MISSION

The Armed Services YMCA enhances the lives of military members and their families in spirit, mind and body through programs relevant to the unique challenges of military life.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE ARMED SERVICES YMCA WILL:
1. Be guided by Christian principles with a holistic approach to develop and promote healthy spirit, mind and body;
2. Be inclusive and treat everyone with compassion and respect;
3. Collaborate with military commands and community organizations;
4. Honor the service members’ and their families’ commitment to defend our Nation; and
5. Strive for excellence in all we do.
I am honored to be the Chair of the Armed Services YMCA. I am excited about our direction and the opportunities we have to do more for the men, women, and families that serve our country.

“Strengthening Our Military Family™” is our new brand promise. We believe it better captures the nature of what we do and will help shape our future. It allows inclusion of every service member and every family member. They are all part of the military family. While our focus is on the junior enlisted members, we extend our services to others when we have additional capacity.

Military life is not easy, there are challenges faced by the service members, the spouses, and the children. Each have areas where the ASYMCA can provide benefit. We need to ensure we are focused in the right areas to make the greatest impact for all of our families.

We have begun to standardize some of our programs so when a family moves from one duty station to the next, they will find some of the same offerings and know what to expect from our branches. At the same time, we believe local flexibility is part of what makes the ASYMCA unique, relevant, and useful for base commanders. We want to ensure we remain able to address local needs while we standardize our programs and services.

The future of the ASYMCA is bright and I look forward to doing even more to support our junior enlisted service members and their families.

The support we receive from our generous donors cannot be overstated. It is through their generosity that we are able to provide the programs and services we offer. Without their support we would not be able to continue.

If you are a sponsor, thank you. If you have a desire to begin to support these dedicated men, women, and families, I encourage you to reach out and start. The satisfaction of supporting our troops is immense. I hope you will join our efforts and allow us to do more.

-- John Tilleli, GEN, USA (Ret)
The proud heritage of YMCA service in the military setting usually is associated with the year 1861, when dedicated YMCA volunteers took to the battlefields of the Civil War alongside America’s uniformed young men. It was the year that Abraham Lincoln commended YMCA leaders for their “benevolent undertaking for the benefit of the soldiers.”

The YMCA’s broader volunteer service to the Armed Forces, however, is tied to the month of April, 1861, when a handful of YMCA members sought voluntarily to provide helpful services – by whatever means they could – to men in uniform. This initial group of YMCA volunteers aided the soldiers in nearby encampments, where they were stationed temporarily on their way to the front. Later, growing numbers of volunteers accompanied them to the battlefields.

Later that year representatives of 15 YMCAs came together to coordinate the YMCA’s overall efforts to alleviate the suffering of the sick and wounded. The organization created by that meeting was called The United States Christian Commission, whose initial purpose was to provide spiritual and physical comfort to soldiers. President Lincoln wrote to YMCA leaders, “I sincerely hope your plan may be as successful in execution, as it is just and generous in conception.”

“I SINCERELY HOPE YOUR PLAN MAY BE AS SUCCESSFUL IN EXECUTION, AS IT IS JUST AND GENEROUS IN CONCEPTION.”

-- ABRAHAM LINCOLN
New financial system improves efficiency, oversight, reporting

As 2017 ended, so did the use of an antiquated financial software system at the Armed Services YMCA National Headquarters and at all 13 branches.

In order to better understand the financial position of the entire organization a more robust and capable system was needed. The new system allows for consistent processes, real time access to data from across the country, and improved reporting capabilities.

During the last half of 2017, the financial team prepared to upgrade to Intacct, an accounting software system far more capable than the previous system.

The change allows all branches to use the same accounting system, which in turn, allows headquarters greater visibility of the finances across the entire organization.

“We needed the upgrade,” said Don Kandel, Executive Vice President, Finance and Operations.

“The old system did not provide sufficient capabilities for us to manage our finances across all 13 branches and headquarters.”

The update to the financial software was the latest step in upgrading many of the systems used by the Armed Services YMCA. Payroll, human resources, and the website have already been upgraded and applied across all branches and headquarters.

In 2018, enterprise-wide systems to manage memberships, volunteers, and donors will also be put in place or upgraded.

“By the end of 2018, our new systems will be in place and we will be able to understand what is working well and what needs more attention,” said William French, Vice Adm, USN, (Ret), President / CEO.

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM

SAMANTHA HOLT

Holt has been with the ASYMCA for more than 13 years. Her experience as the programs director will assist her in her new role as the executive director Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton.

LAURA BAXTER

Baxter has deep roots in the Hampton Roads area and brings a wealth of experience to the executive director position at Armed Services YMCA Hampton Roads.
Military families face a unique set of pressures that impact their quality of life, wellbeing, and health. These stresses include but are not limited to: frequent deployments and family separation, the stress of combat, wounds of war, frequent moves, spouse unemployment and associated financial insecurity. These stresses can affect children’s development. From a growing body of research, we know that much of our most critical human development takes place long before we ever walk through a kindergarten door. From our earliest years, nutritious foods, energetic play, safe physical environments, and positive social and emotional interactions are critical to children’s health and well-being, which also have later affects in adulthood. Many children, including military children, lack some or all these necessities. These issues can lead to social and academic problems in school, as well as poor physical, emotional, and behavioral health.

Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) provides two core programs – Operation Hero and Operation Little Learners – to help military families get what they need to be strong families and their kids what they need to do well at home and in school and to grow up healthy and strong.

Operation Hero is a no-cost, after school program that promotes academic engagement and social well-being for children from second grade through middle school. Children are referred to the program by school personnel and/or the child’s parents. When children enroll in Operation Hero, they work within a team to navigate through the 10-week course. A trained facilitator, specializing in military youth, leads the group in discussions about who they are and how they fit in at home and school. They
discuss how to manage feelings, friendships, and conflict. Operation Hero provides a safe, after school environment where children can express their emotions, receive academic and emotional support, and connect with peers who are experiencing the same challenges. The program also provides tools, like the Operation Hero Homework app, which helps involve a network of support for Operation Hero participants to complete their homework.

