

PRESSRELEASE

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219)873-1400 • Fax: (219)873-1515

www.emichigancity.com

For Immediate Release

Date: May 13, 2005

A Tribute To Our Troops

Michigan City, IN (May 13, 2005) - Patriot Packs, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting those military personnel serving in combat zones and their families who wait for them to return. A special celebration, honoring our troops who are far from home, and those who have served in years past, will be held on Armed Forces Day, May 21st, from 10 a.m. until Noon at Millennium Plaza.

Armed Forces Day honors all branches of the armed forces of the United States. It is celebrated on the third Saturday of May with military exercises on land, at sea, and in the air. Military installations are usually open to the public on Armed Forces Day. President Harry S. Truman proclaimed Armed Forces Day, and it was first celebrated in May 1950. It replaced three separate celebrations for the Air Force, Army, and Navy. James V. Forrestal, the first secretary of defense, helped unite the armed services under the Department of Defense after World War II ended in 1945.

The celebration in Michigan City will include a ceremonial flag raising will be conducted by the Michigan City ROTC as well as family-oriented activities. Pastor David Matevia will offer an invocation, and Mayor Chuck Oberlie is a scheduled speaker. A soldier who has recently returned from Iraq will speak of his experiences there. In addition, a special recognition will be given to those families with soldiers currently serving overseas. Children are invited to draw pictures for the troops, enjoy the antics of clowns and experience face painting.

Patriot Packs is a 501c3 non-profit organization. 100% of donations are used for charitable purposes. Most monetary donations are used for postage. Some funding may be available for families with great financial hardships. All monetary donations to Patriot Packs are tax deductible.

Amy Petri, co-founder of Patriot Packs, Inc., said, "Many of our fellow friends and family members are serving our great country in far off lands. Patriot Packs, Inc. has been formed in LaPorte County, Indiana to help not only our local soldiers but their families and any other United States soldier serving our country in a combat zone. We hope that all the friends and family of those

dedicated men and women who currently serve our country will join us in celebrating their courage, honor, and selflessness. Patriot Packs will proudly support our troops and continue operations as long as the need continues for our services.”

“If you cannot attend the celebration,” Petri continued, “please send us your soldiers’ contact information so that we can send our thanks for their efforts.”

The organization will accept donations of the following items (travel sizes only, please) which will be sent to our troops:

- Batteries
- Beanie Babies
- Beef Jerky
- Boxed Cereal
- Burn cream/aloe
- Cereal Bars
- Chapstick
- Chips/single serve
- Cotton balls
- Crossword puzzles
- Deodorant
- Disposable cameras
- DVDs
- Eye drops
- Fleece blankets
- Gum
- Handheld electronic games
- Hard candy
- Magazines
- Pens
- Phone cards/ AT&T
- Q-tips
- Razors
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream
- Soap
- Socks
- Stationery
- Sunscreen
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Travel pillow

Petri concluded, “Visit our website, www.patriotpacksinc.org, and leave a message that will be sent to our troops. You can also provide us with contact information for your loved one who is currently serving our country; we will add him/her to the list of soldiers who receive care packages from Patriot Packs. Freedom bracelets and angel magnets as well as cookbooks can now be ordered from our website. All proceeds are used to send care packages to our troops overseas.”

The Armed Forces Day celebration will be held at Millennium Plaza in Washington Park near Lake Michigan.

Patriot Packs, Inc. can be reached through the following:

E-mail: patriotpacks@yahoo.com

Phone: 219-872-4USA

Web Site: www.patriotpacksinc.org

Mailings Address: PO Box 2135, Michigan City, In 46361

Office Address: 2003 E US Hwy 20, Michigan City, In 46360

#####