



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

### MAKING CARDS FOR OUR TROOPS BRIGHTENS DAYS, ONE CARD AT A TIME!

WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH MCCABE

A handmade card can bring happiness, especially when given from the military to their loved ones. Birthday wishes, well wishes, Christmas cards, and heartfelt notes of gratitude can make a world of difference when someone is deployed. That's where Making Cards for Our Troops comes into play.

For Patricia (Pat) Brodsky, founder and president of Making Cards for Our Troops, these heartfelt

messages are more than just paper and ink; they're lifelines of love and gratitude for military personnel and their families.

Since its inception in 2016, this nonprofit has created and distributed thousands of cards, all crafted with care and sent to service members worldwide through Operation Gratitude. Each card offers a personal touch that deployed troops can send to their loved ones back home.



## A MISSION OF CONNECTION

Pat's journey began with a simple request from a friend who wanted cards for a care package to the Middle East. What started as a one-time project with a small group of volunteers producing 500 cards quickly evolved into a full-fledged nonprofit. "We knew we couldn't stop," Pat recalls. "We had to keep this going."



Today Making Cards for Our Troops operates on a much larger scale. Volunteers send in handmade cards year-round. Each card is carefully reviewed to meet military standards—no glitter or materials that could compromise security. The

cards are then packaged and sent to Operation Gratitude, where they're included in care packages for troops deployed around the world.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Pat also holds local events to bring the community together. "We conduct small card-making events where people can gather and assemble cards," Pat shares. Once a year, Davidsonville United Methodist Church generously offers its fellowship hall for a major event. "We create 1,600 cards in one afternoon, have a silent auction, and serve lunch."

## A CALLING

Running Making Cards for Our Troops has become a calling for Pat. Now retired, she devotes her days to overseeing operations and making cards. "It's like a full-time job," she laughs, "but I feel this is a purpose that was waiting for me. My faith has grown stronger because every time we need something—whether it's volunteers, money, or a space—it always seems to be there."

The organization has experienced touching moments of recognition. At a Girl Scout event, a mother who had been helping the girls approached Pat to give her a well-deserved hug. "She told me, 'I'm a colonel in the Army. I received one of your cards while I was in Afghanistan.'" It doesn't get any more rewarding than that.





## A BRIGHT FUTURE

Despite the demanding work, Pat wouldn't trade it for anything. "This has been a highlight of my retirement," she says. "It's brought me friends, strengthened my faith, and given me a purpose."

Making Cards for Our Troops is always looking for card donations and financial support. To learn more, visit:

[www.MakingCardsForOurTroops.org](http://www.MakingCardsForOurTroops.org) or email [CardsForTroops2398@gmail.com](mailto:CardsForTroops2398@gmail.com).



Troop 422 in Annapolis



Spring card making event



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