Operation Little Learners, ASYMCAs parent-child interactive program, focuses on early childhood development and strengthening parental teaching skills. An important component of early school readiness and healthy child development is meeting a child’s social-emotional needs in preschool. Preschool social-emotional skills include being able to get along and cooperate with others, manage strong feelings, focus attention, and persist at challenging tasks. These skills deserve focused attention during the preschool years because they are critical for long-term school and life success. Operation Little Learners is a parent-child interactive program that focuses on these skills while establishing the parent as the primary teacher of the child.

In 2017, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded a grant to the ASYMCA to strengthen its programs and services. RWJF’s support has enabled ASYMCA to convene partners to better understand and address the most critical needs of military families’ health and well-being, such as child care. To help strengthen ASYMCA’s effectiveness, RWJF’s support has also enabled ASYMCA to standardize the curriculum and delivery methods of its programs, like Operation Hero and Operation Little Learners, and to strengthen ASYMCA’s skills and capacities to measure the outcomes, including applying accepted measures of well-being to their work. “As we work with others to ensure everyone in America has the opportunity to lead a healthier life, it is important to build on the strengths of America’s military families and address barriers to their health,” stated RWJF Senior Program Officer, Katie Wehr. “We look forward to working together, as we build on ASYMCA’s history and experience to enable better support of military families.”

“The results of the work supported by the RWJF grant could shape a generation of military children,” said William French, Vice Adm, USN, (Ret), President/CEO, ASYMCA. “Our military families provide so much to our nation, this is just one small thing we can do for them.”
More Y affiliates; more kids to camp

“Sending more kids to camp is a focus of our strategy for next year.”

“Working closely with the Y has expanded our network and our ability to offer programs and services to more military families in more locations,” said William French, President/CEO Armed Services YMCA. “Partnering with the Y makes perfect sense. They are already in neighborhoods where military families live, so bringing our programs and services to the Y allows us to serve more families.”

In many cases, there is an official relationship that starts with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supported by a Statement of Work, which outlines the program, or service, which will be funded by the ASYMCA in the new location. This allows the Y to use the ASYMCA logo, name, and brand to attract military families and to raise funds in the name of the ASYMCA to support the programs and services offered to military families.

“The partnerships are great for our families. Each time we sign a MOU we can serve more families. Whether it is to help their children get connected in their community through camp, or providing support via child care, discounted membership, or other activities.”

New affiliations with YMCA of Southern Arizona, YMCA of Florida’s First Coast, YMCA of Sandhills, YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth, YMCA of Northern Utah, and YMCA of Rochester have expanded our locations and ability to serve. Each location has found ways to support military families. All offer camps and camping opportunities.

Finding ways to allow more military children the opportunity to go to camp supports the focus areas of Youth De-
velopment and Healthy Living.

“We think every military child should have the opportunity to go to summer camp,” said Ashish Vazirani, Senior Vice President for Programs. “That’s why we are working with Ys across the country to get more military children enrolled in either day camp or resident camp.”

This year, the Armed Services YMCA embarked on a new strategy, and it is working; collaborating with the Y has allowed many more children to attend camp.

The goal of is to provide a fun, educational and safe outdoor experience for military children and families to bond, make new friends and build their support networks by connecting with others who have similar backgrounds and experiences as members of the military community, as well as with non-military families. Having military children attend camps with their civilian counterparts helps military families become more engaged in their community.

“Finding Ys that want to support military kids has been easy,” said Vazirani. “Raising the extra money to increase our camp offerings is the challenge. Camps and Camping are the most requested programs by troops and their families. We continually expand our programming and this creates a great opportunity to engage donors to help us meet the demand and strengthen military families.”
The Jordan Spieth Family Foundation (JSFF) has gifted a major grant to Operation Hero and Camp Hero, two children’s programs run by the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA). The organizations will work together to support military children by improving their social and academic skills in addition to building their self-esteem.

Operation Hero is an after school program designed to help school age (ages 6 to 12) military children improve academically and socially. The program provides after school mentoring in small groups with certified teachers. This early intervention program runs during the school year and can extend into the summer as Camp Hero. Both programs facilitate a positive environment, encourage responsible behavior, and get children back on track in school and at home. This unique offering is targeted to serve military families of all abilities, with a great focus on the 32% of children in San Diego with special needs.

The Foundation is proud that this gift cares for two of the JSFF’s mission segments, military families and youth with special needs. “Anytime we find a fit with a partner organization that serves two pillars, it’s truly something special,” Spieth said. “Helping our military families feel appreciated and adjusted means a great deal to me, and at the end of the day, our mission is to provide opportunities to those that are in need. These guys and their families are real heroes.”

The Foundation is also thrilled to see the ASYMCA approach the work Camp Hero is doing in both San Diego and Hawaii as measurable. The organization is hearing from families that they were able to see a significant difference in their child after Camp Hero and can measure program progress in a very tangible way through these families’ stories.

Josiah, a program participant, had never attended a camp in his life previous to coming to Camp Hero in San Diego. He had moved with his family due to relocations a total of 8 times and he is only 11 years old. Josiah is a very shy boy who at first didn’t want to talk to anybody and wouldn’t participate in the activities. By the end of the sessions, Josiah was climbing the rock wall and hugging his many friends goodbye! It was "truly a life changing experience”, said Josiah’s mother said.

“We’re looking forward to this partnership because Jordan is someone who really cares about helping military families,” said William French, President and CEO of ASYMCA. “A lot of people are impressed with Jordan’s golf talent. I think it’s more impressive that he spends his time and talent improving the lives of others.”

