

# ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

More Than A Program...It's A Promise!



## Month of the Military Child - April 2021

Frequently prolonged separations. Deployments. Multiple moves. Military children often face these challenges – as well as others – throughout their lives, based on their connection to the military community. In 2018, Military OneSource, a leading resource for military families, reported there are an estimated 1.11 million military children across all service components. Of those military children, an estimated 440,400 have parents/guardians serving in the National Guard and Reserves.

**National Guard and Reserve children are unique**, in the fact they often do not live on (or next to) an active duty military base or installation. These youth reside in civilian communities across the country – largely attending public schools and engaging in local extracurricular programs and activities. As a result of this, it is important for those within all communities to understand and appreciate the uniqueness and contributions of our Reserve Component military youth. That is part of the reason why the **Month of the Military Child (MOMC) initiative was 1st launched in 1986** – to encourage everyone (military and civilian) to celebrate the sacrifices made by our military and military-connected youth.

Throughout the month of April, the **Army National Guard (ARNG) Child and Youth Services (CYS) Program invites you to be part of our MOMC festivities**. ARNG CYS Programs across the country will be hosting a variety of in-person and virtual programs, all designed to honor those who also serve along-side our Service Members.

**If you, your business, or organization would like to learn more about MOMC, or connect with your local ARNG CYS Program, visit our website at [www.arngcys.com](http://www.arngcys.com)** and click on the "My Local CYS Program" link on the left-hand side of the page. Additional information about MOMC can also be found by visiting these websites:

- **Department of Defense Education Activity:**  
[www.militarychild.org/upload/images/2020%20MOMC/2020\\_Month\\_of\\_the\\_Military\\_Child.pdf](http://www.militarychild.org/upload/images/2020%20MOMC/2020_Month_of_the_Military_Child.pdf)
- **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC):** [www.militarychild.org/MOMC\\_Toolkit](http://www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit)

**Help us make MOMC 2021 a wonderful experience for military and military-connected youth in all service components. After all, military youth are truly future history makers!**

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Recognition
- Teens on the Move
- Happenings \*New
- MOMC 2021
- Training Ops
- Writing Challenge



TX-Virtual Spring Break  
"Paint Day"

## WRITING CHALLENGE



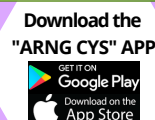
Look  
inside  
for  
details!



Do you want to stay up-to-date with the latest info?  
Be sure to [subscribe here on our website](#)



**WWW.ARNGCYS.COM**  
#GUARDFAMILIES #ARNGCYS



### 2020 EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

In honor of Pamela Reeds



**Pam Reeds**  
(1959-2018)

Pamela (Pam) Reeds was an eight-year Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator for the Oklahoma Army National Guard Child and Youth Services passed away following a fight against cancer. Those who knew Pam knew she truly had a passion for the work she did in support of military youth and families.

Pam was someone who embodied the characteristics of kindness, compassion, dedication, and optimism in all she did in service to others. In honor of her, one lead coordinator and one coordinator from the eastern and western regions were nominated by their fellow CYS peers.

**It is our honor to present to you the 2020 recipients:**



**Lance Ellis**  
[aka "MRT Man"]  
Colorado - LCYPC



**Mikella Ricou**  
Louisiana - CYPC



**Sylvesteral (Sylvia) Lynch**  
[aka "Mama Lynch"]  
District of Columbia - LCYPC



**Jerome Flippins**  
South Carolina - CYPC

## YOUTH TEENS ON THE MOVE

*Congratulations!*

### Operation Homefront - National Guard Military Youth of the Year: Elise Puliafico

Submitted by: Susan LaFlame, MA LCYPC



Elise, 18, is the daughter of National Guard Lt. Col. Joseph Puliafico and Lynette Puliafico, a teacher. She has one older sister. The family lives in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, where her dad is stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base.

After a long history of volunteering at both the medical command where her father serves as well as the state level, Elise was selected to be the Region 1 (New England) Delegate on the National Guard Teen Panel (GTP) representing more than 16,000 youth in six states. As a member of both the **MA state Teen Council and the GTP**, Elise advocates, attends leadership training, completes service learning, and volunteers both in person and virtually. She is always mentoring, building community, and representing National Guard Youth with respect and pride.

