

The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony

"When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, 'Please don't send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.' Our country has always supported its military in times of war through community efforts," said First Lady Laura Bush during a White House speech in 2004. "We have a great capacity to care for the home front. Now is the time for a new victory garden. In this garden we can tend to the needs of the military child."



The American Legion Auxiliary emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families. Show your support for military children during April – Month of the Military Child.

The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony is a unique program to involve Auxiliary Junior members and younger Sons of The American Legion to honor the sacrifices of their military child friends and classmates. The ceremony is inspired by the POW/MIA remembrance table ceremony. Our military answer the call to service every day as they defend freedom around the

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As we honor our veterans we must remember to honor those at home. The sacrifice the children make when a family member is deployed.

In 1986 Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberg recognized the importance of military-connected children and their role in military families when he established the "Month of the Military Child," underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community.

When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed while deployed his request was simple, "Please don't send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children."

In honor of the children we present to you the Military Child's Table Setting. This table is inspired by our POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.

- The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that the children of our deployed may flower and flourish where they are planted.
- The Hand Spade recognizes that the military children may be transplanted to a new location, any place at a moment's notice. They must acclimate themselves to a new school, new friends, possibly a new culture. (insert in pot)
- The Birthday Cake and Unlit Candles symbolize birthday's and special events that their deployed loved one will miss while they are away.
- The Baseball Glove and Ball represent the games they have without the cheering from their deployed loved one.
- The Ballet Slippers signify the that there are many special occasions that go without the deployed loved one sharing in the joys of that day, in person.
- The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed parents represent the foundation of our country's strength of families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad to ensure that our flag continues to fly free.

Remember the children.