The Jordan Spieth Family Foundation (JSFF) offers a platform for PGA Tour Player and 3-time Major Champion Spieth to lend time, help grow awareness and offer financial support to four philanthropic areas: youth with special needs, junior golf, military families and pediatric cancer. The Foundation works alongside many community programs within their mission pillars to provide direct assistance to families, having granted over $1.5M since inception.
**Airpower Foundation donates $37,500 to improve community connection for military families at Joint Reserve Base**

The Armed Services YMCA received $37,500 from the Airpower Foundation to support numerous family programs at the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base (JRB). The donation from the Airpower Foundation will improve the community connection for military families at JRB. The check was presented to the ASYMCA on June 7, 2017 at the Sky Ball Launch Event in D.C.

The donation will be used to support JRB Family Fireworks Celebration, Camp Scholarships for Low Income Military Children, JRB Family Fall Festival, Military Family Month events, and the Christmas Tree Ceremony.

More than 11,100 young, enlisted military troops and family members will increase their connection to the community as a result of Airpower Foundation’s donation. From firework displays to summer sleep-away camp, these events help families enjoy connection with each other and the community. Community programs provide respite and relief to the unique challenges of military life that these children and families face. The ASYMCA is grateful to work alongside the Airpower Foundation to provide these opportunities for military families.

“We are very thankful for such a generous gift from an organization that works hard to support military members,” said William French, ASYMCA President & CEO. “The Airpower Foundation is a wonderful group of people who have supported us for years. We enjoy partnering with them to strengthen the lives of military families.”

**G6 Hospitality & ASYMCA unite to renovate El Paso lodge**

The Armed Services YMCA El Paso teamed up with G6 Hospitality in El Paso, Tx in July to renovate 52 rooms for the upcoming United States Army Sergeants Major Academy student’s long term stay.

G6 Hospitality is the parent company of the iconic brands Motel 6 and Studio 6. Melinda McDaniel, Human Resources Director for G6 Hospitality and Joe Pritchard, ASYMCA El Paso Executive Director worked together to pull the teams together. G6 contributed $5,500 toward the renovations. Motel 6 was celebrating their 55th anniversary so the $5,500 donation was in honor of that celebration. In addition to the financial contribution, G6 Hospitality volunteered to help with the renovations.

Melinda McDaniel, G6 Hospitality Human Resources Director said, “Due to Motel 6 celebrating its 55th anniversary this year, we encouraged all of our team members to give back 55 minutes of community service.”

![Image of Airpower Foundation and ASYMCA representatives presenting a check.

![Image of G6 Hospitality and ASYMCA representatives working together to renovate a room.

![Image of ASYMCA and G6 Hospitality representatives celebrating the renovation.

![Image of ASYMCA and G6 Hospitality representatives working together.

![Image of ASYMCA and G6 Hospitality representatives celebrating the renovation.

![Image of ASYMCA and G6 Hospitality representatives working together.
American Airlines, Envoy, fly soldiers to Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

American Airlines partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to fly soldiers to the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas on Saturday, Dec. 23. The organizations sent service members and their families from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort Bliss, Tx, to the game through Envoy, a wholly owned regional carrier of American and subsidiary of American Airlines Group.

American donated two round trip charter flights for the military community at Fort Bliss and Fort Leonard Wood Army installations. Envoy flew attendees free of charge to and from Dallas/Fort Worth.

ASYMCA Altus connects with OK legislators

YMCA Advocacy Day in Oklahoma proved to be a day full of informative sessions, meeting with legislators and lobbyists, and networking for the Y professionals from across the state.

Loran Mayes, Executive Director, ASYMCA Altus with Oklahoma State Representative, Charles L. Ortega.

La Quinta Returns supports ASYMCA

The Armed Services YMCA is proud to benefit from the La Quinta™ Returns program and La Quinta is passionate about supporting our military, and that passion now extends to the La Quinta Returns community.

“La Quinta believes strongly that it is the right thing to do to support the men and women who serve and sacrifice for our country,” said Derek Blake, Vice President of Marketing, La Quinta Inns & Suites. “Adding the Armed Services YMCA as an option to receive donated points makes perfect sense. The ASYMCA does a great job supporting our service members and their families. Our hope is that these donated points will allow them to do even more.”

La Quinta members can earn La Quinta Returns Points and redeemed them for free nights, airline miles toward free travel, shopping, dining, or entertainment gift cards for use at hundreds of national and local merchants.

“La Quinta provides wonderful support to the Armed Services YMCA and now every La Quinta member will have the chance to extend that support by donating points,” said William French, Vice Adm., USN (Ret.), President and CEO, ASYMCA. “La Quinta does a great job supporting our military and their families. We are blessed to be a part of their program and benefit from their generosity and that of their La Quinta Returns program members. Every donation will help a military member or family.”
A $150,000 grant will help expand child development programs at Fisher Children’s Center at Camp Pendleton.

The Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton, United Health Foundation and Fisher House Foundation are collaborating to increase capacity and enhance the quality of child care at the Fisher Children’s Center at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

On Thursday, November 30, 2017 the organizations announced a $150,000 grant from United Health Foundation that will help more military families access affordable and quality child-development programs on base.

The event included an open house at the Fisher Children’s Center along with a gathering of military families and a display of children’s art.

In 2014, United Health Foundation donated $2.65 million to fund the construction of Camp Pendleton Fisher House, which provides military and veterans’ families a place to stay at no cost while their loved ones are receiving treatment at the nearby Naval Hospital. This collaboration extends the reach of this support further into the Camp Pendleton community to improve the quality of life for military families.

In the words of Ashley Rinell, the mother of a child who attends Fisher Children’s Center, “We couldn’t be happier to be here in San Diego on Camp Pendleton and to have discovered the Fisher Children’s Center ... we have suggested it to everybody because it’s not just a day care. I tell our daughter she is going to school for a reason ... our daughter is learning skills that a 2-year-old needs, and Fisher Children's Center is helping her do that.”

