



**Children and Youth
District 28**

Madam President Liz, Officers, and Members of District 28,

I am very excited about the Month of the Military Child as it is just around the corner. I am excited about the project to give 100 gifts to military children in the Monterey area. I plan on passing gifts out to the kids' front doors (or a neutral location), so I would like to ask for help from our Junior Members as well as Senior Members to distribute them on Saturday April 16, 2022 (the day before Easter). If any junior/senior members would like to participate, please feel free to contact me. I will also be putting the gift bags together on Thursday, April 14th at the Legion Hall in Gonzales, I will give further information as the time gets closer.

Individuals of Unit 81 have really stepped up and donated pencils, Book Markers, Stickers, Coloring Books, Bouncy Balls, Wrist Bands, and more with a donation value of about \$300.00. I also have found a very generous donor from Teddy Bears with Hearts, an organization that provides teddy bears for children in distress. Susie Hanson (the "Chair Bear") has agreed to provide as many teddy bears as we need, she feels military children are deserving of this gift.

I have been in contact with several military sources including La Mesa Elementary School, Seaside Middle School, and MPC Childhood Center. I currently have a confirmed total of 8 children, but I have just recently been in contact with MPC Childhood Center and the director says she has around 90 children whose parents are active military, so I am hoping to get to my goal of 100 military kids by the end of March.

I still plan on sending "Thank You" cards to children in England. I will be asking classrooms at the Elementary School in Gonzales to participate by making a card and sending them on Friday, March 25. If you work at a school, this would be a great project for your classroom. It only takes a few minutes to say thank you; just provide the students with a half page of card stock or construction paper and allow them to decorate however they want. These cards can be placed in the gift bags for the Military Children or you can contact me and I will send them to England.

Thank you everyone for supporting our children.

Sondra Castillo,
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