughout the year, but what about during the holiday season? Many companies and organizations have started to implement seasonal support programs to help give back to the military families that sacrifice so much throughout the year.

Many organizations across the country are hosting Thanksgiving dinner events this year for military and veteran families who will spend the holiday away from their loved ones. These include Bridge Church in North Carolina, Homefront America in California, and Hugs for Soldiers in Georgia, among many others. The goal of these events is to bring the military family communities together during a time of family and togetherness when many will be apart from their loved ones.

[Spirit of Sharing](#) allows individuals to “adopt” a military family in need to provide direct assistance to local active duty military families and veterans during the holiday season. Adopting a military family through their organization allows individuals to help out as much as they are able to, by purchasing grocery cards, hygiene products, and Christmas gifts for families. The goal of their company is to support military families, and to build a relationship with each family to gain better insight and understanding of individual family needs.

[Operation Holiday Joy](#) is a program implemented by the Armed Services YMCA to make holidays easier for military families. It is a donation-based program that has raised over \$1.5 million for military service members and their families since it was founded in 2004. These donations have allowed the company to distribute over 300,000 toys and 25,000 food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas to families across the country. This organization is a great option for anyone looking for a good cause to make a donation to this holiday season.

As the holidays approach, finding the perfect gift for all family members and friends can seem overwhelming. Our [backpacks](#) are a great option for individuals of all ages—making BulletBlocker a one-stop shop for everyone on your list. We offer a wide selection of versatile backpacks that will fit any style. Our Everyday Backpack provides a discrete layer of anti-ballistic protection that is metal detector and tourist friendly. This is a great option for students, commuters, or frequent travelers, as it is lightweight and adjustable, with adequate room for storage. My Child's Pack is our smallest bag designed for young children who need a backpack that is light enough to be worn safely. Designed with the same lightweight, semi-flexible NIJ IIIA ballistic panel used in all our products, this backpack is guaranteed to keep your child safe at school and on-the-go. We offer many other backpacks and backpack panel inserts that are sure to please everyone on your list. This holiday season, show your loved ones that their safety is a priority by choosing to shop at BulletBlocker.

Week Four: How to thank a Veteran

Throughout this month, we have recognized Military Family Month by providing tips and advice on how to show appreciation and respect towards Military service members and their families, particularly during the holiday season. As we near the end of Military Family Month, we will focus this week on how to thank a Veteran. While military family members face hardships and challenges of their own, Veterans do as well. It is important to show respect and appreciation for these individuals not just on Veteran's Day, but throughout the year.

One easy way to show support is to get involved. Attend a Veteran's event in your area, get involved in Veteran's organizations within your community, and give of your time. Visiting a nearby VA hospital is a great way to interact with and get to know Veterans firsthand. Many of these hospitals offer volunteer opportunities in terms of clerical support, activity assistance, and transportation. Even if you never interact with a Veteran, helping out at a facility is a great way to give back. Another way to show support is to fly a flag. It is important to make sure you are observing the proper [rules](#) for display. As seen in our previous weeks' posts, there are a variety of organizations and companies dedicated to serving the Military community, but many rely on donations. Donating to a [Veteran's organization](#) such as the "Wounded Warriors Project" or "Homes for Our Troops" is another way to show appreciation to Veterans while supporting a worthy cause.

Task & Purpose, a news site that covers issues related to veterans, posted an [article](#) with quotes from 25 veterans and service members sharing how people should thank them for their service. Chad Storlie, a U.S. Army veteran, said that the best way to thank a veteran is to "take a brief pause in your day and really listen to what a veteran has to say about their experience." To him, thanking someone for their service means you are willing to learn about their military service and personal sacrifice. Welton Chang, another U.S. Army Veteran, said there are three important ways to show thanks: "get involved with veterans' organizations, get politically involved, and vote. There are many worthy organizations out there that both do good and bridge the civilian-military empathy gap."

As previously mentioned this month, Bullet Blocker continues to offer a 5% discount on all products for military service members as a way to express our immense appreciation and respect. In addition to our variety of tactical gear, we offer many clothing products ideal for the colder months. Our [jackets](#) are a popular option for men and women alike, as we offer a range of styles to suit individual taste. The NIJ IIIA bulletproof Farm Coat is a popular option constructed of heavyweight sandstone duck with discreetly placed ballistic panels. The nylon lining is quilted into an artic-weight polyester insulation will keep you comfortable, while the rib-knit storm cuffs and corduroy collar lock in the warmth. There is ample storage space for gear with two inside pockets, two chest pockets, and two front hand-warmer pockets. The split-back with bi-swing design guarantees comfortable wear and the pleated elbows promise ease movement on the job. For women, a popular item is the Eagle Flight Jacket. Its NIJ IIIA body armor protection has a slimmer fit through the body and sleeves than our other flight jackets. In addition, it features a removable faux mouton collar and tonal color lining for a sleek look. The shell lining is made of a water-resistant nylon twill and contains a 100% polyester fill. The body armor is designed for an inconspicuous fit when worn while standing and walking.

As we near the end of Military Family Month, do your part to show appreciation to Military Families, service members, and Veterans alike. With thousands of service members deployed overseas, it is important to take adequate time to recognize the sacrifices made by military families and service members across the country.