The Armed Services YMCA is grateful for the support from United Health Foundation and Fisher House Foundation to provide high quality, affordable child care to military families at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.
Health Net Federal Services providing hospital child watch alongside Armed Services YMCA

Health Net Federal Services is collaborating with the Armed Services YMCA to make healthcare more accessible by providing child watch services at military hospitals. The organizations work together to support the military community by helping families overcome a hurdle they face when scheduling medical care, finding an available and affordable child watch provider.

Military families frequently identify accessible and affordable child care as a top need. Health Net is committed to supporting ASYMCA’s seven Teddy’s Child Watch programs at military hospitals in Alaska, Hawaii, and California. Child watch services at military treatment facilities in these locations supported more than 17,000 visits by military children in 2017, while their parents and siblings received necessary medical care.

“This service ensures my husband maintains his focus at work, allows me to get the medical care I need, provides care for my daughter, and allows us to save money,” said Mrs. Hodges, a military spouse and mother from Hawaii.

With Health Net’s support, military parents like the Hodges will be able to focus on their own health and well-being, leading to more healthy and resilient military families.

To celebrate the new partnership, the Health Net team met with the Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton branch, which has the most frequented Teddy’s Child Watch site. Following a tour of the Teddy’s Child Watch center at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Health Net’s Senior Vice President of Programs, John Butler, met with ASYMCA and Command representatives to discuss ways to support military families.

“Removing barriers to health care is a great step in creating a healthier military community,” said Butler. “We’re excited to partner with the Armed Services YMCA to make health care more accessible by supporting Teddy’s Child Watch at military hospitals.”

“We look forward to working with Health Net to ensure we have healthy troops and healthy military families,” said William French, President/CEO of ASYMCA. “Our military community deserves the best health care and we’re lucky to have a partner who makes sure it’s accessible through support of Teddy’s Child Watch.”
For the seventh year, the Jack Daniel Distillery and the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) have kicked off their “Operation Ride Home” campaign that provides financial assistance to active duty junior-enlisted military and their families to travel from their place of military service to “home” for the holidays.

Since Operation Ride Home began, 2,669 junior enlisted single service members and those with families – for a total of 5,767 people – have traveled from their bases to homes around the country for the holidays. Men and women from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard have been assisted with travel to 47 of the 50 states.

The ASYMCA works with the various military commands in specific areas co-located with ASYMCA branches to identify and prioritize junior-enlisted service members and families most in financial need. Plane tickets and pre-paid debit cards are given to assist those traveling.

Jack Daniel’s has once again donated $100,000 to kick off the campaign that this year will exceed more than one million dollars in total donations over the life of ORH. The famed distillery is asking friends to visit www.jdoperationridehome.com to make a contribution to help more service members spend the holidays at home. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

“Words can’t describe what it means for us to be able to give back and help these heroes and their families make it home for the holidays,” said Jeff Arnett, Jack Daniel’s Master Distiller. “We can’t thank our friends enough for their support of Operation Ride Home over the years, and hope they will once again do what they can as we try to get as many families home as possible. The sacrifice shown daily by our men and women in uniform and their families is simply incredible. They are there for us, and we need to be there for them.”

“Our junior-enlisted service members are often young, new to the military and struggle to get home during the holidays,” said William French, ASYMCA President and CEO. “We are proud to work alongside Jack Daniel’s for Operation Ride Home and hope others will join us in sending these service members home to their loved ones this holiday season.”
2017 Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala recognizes 6

The 2017 Angels of the Battlefield and service representatives pose with for a group photo. (L to R) SSgt Kevin Bishop, National Guard, LTG Dan Hokanson, National Guard Bureau, HSC Justin Stephen, USCG, Vice ADM Sandra Stosz, USCG, TSgt Luke Dryden, USAF, Brig Gen Vincent Becklund, USAF, Gen Robert Neller, USMC, Rear ADM Brian Brown, USN, PO2 William Keating, USN, William French, Vice ADM, USN (Ret), President/CEO, ASYMCA, PO1 Richard Neading, USN, MG Ronald Place, USA, SGT Kelli Helfinstine, USA, Gen John Tilelli, USA (Ret), Vice Chairman, ASYMCA.

The 11th Annual Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala was held Nov. 2, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Pentagon City for the second year in a row.

Gen. Robert Neller (left), Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps was the keynote speaker. He personally recognized this year’s recipients: SGT Kelli Helfinstine, USA, PO1 Richard Neading, USN, PO2 William Keating, USN, TSgt Luke Dryden, USAF, HSC Justin Stephen, USCG, and SSgt Kevin Bishop, National Guard.

Each year, the ASYMCA works with the military services to select
a single honoree serving as a medic, corpsman, or pararescuemen.

The Angels of the Battlefield event recognizes those men and women who are on the front lines saving lives and demonstrating extraordinary courage.

These “Angels” administer lifesaving medical treatment and trauma care in the line of duty. They are compassionate men and women who risk everything so many of our nation’s heroes wounded in battle are able to return home to their families.

The contributions from this year’s Presenting Sponsor, MARCOA, and Leadership Sponsor, USAA Bank, supported the Gala, and military families across the country.

Leland Vittert, FoxNews Anchor was the emcee for the evening. Justin Constantine the special guest speaker shared his very moving account of how he was saved by a corpsman after being shot in the head while serving in Afghanistan.

Gary Sinise was honored for his contributions to the military family. Sinise supports military families and veterans through his foundation, his concerts, and donations of custom built houses for wounded warriors. He was unable to attend,

Steve Amerson, performing the Impossible Dream

but sent a video acceptance and his daughter Ellie, to accept the award on his behalf.

