



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 10, Issue 06

July 2017

Welcome to the June 2017 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council!!! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about Armed Forces Day and what it means

to them. This topic allowed members to share their thoughts about Armed Forces Day. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this June 2017 edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Rocky Castro
Megan Germain
Ian Horowitz
Josh Tapia
Christopher Regan
Dakota Smoot
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore





Heroic Americans Among Us

By Dakota Smoot

God bless the men and women who serve their country and earn the title “heroes.” America’s real heroes are the men and women who have sacrificed their own way of life to serve our country, and some of these people paid the ultimate price for our country and its freedom. Freedom isn't free and it does cost men and women their own lives. When you get a chance, thank the military and police officers in America.

We're not appreciating the sacrifices that they make, and the first thing you can do is thank the men and women in uniform for the sacrifice that they make for our country. So I thank my lucky stars that there are brave Americans among us who have answered the call to fight and provide security for the country and her people. Honor the men and women who have put on the uniform and chosen to defend their country for the rights of their children and families.

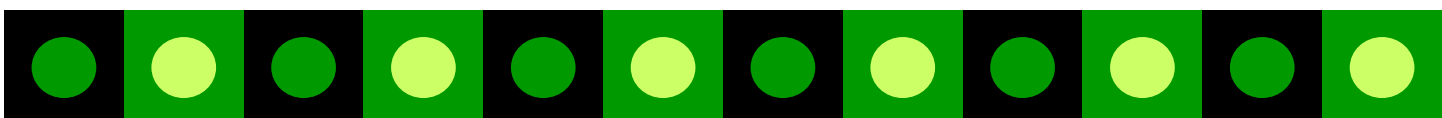
May God bless America!



I Had Family Members Who Served

By, Christina Waldron

I had family members who served in the armed forces. My grandfather's brother died on the USS Arizona. He was twenty one years old. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his heroism. My great uncles also served in the military during world war two. One uncle was in the Navy and the other was in the Army. He joined as a private and was promoted many times. He retired as a Major. He served in many areas of the world. He met and married a citizen of Germany. They had two children and retired to Louisville, Kentucky. As a member of the U.S Air Force, my grandfather served in Korea and at many Air Force bases around the country.

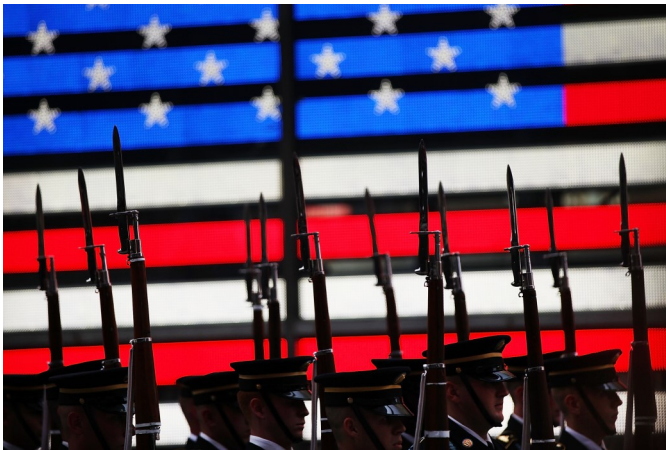




Armed Forces Day

By Derek Carraway

What is Armed Forces Day? It is a day created to honor all the Americans that have served in any branch of the military. The day was conceived in 1949 and first observed in 1950. Today the day is celebrated on the third Saturday of May. The day was also supposed to combine the separate days throughout the year that each branch celebrated individually. The day is also celebrated in other countries to celebrate those who have served in their military operations. This is a little background on Armed Forces Day.

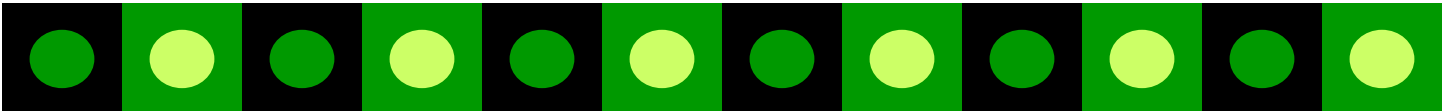


Welcome to Our Community

By Megan Germain

There are many Americans that are a part of the disability community that I think some of us may not think of as a part of our community, because they also belong to another community. I am speaking of those brave men and women that are in the United States Armed Forces, many of which return home with disabilities of their own.

