Armed Services YMCA 2016 Art and Essay Contest Winners

A complete list and copy of the artwork for the winners of this year's Armed Services YMCA Art and Essay Contest are available here.

A special thank you to Art and Essay Contest sponsor, 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.
The annual ASYMCA Art and Essay Contest allow 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 hope to continue encouraging creative expression through writing and art.

This winning entry in the Army category was submitted by Ava Beckett, age 9.
Executives from American Airlines, the Air Power Foundation, the Air Power Council, and other friends including Jim Palmersheim, David Haddad, Robert Gottlich, Vic Weir, Sid Eppes, and Randy Stillinger, visited the Armed Services YMCA of San Diego offices to get more familiar with operations there. While in San Diego, they also toured several Navy assets and installations.

The Texas based Air Power Foundation is currently supporting troops and families on the Joint Reserve base (JRB) at Ft. Worth. Their most recent donation allowed for more than 500 children to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt at the family ‘Springfest, 2016.’
The JRB staff handed out more than 500 gift bags to families, and provided about a dozen special prizes for children who found the "Golden Eggs". The Easter Bunny flew in on a Huey Helicopter to drop more than 10,000 eggs on the field. Junior enlisted families were treated to a free lunch; and the children were able to play on numerous bounce houses, a train, and other games.

The ASYMCA appreciates the efforts of both American Airlines and the Air Power Foundation to support active duty military, veterans, wounded warriors, and gold star families.

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Killeen Armed Services YMCA opens end of May

Construction is almost complete; plans are to open the brand new facility Memorial Day weekend. The Killeen branch of the Armed Services YMCA, will serve the entire community, military and civilian alike and has no geographical boundaries. There are programs for children as young as six months old and programs for seniors and all stops in between.
The ASYMCA Wellness Center is located in Harker Heights; a few hundred yards from the Killeen city limits.

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New Executive Director takes charge at Ft. Bragg Armed Services YMCA branch

Maria Smith has been hired as the new executive director at the Ft. Bragg Armed Services YMCA. Smith takes over for the recently departed Cherie Bortnick.

We are excited to have Maria on the team," said William French, President | CEO Armed Services YMCA. "I would also like to thank Kim Hetherington, a member of the local board of management that stood up and volunteered to be the interim executive director while we were searching for our new executive director. Kim did a great job and we are better for having her as part of our leadership team."

Smith comes to the Armed Services YMCA with a background of giving back to the community her entire career. Whether as a non-profit manager, a software trainer, in the K-12 field or just as a Sunday school teacher, Maria believes in the tenet of being a Servant Leader. Originally from Philadelphia, Maria has spent over 30 years connected to the military.
Buy your copy today and support ASYMCA:

NY Times Bestselling Author donates profits to support military troops and families

Mike Rothmiller, New York Times Bestselling Author, and patriot will donate all proceeds from sales of the paperback edition of “America. Words that Shaped the Nation. The First 50 Years 1776-1826 (Volume 1)” during the month of May. Rothmiller, a resident of Prescott, Arizona, has authored many other books, including “My Hero” featuring art and essays from the Armed Services YMCA’s Annual Art and Essay Contest designed to help military children express their unique challenges in a healthy way through visual art and the written word. This effort continues his support the Armed Services YMCA.

Click here to purchase your copy today via Amazon.com.

Love CauseBandanas

CauseBandanas to support Armed Services YMCA with 50% of sales

CauseBandanas has agreed to support the Armed Services YMCA through a cause marketing partnership which provides 50% of all sales to be donated to the ASYMCA.
Ryne Theil, founder and president of CauseBandanas said, “We are so excited about our partnership with the Armed Services YMCA. We want to support those brave men and women who sacrifice for all Americans. This is a way for us to give back. Armed Services YMCA are one of the most fiscally responsible charities in the United States, ensuring .89 of every dollar they receive in donations goes directly to support programs.”

“What a wonderful way to show your support to the troops and provide donations we can use to support more service members and their families.” said William French, Armed Services YMCA President | CEO. “We are excited about our relationship with CauseBandanas. We support more than a half a million active duty members and their family member every year in 200 locations and 18 states, but this kind of effort could help us provide even more support.”

To make a purchase visit CauseBandanas.

Recognizing our Generous Donors

The following organizations have made financial contributions to the Armed Services YMCA that will be used to
support active duty military men, women, and their families. Without their generous donations, the programs and services provided to more than 500,000 service or family members each year at more than 200 service centers across 18 states by 34 branches would not be possible.

Thank you all for your continued support!

If you would like to learn more about providing support or how our programs and services impact the lives of our men and women in uniform, please contact Sharon Gleason at 571-932-3211.

La Quinta Inns & Suites, Bell Helicopter support Angels of the Battlefield with donations

La Quinta Inns & Suites, represented by Derek Blake, Vice President of Marketing, has made a generous donation to support the 10th Annual Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala to be held
in Arlington, Va., Nov 4. Since 2013, La Quinta Inns & Suites has donated nearly $75,000 in cash and in-kind hospitality services; in 2016, La Quinta provided $5,000 worth of in-kind ‘hotel-stay’ certificates and $10,000 in an Angels of the Battlefield sponsorship.

Bell Helicopter, a Textron Company has made a $25K donation. Both company’s support will ensure those that have demonstrated extraordinary courage and honor while on the front lines, are recognized appropriately for their efforts to save lives under extreme conditions.

See below to become a sponsor.

The **10th Annual Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala**, will be hosted at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, Arlington, Va. on Friday, 4 Nov. Come honor the men and women on the front lines who are saving lives and have demonstrated extraordinary courage. It’s not too early to become a sponsor! For more information: Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala

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**Want to help junior enlisted service members and their families?**
Donate to Armed Services YMCA now

The Armed Services YMCA exists to make military life easier for junior enlisted military personnel and their families. We have 34 branches and affiliates, supporting 59 of our Nation's largest military installations across the country. Offering low and no cost programming, the ASYMCA serves more than 500,000 troops and family members each year with the help of more than 10,000 volunteers.

Help Amazon donate to the Armed Services YMCA

AmazonSmile – You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to your favorite charitable organization. You can select Armed Services YMCA to receive Amazon's donation from your purchase.

About AmazonSmile

Consider a recurring donation

Armed Services YMCA’s Recurring Gift Program

The Armed Services YMCA’s recurring gift program allows you to increase your annual impact footprint through smaller monthly or quarterly installments. A recurring gift is an ongoing, specific gift amount determined by you the donor that is charged monthly or quarterly to your credit card. You don’t have to remember to write and send a check. Click here for details.

Donate your car, truck, or plane!

You can help our nation’s services members and their families by donating your car, truck, boat, motorcycle or RV to the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA). The proceeds from the sale will help us to continue providing programs and services across the country.

How it Works

Our vehicle donation program is easy:
• Fill out the vehicle donation form online.
• A service representative from CARS (Charitable Adult Rides and Services Inc.) will contact you to facilitate the donation process.
• CARS will send you an IRS tax receipt for your records.

If you prefer to contact CARS by phone, please call 855-YMCA-CAR or 855-962-2227 and one of their representatives will help you with your donation.