Steve Amerson, America’s Tenor, performed for the 525 attendees. The Cammo Kids made a repeat performance this year and received a standing ovation for their rendition of the service medley.
2017 Angels of the Battlefield

Army
Kelli Helfinstine

SGT Kelli Helfinstine, a Florida native, enlisted in the United States Army in 2008, is presented with her award by MG Ronald Place.

Marine Corps
Richard Neading

Hospital Corpsman First Class assigned to Team 8211, Fox Company, 2d Marine Raider Battalion, Camp Lejeune, NC, is presented his award by Gen Robert Neller, Commandant, USMC.

Navy
William Keating

Petty Officer Second Class Keating is a U.S. Navy SEAL assigned to SEAL Team Seven in Coronado, Calif., is presented his award by Rear ADM Brian Brown.
Air Force

Luke Dryden

Technical Sergeant Dryden is a Pararescue Craftsman assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Army Airfield, near Fayetteville, NC., is presented his award by Brig Gen Vincent Becklund.

Coast Guard

Justin Stephen

Health Services Technician Chief Petty Officer Stephen is a native of South Point, OH., is presented his award by Vice ADM Sandra Stowes.

National Guard

Kevin Bishop

SSG Kevin J. Bishop is a native of Perdido, Alabama, is presented his award by LTG Daniel Hokanson.
President proclaims November Military Family Month

Military Family Month was first celebrated in 1993. The following year, President Clinton issued a presidential proclamation establishing National Military Families Recognition Day.

Subsequent presidents have issued proclamations, and Congress has periodically passed resolutions designating November as Military Family Month.

Each year in November, communities around the world observe Military Family Month. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of military families and convey to them respect and appreciation for the sacrifices they make to support their service members. “Our military families endure many hardships along with those who defend our Nation. They are separated from their loved ones for months on end and frequently relocated across the country and around the world. They often live far from their extended families, and they know what it is like to celebrate holidays and milestones with an empty seat at the table,” reads the proclamation signed by President Donald Trump, 1 November 2017.

It continues, “Many military spouses face the task of making ends meet while their loved ones are away and of securing new employment with each change in duty station. Children of service members often grow up living a nomadic life — periodically calling a new place “home” and adjusting to different schools, trying out for new sports teams and making new friends. In these lives of frequent change and transition, however, our incredible military families not only survive, they thrive.”

Community leaders, businesses, military bases, and posts team up each year to recognize military families through special events such as: open houses, fun runs, family fun nights, and community dinners. Discounts by local business, sporting events or providing special recognitions during community activities throughout the month of November are great ways to show support.
The annual ASYMCA Art and Essay Contest allows children to express their love, appreciation and admiration for their military heroes. Their essays and artwork also serve to remind us of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform, and their families, make each day for our country. We received many creative, artistic and beautiful entries for this year’s contest, making judging more difficult than ever! Thank you to everyone who submitted an essay or art work. Your dedication to your military families and heroes deserves to be recognized and celebrated. We are proud of your work and even more proud of your contributions to our military community. A special thank you to Art and Essay Contest sponsors, GEICO, and to everyone who supported this year’s contest. We appreciate all those who helped spread the word about this contest at schools and in your communities. We hope to continue encouraging creative expression through writing and art.

My Greatest Challenge As Military Child ...

By Suzanne “Zuzu” Cullen
Winner for the 1-2 Grade Category

My greatest challenge as a military child has been having my Daddy gone, because it’s not family holidays anymore. Also, he grills hotdogs, brats, burgers and bacon and I like them. He reads books that I like. This is one funny fact about my Dad. When my Dad starts to sing, everybody except my Mom, says, “Stop Dad, stop singing.”

He helps me practice with basketball. And I don’t want those things to go away. And when my Dad is gone, I have to do chores. Aaaaaaaaaah! I need my Dad because he helps all my family in a lot of ways. And my family is seven children and one wife for him. How would you feel if your Dad was away?

How has the Armed Services YMCA helped me ...

By Malik Jeramiah Adams
Winner for the 3-4 Grade Category

My name is Malik Adams. I am 8 years old and I live in Fort Bragg, North Carolina home of the AIRBORNE. I attend Devers elementary school, and was selected by my teacher to participate in Operation Hero. Operation Hero is an after school program just for military kids like me. During my time in the program, I learned what bullying is, how to deal with bullying, and how to defend myself and speak up for others being bullied. Operation Hero taught me to honest, courageous, and to respect people. I also learned to be thankful for being a military kid and to enjoy my time as a military kid. My mentors Mr. Will and Ms. Mikayla helped me with my homework. Lastly, we played sports and games to help build confidence. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend Operation Hero and I will always remember what I learned and I will apply it to my everyday life.

Thank you ASYMCA!
My Greatest Challenge as a Military Child ...

By Jenna Kinsey
Winner for the 5-6 Grade Category

Every three years I have to go to school and say goodbye to my friends. My house gets packed up strangers and put on a boat. My poor poor belongings. And then the most challenging of all...saying goodbye to all my favorite ...FOOD! In Puerto Rico I ate the yummiest empanadas in the world. The meat and cheese and crunchy goodness were so hard to let go of, Adios empanadas. At Camp Shelby I could go to New Orleans and Café Du Monde’s for beignets and chocolate milk. Oh my the sugar and the smells. At Fort Drum my family would always go to the apple cider mill to see the waterfall and eat apple cider donuts. Even thinking about it makes my mouth water. But most of all, the most challenging part of my entire life has been saying Aloha to shaved ice. After the beach we would always stop at North Shore for ono shaved ice, hold the beans please. We are here at Fort Bragg now and I haven’t found my favorite food yet so the search continues.

If you give a Military Kid a Shave Ice
If you give a military kid a shaved ice she is going to ask for a malasada. When she eats the malasada she will dance the salsa and probably need some apple cider. And when she is finished looking at the waterfall and drinking the apple cider, She will need an empanada.
While she is eating her empanada she will ask for a kite to fly at El Morro. And when she is flying her kite she will see the ocean and will ask for … a Ono Shaved Ice.

