



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

MONTH OF THE MILITARY FAMILY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, since 1986, military installations around the world recognize the sacrifices and applaud the courage of military families by celebrating the Month of the Military Child throughout the month of April; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to recognize that military families make significant contributions to the country while dealing with uncertainty and concern for their loved ones during extended hours and deployments; and

WHEREAS, approximately 47,000 children of all service members deployed attend Florida public schools; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to dozens of Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) units housed in public schools throughout the state that are led by retired Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel and focus on academic excellence, character development, and public service; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Purple Star Schools of Distinction designation was established in 2021 to recognize schools that support the unique needs of military families, help military children navigate challenges, and provide resources to aid military children and their families as they move to a new school environment and there are currently 451 Purple Star Schools of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Purple Star School District Program was established in 2024 to recognize public school districts that demonstrate a commitment to providing critical coordination of services for military students and families, and there are currently 6 Districts of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, according to the Military Child Education Coalition, the official flower of the Military Child is the dandelion. This symbol is especially meaningful, as dandelions are resilient and able to take root almost anywhere; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Collegiate Purple Star Campus Program was established in 2023 to recognize colleges that demonstrate a commitment to supporting military families, including military spouses, children, and veterans, and there are currently 19 Campuses of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, in June 2025 Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 797, SB 116, and SB 910 into law aimed at strengthening Florida's support systems for veterans and their families.

WHEREAS, the Month of the Military Family in Florida reminds the Nation that the service member's children also sacrifice, and gives communities an opportunity to share their gratitude for the sacrifice of military children; and

WHEREAS, under Governor Ron DeSantis' leadership, Florida is recognized as the most military- and veteran-friendly state in the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2026 as the *Month of the Military Family in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 8th day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-six.


Governor