

Go ñeid sondal!

THE MONTHLY SRP-MIC VETERANS NEWSLETTER

VETERANS REPRESENTATIVE TEAM THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

By Amanda White

The month of April is designated as the Month of the Military Child. April 15th was "Purple Up! For Military Kids" day. A day for the Department of Defense Education Activity communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. We encourage you to take part and recognize any children in your lives, commend them on their efforts and sacrifices they have made during this pandemic; even if they are not a military child. They have demonstrated the emphasis of the United States military culture "the total force!"

You can read more about Purple Up! For Military Kids at <https://militarybenefits.info/purple-up-day/>.

APRIL HOLIDAYS

Month of the Military Child

Gold Star Spouses Day
April 5th

The terms Gold Star family, Gold Star Spouses, and Gold Star Wives traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members killed in the line of duty in combat. Gold Star Spouses Day was created to honor these loved ones.

National Former POW Recognition
Day
April 9th

Air Force Reserve Birthday
April 14th

Purple Up Day
April 15th

Army Reserve Birthday
April 23rd




FROM THE U.S. **DEPARTMENT OF** **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

BURIAL BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY

1. Find out if you or your veteran family member are eligible. Eligibility criteria is:
 - A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge when the Service Member separated from the military, **or**
 - The spouse or dependent child of a Service Member or Veteran, even if the Service Member or Veteran has already passed away, **or**
 - In some cases, the adult dependent child of a Service Member or Veteran (if you aren't married) the VA bases its decisions of whether or not you or a veteran family member qualify for burial in a VA national cemetery on service history—or the service history of the Veteran or Service Member who's sponsoring your application for burial as a spouse, surviving spouse, or unmarried adult child.

Note: If a Service Member dies on active duty, they're eligible for burial without a pre-need decision letter. Visit <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/> for more details about eligibility.



TIP of the WEEK

SAVAHCS

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month







April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During the month of April and year-round, VA works to increase public awareness of VA's services and support for Veterans who have experienced "military sexual trauma" (MST). The term VA uses to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment during military service.

MST includes any sexual activity that you are involved with against your will. Examples include:

- Being pressured or coerced into sexual activities
- Sexual contact or activities without your consent
- Being touched or grabbed in a sexual way that made you uncomfortable
- Comments about your body or sexual activities that you found threatening
- Unwanted sexual advances that you found threatening

Anyone can experience MST, regardless of gender. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively affect a person's mental and physical health, even many years later.

Visit the VA's [Military Sexual Trauma](#) website to learn more about VA resources that are available to Veterans who have experienced MST.



FROM THE SRP-MIC OFFICE **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

WARRIOR OF THE MONTH

Jon Kingsley

(Community Employee)

Enlistment Dates: 19840411 – 19880330

Branch: US Air Force

Rank: E4 - Senior Airman



• What inspired you to join the military? And why did you choose the Air Force?

My father was a big inspiration to me when I was growing up. He had enlisted in the Marine Corps twice, once during WWII and again during the Korean War. He had always encouraged me to serve our country. My reason for joining the US Air Force as opposed to the other branches was my love for aviation, and to further my career in electronics.

• What words of encouragement would you give a Community Member interested in joining the military?

I would remind them that the freedoms we enjoy in this country came at a great price, they were not free. And that we must never forget those who served, those who are still missing, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect those freedoms. Following in the footsteps of those that came before us is not only a great honor, but it will also ensure that this country remains free.

Contact Information for Veterans Affairs Office: Phone - (480)362-7884 Email - Veteranservices@srpmic-nsn.gov

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To read the full interview with Jon Kingsley follow us on Facebook or Instagram.