



October 12, 2020

Groton Womans Club
Attn: Roseann Saridakis
PO Box 798
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Roseann,

Thank you for your generous donation of 67 letters, and your dedication to our mission. With the help of grateful Americans like you, we have delivered over **2.9 million** of our signature Care Packages to Deployed Troops, Veterans, Wounded Heroes and their Caregivers, Military Families, Recruits Graduates and First Responders since 2003.

A Care Package brings joy to a Service Member stationed far from home and enables a Veteran, Wounded Hero or Caregiver to feel appreciated -- many for the first time. Our Battalion Buddies bring comfort to the children of Deployed Troops at a very stressful time in their young lives. When we hand deliver Care Pouches to new Officer and Recruit Graduates, they know that as they begin their career of service to our great nation, they are supported along the way. And the delivery of First Responder Care Packages shows local heroes that their community values them in an often thankless job.

Your kindness not only helps to send Care Packages to brighten someone's day - by contributing to Operation Gratitude, you are also helping us to do something even greater. Together we are strengthening communities, and it all starts with you, our generous and thoughtful contributors and volunteers.

To demonstrate your impact, I want to share one of my favorite emails with you. It reminds me of what it was like to receive Care Packages during long deployments away from my own three sons:

To the Volunteers at Operation Gratitude:

I cannot express in words what your care packages do for our soldiers. The letters I received today brought joy to an otherwise lonely heart. I've never felt so proud to be a soldier in the US military. I am a husband and father of four. This is my first deployment and I have never missed a holiday with my family until this point. Your cards and very helpful items are a great reminder of the love I have for my family and for my country. Thank you for your support, and I will ensure that we pay it forward. God Bless, 1LT W.B., Army Reserves, Afghanistan

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. Every single donation we receive furthers our mission, and the recipients of your generosity will remember your kindness forever. As a 20-year Marine Veteran and the CEO of this amazing organization, I will always be appreciative of your support and encouragement for Operation Gratitude. You are truly making a difference!

With Warm Regards and Semper Fidelis,

Kevin M. Schmiegel
Kevin M. Schmiegel
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
Chief Executive Officer

Operation Gratitude has been granted non-profit status under Section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS Code. Your contribution to this organization is fully deductible in accordance with applicable law for federal income tax purposes as no goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.