



In their Own Words: Children in Military Families

In early 2009, Texans Care For Children invited classrooms and families throughout Texas to participate in "Letters to Leaders," a program through which children wrote to elected officials about issues in their lives. We received dozens of letters from elementary-school children with family in the military. Excerpts from these letters appear below.

"I'm a daughter of soldier, and I hate to see all the injured people in the store. Sometimes they are in a wheelchair with half of their body burned. My personal opinion is that all people miss their mom or dad. I also [am] very worried about our troops...Even though I am only ten years old, I do care." – K.

"My dad was almost killed in Iraq when all of his ribs were broken. Other kids don't have parents because of the war. They don't have nobody to live with. ... I don't want people's family to die. ...I hated [sic] when soldiers deploy. ... Have them guard the base in San Antonio instead." – R.

"When a soldier gets hurt, families get sad and then they start having problems, and that's very bad. Sometimes they even come back not caring about themselves. You should think about if the soldiers get hurt how does it effect the soldiers' family on the other side of the Earth?" – A.

"Last year, my Dad missed my birthday because he was gone for 15 months. I was so depressed it was probably my worst birthday." – L.

"I am eleven years old, and in two years my mom might get deployed to go to Iraq. I'm scared that something bad might happen to my mom. ... I'm not the only kid who's sad that their parent is leaving or already gone." – R.

"My mother reads the Army Times, and a couple of days ago it came in the mail. That day I decided to read it. I came across an issue about the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. At first I wasn't going to read it, but it sounded interesting. When I was reading it, I wasn't quite sure what they were going to send to Afghanistan. Later I found out they were talking about robots. I think it's a good idea because they could be repaired. Soldiers, unlike robots, can't be repaired." – M.

"I was very young during 9/11, so it's hard to remember a time without war. I've always wondered what a time of peace would be like. ... Many times I go to the RX and see men without legs ... and most of them in their twenties, eyeless, armless..." – H.

"Think how many of those dead troops were fathers of a girl or boy who loved them a lot, and imagine you were one of those kids. Would you like it?" – C.