However, I feel like it is something that is rarely talked within the disability community as a whole. I personally feel like we should welcome those who fought for our country with open arms into our community and help that as much as we can, and also let them know about all of the resources out there, not just the department of Veteran Affairs. Everyone with a disability should feel welcome because disability does not discriminate.





United States Marines

By Rocky Castro

Semper Fidelis, better known as "Semper Fi," which means "always faithful," is the motto of the United States Marines. The quality of always being faithful defines what a true Marine is and how they serve and protect our freedom. The United States Marines possess a number of traits, which distinguish themselves as true leaders and protectors of our country.

A few of these traits, which I find to be very favorable, include courage, loyalty, knowledge, dependability, integrity, and unselfishness. I am proud to be a son of a former United States Marine (never an ex-Marine according to my father). My father possesses each and every trait that I mentioned above. He has courage and unselfishness to the extent that he is willing to sacrifice his own life for those he loves. My father is a man of integrity, possessing both loyalty and dependability.

When he says he will do something or makes you a promise, he is determined to fulfill that promise no matter what may stand in his way. Finally, my father possesses knowledge, sometimes way too much. My family and I have a nickname for him, "the vault of useless knowledge" and have told him several times that he should go on the TV show "Jeopardy." All in all, I am very proud of my father for serving his country not only as a United States Marine but also in the United States Armed Forces. In conclusion, I am thankful and honor all of the men and women who have served and are currently serving our great country in the United States Marines and all of our U.S. Armed Forces.



Being Part of the Force

By Josue Tapia

When I was younger, I had dreams to be many different things. I wanted to be an ice cream truck driver, a scuba diver, a mutant with the power of teleportation, etc. I wanted to be many, many things, but one thing that always stuck was me that I wanted to be a jet fighter pilot in the Air Force!

I was around four years old when I got on an aircraft carrier stationed in Puerto Rico for the first time. I remember the sounds of our footsteps floating through the cabin. How everything kind of smelled like salt water and vegetables. Yeah, yeah, I wasn't a kid who gave a hard time with his vegetables so I knew my smells. Hahaha. Anyway, the best part was when I got to see the planes. Man was that amazing. The colors and just the way it looked made me excited. My dad let me sit on his shoulders so I would be able to see inside and it was cool with all those buttons. After that I made my decision that I wanted to fly planes when I grow up!

Well two years after that was when I lost my vision, so I couldn't fulfill that dream, but I sure as heck would've if I could. This month we show appreciation to the armed forces and the sacrifices they make for us. It took one tour for me to be one of them because they stood for a bigger cause. Like my other dream jobs. They stood for making a difference in someone's life. Let's appreciate the armed forces and all the things they've achieved, planned, and are about to do! And hey, maybe someday you'll be cheering for me!



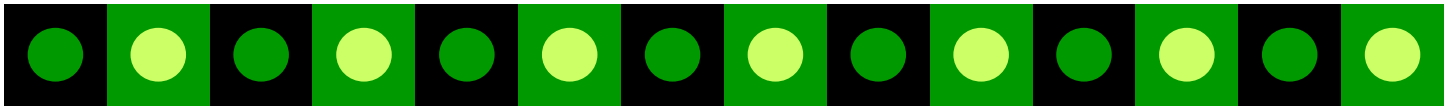
Deep Respect for the Armed Forces

By Chris Regan

Growing up, I have always held a deep respect for the armed forces. Even though I am not personally interested in becoming a soldier, I still admire those who choose to do so. They sacrifice the safety and comfort of their normal lives in order to serve around the world in areas where there is a chance they may actually die. It takes an extraordinary individual to consciously make that decision and accept the consequences of what might happen to them. Some of my earlier family members had also served in the armed forces, and that definitely strengthen my appreciation.

My widest exposure to the armed forces came when I began high school. I was initiated into the NJROTC program and stayed in it throughout my entire high school years. During my time there, I was taught about the values of community service, self-discipline, attention to detail, and organizational skills. That impact has remained with me throughout my college undergraduate career and is still holding strong as I'm a new graduate student.

