



The 2009 Holiday Mail for Heroes Program

The American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes are excited to be joining forces for the third year to Send a Touch of Home to military service members, veterans, and their families in the United States and around the world. The *Holiday Mail for Heroes Program* will feature the collection, sorting and distribution of holiday cards for military and veteran families.

From November 11-December 7, you are invited to send holiday cards with messages of thanks and holiday cheer for 'Any Service Member' to the special post office box set up by Pitney Bowes:

Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

After Pitney Bowes conducts a detailed screening of the cards, they will ship them to participating chapters. The Hampton Roads Chapter is one of the participating *Holiday Mail for Heroes* chapters and will hold a December 11th volunteer sorting to prepare the cards for disbursement to our local military installations, Wounded Warriors Units, VA Medial Center and Service to Armed Forces' partner sites.

Holiday Mail for Heroes GUIDANCE

<u>DO</u>	<u>DON'T</u>
o Ensure that your cards are signed	o Send letters. Only cards are being accepted.
o Make cards more widely dispersible by using "Dear Service Member or Veteran" than a more specific language	o Include your phone number, or email addresses on the cards. They will not be forwarded onto servicemembers or veterans.
o Use holiday neutral cards rather than religious-themed cards	o Send cards with excessive amounts of glitter, which could aggravate existing health conditions of wounded servicemembers or veterans.
o Limit the number of cards to 15 from one individual or 50 from a group	o Include inserts or photos. They will be removed during the screening process.
o Bundle cards and place in large mailing envelopes	o Send cards to the post office box after December 7, 2009.
o Send cards to the PO Box listed above	o Send cards to the Hampton Roads Chapter.

For more information on participating in Holiday Mail for Heroes, please contact Sheila Keenan, Service to Armed Forces Coordinator at the Hampton Roads Chapter (757-838-7320) or visit www.redcross.org/holidaymail.

Service to the Armed Forces: From the front lines to the home front, the American Red Cross provides service members, their families and veterans with the care and assistance they need. The American Red Cross serves and supports members of the military, veterans, and their families by providing emergency communications, comfort and assistance each day. In fact, nearly one in four Americans has had a direct experience with Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces. The Red Cross continues to meet the changing needs of service members, veterans and their families, as it has for more than 125 years.