



About

Through **Wings of Gratitude**, you can send messages of appreciation to our nation's military heroes. From handwritten notes and letters to heartfelt drawings or even an inspiring photograph, there are multiple ways to share your support. It's a fun and rewarding experience that the whole family can participate in together!

Choose Your Method

Handwritten Note



Typed Letter



Heartfelt Drawing



Inspiring Photograph



Message Tips

Encourage kids to handwrite messages. A handwritten letter feels more personal. Even a simple handwritten thank-you note can make all the difference in someone's life.

Salutations matter. Begin your message with a greeting that sounds more personalized. Consider using one of the following options: "Dear Hero," "Dear Brave Patriot," "Dear Courageous Troop" (if you're writing to someone currently serving), or "Dear Veteran" (if you're writing to someone who has previously served in the armed forces).

Express gratitude for their service. Sample things you could say include: "I wanted to send you my personal thanks for your service." "I'm grateful for your bravery." "Thank you for protecting our freedom and way of life." "I appreciate all that you've done to help keep our country safe and strong."

Keep it positive. Write about things in an uplifting and encouraging way. Avoid polarizing topics, such as politics and religion, as well as emotionally charged topics, like death or killing. But feel free to say you are keeping the person you are writing to in your thoughts and prayers!

Share your story. Think of generic information you might share about yourself with a person you just met. Topics might include whether you're in school or working, what your family is like or whether you have any pets, what your interests or hobbies are, and whether you've gone on any trips or have an event coming up.

Open a connection. You might not get a reply, but to encourage one, ask questions about how they are doing and who they are to learn more about them. You might consider asking if they can share a story about their current experience.

- **If an adult is writing:** Include contact info in the form of physical mailing address or email.

- **If an individual under 18 is writing (or being referred to):** ONLY use FIRST name and use a return address for a parent or teacher (with their permission).

Include a visual. Express a message of gratitude by drawing a picture or sending an inspiring photograph. This could be a photo of a beautiful nature scene or a heartfelt drawing. *Note: Avoid drawings that show fighting or violence. Do NOT include photographs featuring anyone under the age of 18.*

Submitting Your Message of Support

By mail:

For physical submissions, put your unsealed letters, cards, notes, photos, or artwork in a large envelope and mail to the address below:

Wings of Gratitude
P.O. Box 170339
Austin, TX 78717

Online:

For electronic submissions, upload your materials using an accepted file type and submit using the form found here:

WingsOfGratitude.org

Share Online

Spread the word about our mission by sharing your message of gratitude or even just a photo of you or your family working on crafting messages by using #WingsOfGratitude.

Disclaimer

Please note: By sending in your message of gratitude, you or your parent or guardian grants Wings of Gratitude and all of its partners and affiliates a non-exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, universal license to use, publish, or display the message online on Wings of Gratitude's website, partner and affiliates websites, or on social media channels.