During this past year, Elise did not hesitate to put on a mask and help wherever she could. For example, she counseled a nervous mother who struggled along with her children over the upcoming deployment of her husband. Another example is when Elise recognized a need, took the initiative, and single-handedly organized a contactless holiday toy drive last fall. She secured more than two hundred toys donated by West Bridgewater residents that she delivered during a particularly ugly storm to ensure that Military Children received them in time for the holidays.

Currently, Elise is a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America steering committee planning a three-day international conference for military children. She will also moderate one of the general sessions. A passionate voice for Military Children everywhere, she is always mentoring, building community, and representing National Guard Youth with respect and pride.



**Elise Puliafico**  
**Lt. Col. Joseph Puliafico**



**Read more about Elise  
+ the other finalists at:**

<https://dodvirtualsrp.beanstack.org/reader365>  
<https://arngcys.com/teens-on-the-move>



## HAPPENINGS

### MOMC

YOUNG LIVES,  
**BIG STORIES**  
WIN!

Share your story to  
1-30 April 2021

The Young Lives, BIG Stories contest gives Army-connected children and youth ages 3 through grade 12 the chance to tell their story about what it means to be a military kid through pictures or written word. This annual contest runs during April, the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). Children and youth have the opportunity to win great prizes, such as a tablet, iPad or X-Box.

For more information, and to enter this year's Young Lives, BIG Stories contest, click the link above.

### PURPLE UP

**PURPLE UP!**  
FOR MILITARY KIDS WEEK

18-24 April 2021

During the month of April all are encouraged to select a specific day to wear purple in honor of military kids.

The goal of "Purple Up! For Military Kids" is for military youth to actually SEE the support in their schools, after school programs, youth groups, Child Development Centers, Family Child Care Homes and the entire community during the week of 18-24 April, 2021.

NGB will celebrate  
**PURPLE UP DAY** on  
16 APR 2021. Check  
with your L/CYPC for  
**PURPLE UP** events in  
your state

### SUMMIT

**OPERATION  
MEGAPHONE**

22-24 April 2021

Army CY5 is partnering with BGCA to offer the **1st worldwide Virtual Military Teen Summit on April 22-24, 2021**. This military-sponsored event will include guest speakers and key influencers, interactive fun activities, and thought-provoking sessions on topics that matter most to teens. The virtual summit will ensure a call to action for teens to serve as a catalyst for change, just as Operation Megaphone has provided. Youth can participate through their Youth Center or individually.

### DoD MWR SUMMER READING PROGRAM

READING  
COLORS  
Your  
WORLD.

Find your local MWR Summer Reading Program at [Beanstack.com/DoD](https://beanstack.com/DoD) and earn prizes for reading, or join the Virtual Program at [DoDVirtualSRP.beanstack.org](https://dodvirtualsrp.beanstack.org) to be entered into weekly drawings for e-gift cards.



DoD MWR LIBRARIES  
SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
on Military Installations Worldwide

[www.beanstack.com/dod](https://www.beanstack.com/dod)

### ARNG CY5

#### Virtual Professional Development 2021

Last month, the ARNG CY5 Program conducted its first-ever virtual professional development. Professional Development is an annual event where those working within the ARNG CY5 Program come together to share best practices and new resources; all while learning about the latest trends in the areas of youth development and program management.

The theme for our training last month was "**Stronger Together**," as over the past year, local CY5 programs throughout the country have worked together to develop many new and exciting virtual programming materials and resources – truly demonstrating what it means to be stronger together!

Be sure to connect with your local CY5 Program to learn about upcoming events and activities!

Want to get a jump into reading? Log reading time during the Spring Reading Challenge!

<https://dodvirtualsrp.beanstack.org/reader365>

## HAPPENINGS



### "The Up's and Down's in Illinois"

Submitted by: Amy Ent, IL CYPC

The weekend of March 5-7, the Illinois team, Tsoetsy Harris and Amy Ent, along with three adult volunteers, took 14 teens on their **annual ski trip** to Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort. This is the first time in over a year the teens have been able to meet in person since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The ski trip was in conjunction with the second quarter Youth Advisory Council meeting. The new teen-based resiliency curriculum was used and well-received by the teens. In order to receive their lift tickets, the teens were required to sit through the classroom portion of the resiliency curriculum which consisted of 11 hours of class time throughout the entire weekend.

