

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1986, former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger designated the month of April as the Month of the Military Child, an opportunity to recognize the contributions and personal sacrifices our military children make in support of the Armed Forces of the United States of America while their parents serve our nation; and

WHEREAS, military children are a source of pride, earning our appreciation for the significant contributions they make in our schools, our communities, and throughout our state despite prolonged and repeated absences by one or both parents; and

WHEREAS, because the average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school, and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems throughout their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) is committed to resolving the educational transition issues that are faced by these children and their families, ensuring that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not delayed in achieving their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, the commitment to educational quality for military and veteran connected children in South Carolina is a team effort among the South Carolina Department of Education, the South Carolina Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs, the South Carolina Military Base Task Force, the South Carolina National Guard, and the Military Child Education Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Star program has grown into a national initiative that recognizes schools and districts, including nine school districts in South Carolina, that adopt a set of criteria to ease the transition to new schools and communities for military children and enhance their education experiences; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 observance of the Month of the Military Child provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the thousands of military children in South Carolina who, through their strength and resiliency, are the heart and soul of the military family.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as the

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the duty we have to support these military children and their families and also encourage all school districts with children of active duty, Reserve, or National Guard families to become Purple Star Schools to better understand and meet the needs of military children across our state, to honor the courage and sacrifices of our military children who so faithfully uphold the American spirit, and to remember that when parents serve in the military, their children serve as well.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA