

March 7, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to recognize April 2017 as the “Month of the Military Child” and April 14th as “Purple Up Day,” a day to wear purple in support of military kids.

Montana has a long and honorable tradition of military service, and Montanans serve at one of the highest rates per capita in the nation. More than 99,646 veterans live in Montana, including almost 10,000 female veterans. Montana also has over 6,650 military children, spread throughout every county, who make sacrifices every day so their family members can continue to protect the wellbeing of our state and our nation.

The Month of the Military Child gives us an opportunity to celebrate these resilient children for what they are—heroes. Our military kids must learn to cope with difficult, stressful circumstances and worry about the safety of their deployed parent as they watch the often frightening news from a faraway battlefield. These young heroes need the support of their extended families, peers, and communities to grow into strong and independent young men and women who will be the leaders we depend on in the future.

I commend the efforts of the National Guard Child and Youth Program and Malmstrom Child and Youth Program to ensure that our military children, who live in every corner of the state, are afforded local community support. I also want to thank the numerous other groups, organizations, and individuals that support Montana’s military kids.

I encourage Montanans to support and thank our military families every day of the year, and especially throughout April 2017 during the “Month of the Military Child.” Make sure to wear purple on April 14th in support of military kids—the heroes of the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Bullock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor