



## **VFW to America: Show and share your thanks this veterans day**

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

All Americans are invited to join Operation Appreciation by thanking our nation's service members and veterans with an act demonstrating their appreciation. "This campaign is all about giving thanks to those who have served their country by way of an act of kindness, but the key to this initiative is capturing it, the essence of the moment and its significance, and then sharing it. Our hope is that every American who joins our campaign and thanks a veteran this Veterans Day inspires ten more to do the same, but in their own way," said John Hamilton, VFW adjutant general.

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## **Hill champions honored**

Military Officers Association of America

The Military Coalition (TMC) – an influential consortium of military and veterans' groups – presented its annual leadership awards to Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), and Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.) Inhofe and Mikulski were instrumental in leading the fight against privatization of the commissary benefit. As chair of the Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, Heck was the first line of defense to fend off cuts to military benefits and compensation. TMC also presented its Freedom Award to Anthony Lazarski, senior advisor for Inhofe, who tirelessly rallied support to pass the Inhofe-Mikulski commissary amendment.

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## **Most U.S. troops, vets would steer kids away from service**

Washington Examiner

Less than half of the nearly 6,300 polled in the annual *Blue Star Families Military Family Lifestyle Survey* of troops, veterans and military families would encourage their children to join the military. Between increasing uncertainty about benefits, expensive moves and difficulty finding employment for spouses and vets, only 45 percent of respondents said they would recommend military service to their own child. Brad Carson, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said this statistic is especially troubling given that more than 80 percent of those who join today have a family member who served.

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