

July 31, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for Project Gratitude, a student-founded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that military-connected children feel seen, valued, and appreciated, while helping civilian children develop empathy, gratitude, and a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by military families.

Military-connected children may experience separation from a parent, frequent transitions, disrupted routines, uncertainty, and other emotional demands associated with military service. Their strength and sacrifices can too easily go unrecognized. A sincere message of appreciation from another child can provide meaningful affirmation that their experiences matter and that they are recognized and valued.

Project Gratitude addresses this need through a thoughtful and developmentally appropriate school- and community-based activity. Civilian students learn about the experiences of military families and then sign greeting cards containing messages of kindness, encouragement, and gratitude for military-connected children. This process turns an abstract lesson about service and sacrifice into a personal act of empathy and human connection.

From a psychological and developmental perspective, the program provides a meaningful opportunity for both groups of children. Civilian students practice perspective-taking, empathy, gratitude, compassion, and prosocial behavior—important components of healthy social-emotional development. Military-connected children receive a tangible message that their strength, resilience, and sacrifices are seen and valued. The program's central message, "We See You," can be especially meaningful for children whose experiences may not be fully understood by classmates or the broader community.

Project Gratitude has also incorporated responsible safeguards. Students sign with first names only, personal identifying information is not included, and completed cards are reviewed for appropriateness before distribution. These procedures reflect a thoughtful and child-centered approach.

Project Gratitude is more than a card-signing activity. It strengthens empathy, increases awareness of military-family life, and provides military-connected children with a direct expression of recognition. The initiative is consistent with important social-emotional principles and gives schools and community organizations a meaningful way to promote gratitude, compassion, connection, and civic responsibility.

I strongly support Project Gratitude's mission and continued expansion. I believe this initiative can make a meaningful positive difference for both civilian and military-connected children, and I recommend it for consideration by schools, community organizations, funders, and collaborative partners seeking to support children and recognize military families.

Sincerely,



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