Even though most people may believe that the armed forces are all about fun, adventure, and exploration, there is a lot more to it than that. There is an incredible degree of responsibility and maturity that comes with becoming a soldier. Not every single person is cut out for it. There's a reason why the Marines' slogan is "The Few. The Proud." If you want to be a soldier, you will have to push your body and mind to the extreme. You will have to follow orders to the letter, always respect the chain of command, and leave no room for ambiguity. The burdens may be great, but the rewards are even greater for those who want to shoulder them.



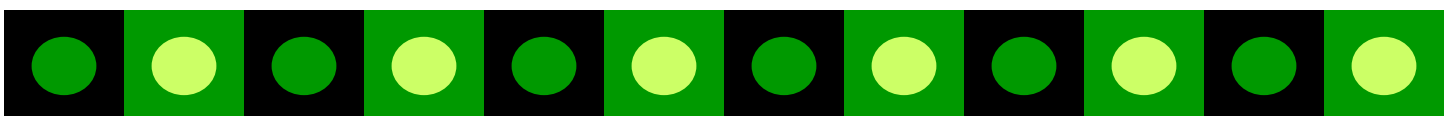
While Not All Go into Combat

By Serena Wetmore

Armed Forces Day is about honoring the men and women that serve our country. The people in the Air Force, Army, Navy, National Guard and other organizations sacrifice a typical family life in order to go where they are needed. While not all go into combat, they are still doing their jobs which are necessary in their own way. For example, one of my friends works as a Navy rescue swimmer. It's a pretty dangerous job and sometimes I worry about him, but he is doing what he loves and taking care of other people, which I respect. I miss him sometimes and I hope he will be okay.

Another one of my friends wants to become a radiology tech or other medical job and is considering enlisting in the military to get her schooling and training. Her brother is already in the Marines. While I sometimes worry about her doing this, I also know it is a safer alternative for being in the military. It is an equally important job as medical people are also needed.

To all active military and veterans, I would like to say thank you for what you do because even those that are not in combat do a job that is important in its own way to keep our world safe. I hope that you and all your family will be safe and know how much you are valued and appreciated.



ARMED ★ FORCES ★ DAY

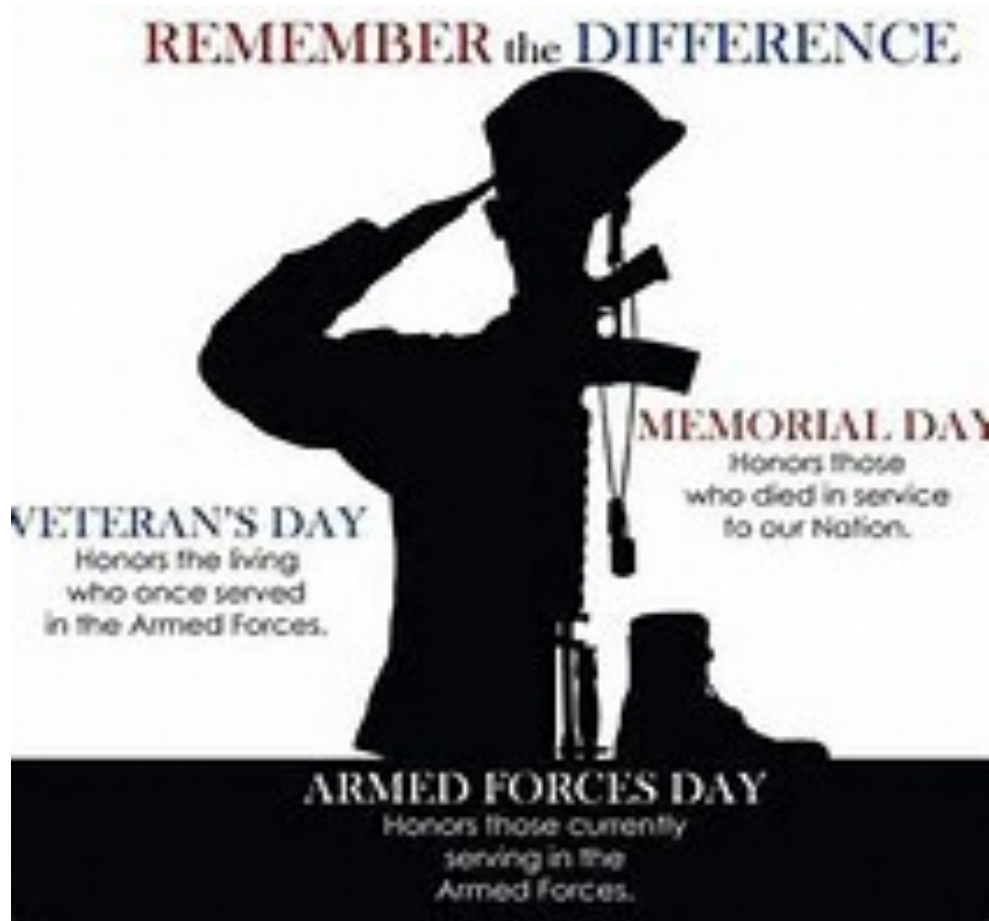
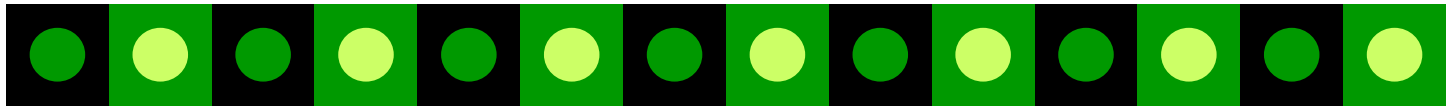