My Greatest Challenge as a Military Child ...

By Katelyn Edmunds
Winner for the 7-8 Grade Category

I’ve lived in 8 houses, moved 7 times, and lived in 6 states. To add to this, I am moving again this summer, and I’m only 14 years-old. You may not think moving is my greatest challenge, but really, it’s being separated from my Dad. Yes. Moving is a challenge, but I love moving: seeing new places, making new friends, all of it. Plus, who doesn’t struggle with moving? The longest I’ve been away from both of my parents is for 6 days. Even then, I was still with very close family members.

The last deployment my Dad was on was the longest he has ever been away for. He left January 18, a day after my brother’s birthday, and got back on September 5, a day before my birthday. Him coming home was one of the happiest times in my life.

On January 5, 2014, my Dad brought home Champ, the dog that we wanted to rescue. He was found in the woods with a bb-bullet in his ear, which is still there today. I’d wanted to get a new dog ever since Trajen, our 11-year-old Rottweiler, passed away. The on January 18, my Dad left. Champ helped me get through the rough spots that formally struggled with the past deployments. He gave me and still gives me, so much comfort and joy.

While my Dad was on his last deployment, we Skyped him almost every night and sent packages as often as we could. I would always write a long handwritten letter to him saying how much I missed him. We would also send him some of his favorite snacks.

Even though I have found ways to make deployments easier, they are still really hard. We take a lot of things for granted. Having my Dad around is one of those things.
By Rachel Ivany
Winner for the 9–10 Grade Category

My biggest challenge as a military kid has been the moving process. Moving, for me, has become a normal part of life, every two to three years packing up everything I own and traveling across the country. But for some reason, the time I moved to Virginia, my beige stucco house in Colorado Springs, Colorado, seemed to beg me not to leave.

“Rufus wouldn’t like Virginia anyways,” my Mom explained in the car, trying to comfort us. My family has just given away our first dog, a chocolate labradoodle. I had worked hard to get him, pleading for days. But now, he was left behind. We turned onto our home street, passing our neighbors, as we journeyed to our house for the last time. I gave a routine wave, not letting it sink in that it could be years before seeing my friends again. After pulling up the driveway, I savored my last walk through the place I had called home for the past 3 years. I entered as quietly as I could, careful not to disturb whatever peace was still left in the shell that remained of the house.

“The carpets just got cleaned so don’t get anything dirty.” My Mother’s words echoed off the barren walls and empty rooms. There was nothing left to catch the sound of her instructions except the ears of her children. Ignoring my Mother, I kicked off my shoes and took the first step up the spotless stairs. The damp carpet sent chills up my legs. I habitually crawled up the step stairs on all fours and quickly threw myself onto the landing. Looking into my room, I saw the green walls, which once housed my handmade paintings and huge mural of a tree that loomed over where my bed once stood. I plopped myself down in the center of the carpet and recalled all of the tear-jerking memories that had been made in that very room. Some were sad,

Tomorrow, someone else will call this room theirs. Tomorrow, someone else will make memories here. Tomorrow, someone else will be referring to this place when they say “home”. This place is not my home anymore; no place is.

I tried to shove that thought to the back of my mind but it wouldn’t stay. So, I sat and cried until my Mother peered into my room and whispered that it was finally time to say bye for good. She helped me to my feet, flicked off the lights and silently shut the door for the very last time.

Now, 5 years later, I recognize that it wasn’t the room, the house, the dog, or my friends that made me cry. It was the idea of leaving it all behind. I have since learned that home isn’t just where you sleep, but the great people with whom you make lifelong memories.

Winning artwork: <U.S. Navy: Bryton Johnson, Age 6>
My biggest challenge as a military kid ...

By Kelly Virginia MacGarrigle
Winner for the 11-12 Grade Category

"Your Dad is a bad Dad," my friend Anna-belle informs me.

"My Dad isn't a bad Dad!" I responded indignantly, with all of the grouchiness and intimidation a short, chubby, violently blonde four year old can muster while wearing light-up Sketchers and a stained T-shirt.

"No, silly, I said he's in Baghdad," she says with a cosmopolitan weariness, stopping on the stairs above me. Not wanting to admit I have no idea what (or who) Baghdad is, I continue stubbornly with the one thing I know for sure.

"My Dad is not a bad Dad!"

What I didn't realize was that my father was a US Army soldier, who was deployed to Bosnia, Kuwait and Iraq over several years before I was born and during my childhood.

A kid can't understand the true meaning of warfare. The idea that my Dad was in "Baghdad" meant the same as my Mother traveling on a business trip, albeit a much longer one. I had no idea of the danger – or that he could die during combat.

My Mother took over the role of both parents, raising me essentially on her own for my first few years. We didn't live on a military base, so she didn't have the support network that most military families have. She was on her own while raising a kid, although, as one of the first women at the U.S. Naval Academy, who later became a Marine, and then entered the male-dominated world of defense contracting, she was used to relying on her own strength rather than outside support networks.

Because of the security and reliability that she gave me, I grew up a normal, well-adjusted, and precocious kid. On weekend, we would make care packages for my Dad, which included my letters and drawings, cookies, and bootleg action movie DVDs that he would share with the Iraqi men deployed alongside him (action movies don't need a common language).

Every night, my Mother would read My Daddy is a Soldier alongside Goodnight Moon because I liked routines. In a military house, few things are ever assured, and this nightly ritual added much needed stability to an unstable scenario.

As a military kid, I learned a lot of essential skills very early: how to meet new people (especially adults), becoming acquainted quickly, how to be alone and entertain myself, and most importantly, how to adapt to unfamiliar scenarios without complaint. My Father was a reservist, so his deployments overseas came with little notice. I learned through my tears that while I couldn't control the situation, I could control my reaction to it.

