

#GIVINGTUESDAYMILITARY

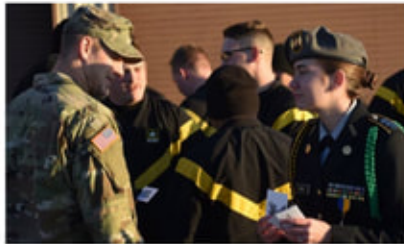
In spring 2019, Jessica Manfre, Maria Reed, and Samantha Gomolka - three Military Spouses of the Year - messaged GivingTuesday's Facebook page with a bold idea. They wanted to organize military spouses and families at bases around the world to participate in GivingTuesday.

The leaders started a Facebook group; by that weekend it had over 3,000 members. They spent months organizing activities from bake sales to community clean-ups to kind acts for first responders. Military service members, veterans, and their families- who already have committed so much to something bigger than themselves - inspired the world through acts of kindness on GivingTuesday.



HONORING OUR HEROES

The Quantico Chapter laid 135 medals at the graves of fallen soldiers at Arlington. The medals were donated by We Finish Together. The group also wrote 1,031 cards to troops, gave out 1000 gift cards for a local BBQ restaurant, and did 207 random acts of kindness, from leaving quarters in gumball machines to bringing a neighbor a treat.



KINDNESS IN A COFFEE CUP

Copperas Cove High School JROTC woke up early and served hundreds of Fort Hood service members coffee and muffins along with a thank you note for their commitment to serve and protect, all before the start of their school day.



SENDING WARMTH

While on deployment in Okinawa, Japan, a Marine partnered with a local hospital and nonprofit to crochet 13 baby blankets for single mothers. She also provided yarn and hooks to other sailors who were interested in participating.

STORMING THE HILL

One GivingTuesdayMilitary group organized a "Storm the Hill" event, spreading kindness to elected officials in DC. They knocked on every Congressperson's door to thank them and give them a "Be Kind" bracelet. One of the legislators said, "With a country so divided, this initiative is so important! We need to be united and what a way to do that: through generosity."



"WE WANT TO CREATE THE WORLD THAT OUR CHILDREN BELIEVE ALREADY EXISTS."

- SAMANTHA GOMOLKA

