



## **FAMILY ADVOCATE JOINS EFFORT TO SAVE MILITARY RESALE PROGRAMS**

Washington DC (September 27, 2012) – Candace Wheeler, a leading advocate for military families, has joined the effort to protect vital on-base exchange and commissary programs, the American Logistics Association (ALA) and the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits announced today. Wheeler joins the ALA as Vice President of Strategic Communications and Marketing and will play an integral role in Save Our Benefit’s effort to promote and preserve the military resale system.

Thousands of service members, veterans, and military families rely on their military shopping benefits to make ends meet. The average family of four saves \$7,000 dollars a year by shopping at on-base commissaries and exchanges. However, looming sequestration in Congress aimed at reducing the deficit will drastically weaken the military resale program if no action is taken.

“Throughout her career, Candace has been an exemplary leader in protecting the rights of service members and their families,” said Patrick Nixon, ALA President and President of the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits. “Commissaries and exchanges are built into the fabric of military community and family life. Candace will be instrumental in gathering support for these benefits across military advocacy organizations, industries, and the U.S. government. We are very excited to welcome her to the cause.”

Prior to joining the ALA, Wheeler served as Government Relations Deputy Director for the National Military Family Association. There, she earned the reputation as a staunch advocate for the military community, and was widely recognized as a spokesperson for military families in the halls of the U.S. Capitol and the Department of Defense. She also served as Chairman of the National Military Family Association’s Board of Governors and led the association through a critical stage of development.

“I view this as a great opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of military service members and their families at a critical time for all Department of Defense programs,” Wheeler said. “As a military spouse, I know first-hand the value of the military resale system. I hope to engage, educate, and excite military patrons and key decision-makers on the importance of these benefits.”

Wheeler will also serve as a spokesperson for Save Our Benefit, as it works to prevent Congress from stripping \$12 billion in military economic benefits from the defense budget. Over the past year, the ALA, which is the parent organization of the Save Our Benefit coalition, has been accelerating its efforts to

preserve the resale system. The ALA was also recognized by the White House this year for its efforts to support the hiring of thousands of military veterans and family members.

#### **ABOUT THE ALA**

The American Logistics Association (ALA) is a 90 year old trade association representing some of the largest consumer package companies and other companies that support improved quality of life for our military and their families through strong commissary, morale, welfare, and recreation programs. For more information, please visit [www.ala-national.org](http://www.ala-national.org). For more information on the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits, please visit [www.SaveOurBenefit.org](http://www.SaveOurBenefit.org).

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