The official flower of the military child in the dandelion – for a reason. It can grow anywhere, adapt to any situation and most importantly, is almost impossible to destroy. Life may bluster and roar, but I can always plant new roots, make new friends, and find new adventures in any location. Today, my "good Dad" is home and I have finally learned what (and where) Baghdad is.
Download the 2018 Art & Essay Participant Book
www.asymca.org
2017

FINANCIALS

Armed Services YMCA of the USA and Affiliates

Consolidated Balance Sheet
December 31, 2017

**Assets:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$6,556,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>$4,796,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$30,863,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>$812,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment. Net</td>
<td>$18,438,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$61,467,851</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**Liabilities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$1,339,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued and other liabilities</td>
<td>$547,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$257,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital lease obligations</td>
<td>$278,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>$9,811,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,234,172</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$43,395,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$5,452,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>$386,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49,233,679</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                                                 | **$61,467,851** |
## Armed Services YMCA of the USA and Affiliates

### Consolidated Balance Sheet

**December 31, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support and revenue:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated services, materials and facilities</td>
<td>4,231,221</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,231,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>5,711,381</td>
<td>1,452,781</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,164,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual contributions</td>
<td>1,056,388</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,056,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council allocation</td>
<td>1,870,526</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,870,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government contracts and grants</td>
<td>1,334,930</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,334,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>224,358</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>224,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support</strong></td>
<td>14,428,804</td>
<td>1,452,781</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,881,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service fees</td>
<td>5,181,204</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,181,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve funds withdrawal for programs</td>
<td>491,919</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>491,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>718,395</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>718,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>816,596</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>816,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of materials and services</td>
<td>368,895</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>368,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence and related services</td>
<td>306,979</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>306,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>22,438</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>2,133,087</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,133,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>806,984</td>
<td>(806,984)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td>10,846,497</td>
<td>(806,984)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,039,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total support and revenue</strong></td>
<td>25,275,301</td>
<td>645,797</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25,921,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social, recreational and cultural activities</td>
<td>20,216,859</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,216,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence and related services</td>
<td>251,238</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>251,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td>20,468,097</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,468,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>1,136,592</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,136,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>2,873,809</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,873,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td>4,010,401</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,010,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>24,478,498</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24,478,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes in net assets before other changes</strong></td>
<td>796,803</td>
<td>645,797</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,442,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other changes:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>2,636,455</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,636,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>3,433,258</td>
<td>645,797</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,079,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning</td>
<td>39,962,192</td>
<td>4,806,413</td>
<td>386,019</td>
<td>45,154,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending</td>
<td>43,395,450</td>
<td>5,452,210</td>
<td>386,019</td>
<td>49,233,679</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Generous Sponsors
For information on how to sponsor ASYMCA programs call at 571-932-3211
Recognizing our generous donors

Without your support we could not strengthen our military family

- 7-11, Inc.
- American Airlines
- Analytics Info. Mgmt., Deloitte Consulting LLP
- Anchor Construction
- Anonymous Foundation
- Arent Fox
- Association of Military Banks of America
- Bell
- Bennett Supply Company
- Brown Forman Corporation
- Carnival Foundation
- Charmer Sunbelt Group DBA Breakthru Beverage Group
- Chugach Government Solutions, LLC
- City of Sturgis
- Cox Foundation
- Datastax, Inc.
- David Parkinson Rev Trust
- Deloitte Digital
- Elbit
- Fort Worth Air Power Foundation
- Fujitsu Defense and National Security
- Fun Academy Studios
- G6 Hospitality
- GEICO Corporation
- General Dynamics
- General Dynamics Information Technology
- Glen Wright Construction Co.
- Great Lakes Wine And Spirits, LLC.
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- HDR
- Health Net Federal Services
- Hearst Foundation
- Hexberg Family Foundation
- Hockomock Area YMCA
- Huntington Ingalls Industries
- Jack Daniels Sturgis Rally
- JCPenney Foundation
- Jellison Benevolent Society, Inc.
- Kaplan Higher and Professional Education
- Knuckle Saloon
- L-3 Communications National
- La Quinta Inns & Suites
- Leonardo DRS Technologies
- Lift a Life Foundation
- Lockheed Martin Corporation
- MARCOA
- McMaster-Carr Supply Company
- McQueary Henry Bowles Troy, LLP
- Meadows Foundation
- Mr. John P. Casey
- Mr. Robert K. Burke
- Mr. John M. Bird, VADM, USN (Ret)
- Mr. Michael Galvin
- Mr. Evan M. Chanik, Jr., VADM, USN (Ret)
- National Restaurant Association
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- Network for Good
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- PenFed
- Pitney Bowes, Inc.
- Raytheon Systems Company
- Redwoods Group, Inc.
- Republic National Distributing Company Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Ross Stores Foundation
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- Sodexo Foundation
- Sodexo, Inc. and Affiliates
- United Health Foundation
- USAA Bank
- Veterans United Foundation
- Veterans United Home Loans
- YMCA of Greater NY
- YMCA of Greater Rochester
- YMCA of San Diego County
- YMCA of the Oranges
- YMCA of the USA
- YMCA Retirement Fund
National Board of Directors

