

Getting to know the

## Somerset County Military Family Support Group

Our desire is to assist military service members and their families by providing support that promotes self-sufficiency, strength, stability, readiness, and love.

Our support group was formed in March of 2003 and is comprised of military families, Vietnam Veterans, retired military, and community members.

Now, more than ever, whether a family member, a spouse, or a friend, you may take comfort in knowing there is a support system in place at all times to make deployment of, and separation from, your loved one as easy as possible.

Our group has a large network to help the family left behind with any challenges that may arise from home maintenance to insurance issues. If help cannot be provided by the group, you will be instructed as to where to turn. Our “support family” watches out for one another.

With overwhelming pride we stand united in support of, pray for, correspond and thank the families of the brave soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen defending our freedom and protecting the United States of America.

## What does the support group do?

The Military Family Support Group actively reaches out by . . . . .

- Planning candlelight vigils and rallies to recognize and pray for deployed personnel,
- Keeping families aware of critical issues the military face and who to turn to if necessary,
- Advocating and promoting public awareness for the military and their families.
- Mailing care packages monthly to comfort deployed military service members.



## Present families with a Blue Star Service Flag.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the Department of Defense gave authorization to display the Blue Star Flag by families with members serving in any branch of the Armed Forces during conflict. For the first time since WWII, this symbol is being displayed by families of military personnel. The blue star is symbolic of hope and pride. When you see a Blue Star Flag in a window, pause for a moment and remember the men and women that are protecting America at this time.

## Do I have to know someone in the military to attend meetings?

No, you do not have to know someone in the military and there is no fee to become involved.

## What if I am having a hard time coping and my emotions show at the meeting?

Take comfort in the knowledge that others in our “support family” are facing similar situations and are also struggling. You will find a safe place to share your tears, your fears, and at times, your anger. You will find understanding and guidance among friends

## How often does the group meet?

We believe that meetings should be held regularly as situations can change daily. Our group meets every **Monday evening** beginning at **7:00pm** until approximately 9:00pm. Meetings are held at the **Somerset Senior Center** located at **1338 South Edgewood Ave., Somerset, PA.**

Children are welcome to attend. To find out more please see contact information (on other side).

## How can I be of assistance?

- Perhaps you may,
- Have a suggestion for a fund raiser,
  - Have a talent that could be put to use in our group,
  - Wish to send a financial donation,
  - Wish to participate in events to show your support, or
  - Would just like to stand with us in support of our troops.

**Please join us!** Meetings are open to the public, casual, and very informative.

. . . . . *keeping hearts at home connected with hearts abroad* . . . . .