National Armed Forces Day

By Ian Horowitz

National Armed Forces Day is for the men and women who serve in the military. It's for the Navy, Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard. The Marines have their own separate day, but they support the National Armed Forces Day too. It's celebrated on the third Saturday of the month of May. There are motorcycle rides that support the troops. The armed forces have shows for the public to enhance the knowledge of the military. The armed forces want the people of the community to learn about the armed forces. They have display tables and equipment to show them off. The people also pay tribute to the armed forces. Paying tribute means to show respect. Sometimes there are big celebrations. There is music, flag ceremonies, and parades.

In my life, we celebrate Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. I didn't know about Armed Forces Day. I was a Boy Scout and we did many things to celebrate and remember the troops and veterans. We march in parades and put flags on headstones. We do flag ceremonies. But I really don't remember celebrating Armed Forces Day. Not very much came up in our city when we did an online search for it. I will contact the city commission to see if we can celebrate it in our city. We should celebrate the ones who are still active in the service.



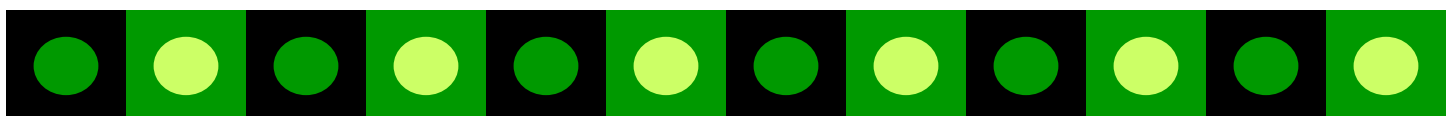
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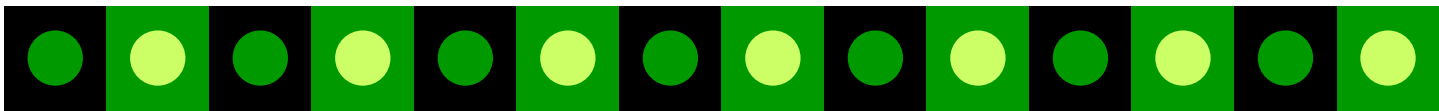
By Shevie Barnes

While for me the military has no direct effect I can understand, many men and women still fight daily for rights and freedoms I just take advantage of.

It seems that this day was made to unite the armed forces. This makes sense, being from what I know in war people aren't shot based on their military classified. This would only mean one thing, a day like armed forces makes sense.

When they get on the field to fight there is no separation. It should be the same when we celebrate, even though it is a month or so past this day. I hope this will be a reminder that without Armed Forces Day there would be a lot less holidays. No Independence Day, no Christmas, and no freedoms or reason to celebrate them.





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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