- **Chairman** – John Tilelli, General, U.S. Army (retired), Chairman, Cypress International
- **Vice Chairman** – John Bird, VADM, USN (ret), EVP for Military Affairs, USAA
- **Secretary** – Kate Boyce Reeder, KRBR Consulting LLC
- **Treasurer** – David Scanlan, Sodexo Government North America
- **Past Chairman** – Lee Baxter, MG, USA (ret), President and CEO, Signal Mountain Associates
- **Past Chair** – Mike Dodson, LTG, USA (ret), Senior Vice President and Air Force Client Executive, CACI
- **Treasurer** – Matthew Benedict, CEO, MARCOA Media
- **Vice President** – Derek Blake, VP for Marketing, LaQuinta Inns & Suites
- **Secretary** – Bob Burke, President, Bob Burke Consulting
- **Treasurer** – John Butler, COL, USA (ret), Senior Vice President, TRICARE Programs, Health Net Federal Services
- **Treasurer** – Kevin Campbell, LTG, USA (ret)
- **Treasurer** – J. J. Cawelti, Assistant VP Community Engagement, DFW Airport
- **Treasurer** – Marty Chanik, VADM, USN (ret)
- **Treasurer** – Vincent DeSio, CFO, YMCA Retirement Fund
- **Treasurer** – Melvin Spiese, Maj Gen, USMC (ret)
- **Treasurer** – Matthew Stover, Former NFL Baltimore Raven
- **Treasurer** – Richard Pattenaude, President Emeritus Ashford University
- **Treasurer** – Derek Blake, VP for Marketing, LaQuinta Inns & Suites
- **Treasurer** – Matt Rumph, Executive Director, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (Association # 3445)
- **Treasurer** – Carol Herrick, Executive Director, Lawton, Oklahoma (Association # 5305)
- **Treasurer** – Jeffery Remington, Lt Gen, USAF (ret)
- **Treasurer** – John Tilelli, General, U.S. Army (retired), Chairman, Cypress International
- **Treasurer** – Mike Dodson, LTG, USA (ret)
- **Treasurer** – Sharon Dunbar, Maj Gen, USAF (ret), VP for Human Resources, General Dynamics Mission Systems
- **Treasurer** – Michael Grady, President/CEO, YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City
- **Treasurer** – Kevin Isherwood, CMC, USCG (ret)
- **Treasurer** – Neil Jarvis, CEO, Fujitsu Defense and National Security
- **Treasurer** – Scott Laverty, CIO, Western Stone and Metals Corp.
- **Treasurer** – Joseph Militano, EVP for Public Affairs and Communications, Leonardo DRS
- **Treasurer** – Michael Monahan, EVP/COO, Pitney Bowes
- **Treasurer** – David Page, LTC, Field Marketing Manager, Brown-Forman
- **Treasurer** – Melvin Spiese, Maj Gen, USMC (ret)
- **Treasurer** – Paul Sullivan, EVP/CFO, YMCA of San Diego County
- **Treasurer** – Pam Swan, National Military Relations Director, Military Relations Team, Veterans United
- **Treasurer** – Mitchell Waldman EVP for Government and Customer Relations, Huntington Ingalls Industries
- **Treasurer** – Vernon Wallace, Director, Mission Support Integrated Process Team, Raytheon
- **Treasurer** – Andy Walsh, Former Allies in Service Warrior Mentorship Program Coordinator
- **Treasurer** – William Zemp, COL, USA (ret.) EVP Chief Strategy/Innovation Officer, Southern New Hampshire University
- **Treasurer** – Kathie Zortman Former Board Chair Armed Services YMCA San Diego

Branch Representatives

- **Chairman’s Emeritus Council**
  - **Mike C. Baker**, MCPD, USN (Ret)
  - **Kathie Zortman**, Former Board Chair Armed Services YMCA Lawton-Fort Sill
  - **Kendell Pease, Radm, USN (Ret)**
  - **Joe Reeder**
  - **John Roots, Col, USMC (Ret)**
  - **Vernon Lewis, MG, USA (Ret)**

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

- **William French**, VADM, USN (Ret), President | CEO
- **Chris Haley**
  - Chief of Staff and VP Marketing and Communications
- **Don Kandel**
  - EVP Finance and Operations / Chief Financial Officer
- **Sharon Gleason**
  - EVP Financial Development and Communications
- **Achsh Vazirani**
  - EVP Programs
- **Ann Boyter**
  - Executive Assistant to the President | CEO
- **Vickie Robinson**
  - Director, Human Resources
- **Steve Brown**
  - Controller
- **Katty Nkem**
  - Accountant
- **Carol Jones**
  - Payroll
- **Laura Kurth**
  - Manager, Financial Development Operations
- **Dessamine Vince Cruz**
  - DOD Military Outreach Initiative
- **Lewa Pabi**
  - DOD Military Outreach Initiative

BRANCH LEADERSHIP

- **Altus, Oklahoma (Association # 5391)**
  - **Lorain Mayes**, Executive Director
- **Anchorage, Alaska (Association # 0152)**
  - **Sarah Riffer**, Executive Director
- **Camp Pendleton, Calif. (Association # 0524)**
  - **Samantha Holt**, Executive Director
- **El Paso, Texas (Association # 6433)**
  - **Joe Pritchard**, Executive Director
- **Fayetteville, N. Carolina (Association # 4475)**
  - **Kathy Foxen**, Executive Director
- **Fort Campbell, Kentucky (Association # 2413)**
  - **Karen Grimsley**, Executive Director
- **Hampton Roads, Virginia (Association # 6745)**
  - **Russell Ariza**, Executive Director
- **Honolulu, Hawaii (Association # 1507)**
  - **Laurie Moore**, Executive Director
- **Killeen, Texas (Association # 6543)**
  - **Sheri Yerrington**, Executive Director
- **Lawton, Oklahoma (Association # 5305)**
  - **Carol Herrick**, Executive Director
- **Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (Association # 3445)**
  - **Matt Rumph**, Executive Director
- **San Diego, Calif. (Association # 0650)**
  - **Tim Ney**, Executive Director
- **Twentynine Palms, Calif. (Association # 0599)**
  - **Dawn Clark**, Executive Director
ARMED SERVICES YMCA
14040 CENTRAL LOOP, STE B
WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193

TO GIVE, VOLUNTEER OR JOIN US VISIT:
ASYMCA.ORG