The biggest lessons about resiliency comes from the ski slopes. After a day of skiing and falling, skiing and falling, the group came back together to discuss their day. **Did they have fun? What hills did they go down?** But most importantly, **will they keep going?** Tsoetsy and Amy discussed that no matter how many times the teens fall down, get back up and try again. Keep going, they're eventually going to go down that bunny hill without falling. It's the same as life, when you fall down, get back up and try again.



Tsoetsy Harris IL LCYPC &  
Amy Ent IL CYPC



## A Month to Celebrate all our 'Dandelions'

### THE DANDELION

The official flower of the military child is the dandelion, as it puts down **ROOTS** almost anywhere and it's almost **IMPOSSIBLE TO DESTROY** it's an unpretentious plant. It is both **BEAUTIFUL** and **STRONG** and is a **SURVIVOR** in a broad range of climates. Military children **BLOOM** everywhere as the wind carries the family. They are **HARDY** and upright. Their **ROOTS** are **STRONG** cultivated deeply in the **CULTURE OF THE MILITARY**. They are ready to fly in the breezes that take them to **NEW ADVENTURES**, new lands, and **NEW FRIENDSHIPS**.



Mikelle Ricou - LA CYPC  
Kids' AT



Your **mind** is a **garden**  
Your **thoughts** are the **seeds**  
You can **grow flowers**  
Or you can **grow weeds**

Experts say that military children are well-rounded, culturally aware, tolerant, and extremely **RESILIENT**. Military children have learned from an early age that home is where the heart is, that a good **FRIEND** can be found in every corner and culture of the world and that education doesn't only come from school. They ideally live history! They learn that to survive means to adapt, that the door closes with one chapter of their lives and opens up to a new and exciting **ADVENTURE** full of new experiences.

[www.army.mil/article/185576/school\\_celebrates\\_month\\_of\\_the\\_military\\_child](http://www.army.mil/article/185576/school_celebrates_month_of_the_military_child)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the latest (39 pages!)

### April Activity Packet

developed by the:

L/CYPCs in CT, MA, ME, NV, NH, RI, & VT!



Ask your  
State  
ARNG CYS  
L/CYPC for  
a copy.

Army National Guard  
Child & Youth Program Presents

Month of  
the  
Military  
Child

April  
2021

Plus don't  
forget to ask for  
(option 2)  
**MOMC**  
**Activity**  
**Packet**  
developed by  
the IL CYS  
team!

DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

## IN THE KNOW

Follow your local CYS  
social media accounts to see  
the weekly **In the Know** (ITK) posts,  
OR reach out to your  
CYS Program for a copy.  
**#ARNGCYSITK**

We'd love to hear  
from YOU!

Would you like to share how the  
CYS program has made an impact  
on you and your family?

Let us know at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShareYourCYSstory](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShareYourCYSstory)

April 2021

## TRAINING OPS



MCEC Parent workshops are available via webinar to support parents who are remote or not located near a major military installation. Webinars are presented live usually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Noon EST.

**\*\* Participants must register in advance for the live webinar presentation \*\***

[www.militarychild.org/webinars](https://www.militarychild.org/webinars)

- TUE 04/06 - Ready, Set, Healthy! Transitions in Health Care - Resources with Sesame Street
- WED 04/07 - MIC3 Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission
- TUE 04/13 - Post 9/11 GI Bill
- WED 04/14 - Yellow Ribbon Program

*This does not indicate an endorsement of resources, programs and/or services by National Guard Bureau, DysTech, staff or contractors.*

## WRITING CHALLENGE

Compositions submitted by youth are reviewed by those working within the ARNG CYS Program, with some being included in future ARNG CYS Monthly Newsletters or even uploaded to the ARNG CYS Website.

If you have a youth interested in participating in the **ARNG CYS Youth Writing Challenge**, be sure to check out the ARNG CYS Website for the latest topics and information on submitting their composition.

## "WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A MILITARY KID?"

All writing compositions for this month must be submitted by  
**Sunday, April 18, 2021,** for consideration and review.

For details and how to submit your child's creative piece go to:  
<https://arngcys.com/youth-writing-challenge>



TX-Virtual Spring Break  
"Music Day"



We're an Awesome  
TEAM!

Connect with your local CYS  
team to learn how you can

**VOLUNTEER!**

<https://arngcys.com/my-local-cys-program>