

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming April 2012, as Month of the Military Child in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Over the past decade, the United States has been involved in wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan. These wars have placed a great burden not only on our soldiers, but also on their families, including parents, spouses, and children. It is not just soldiers who serve, but their whole families.
- b. Under the leadership of First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, the White House has established "Joining Forces" -- a comprehensive national initiative to mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned.
- c. Joining Forces seeks to bring attention to the unique needs and strength of America's military families, including the impact that having a parent deploy to war has on children. In 2010, the White House reported that there were 1.7 million American children with a parent serving in the military and approximately 900,000 children with one or both parents deployed multiple times.
- d. Joining Forces has documented that military children often confront anxiety, stress, isolation, and emotional challenges when a parent is deployed to war. Even when a parent is not deployed, military children deal with parents' frequent reassignments and moves that disrupt education, extra-curricular activities, and social bonds.
- e. In April, we recognize the challenges and sacrifices of military children and call upon all sectors of society to provide recognition and support to military children.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

April 2012, as **Month of the Military Child** in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen, County Chair

Deborah Kafoury,
Commissioner District 1

Loretta Smith,
Commissioner District 2

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