



COMMUNITY COVENANT

supporting those who serve

Community Covenant Program Introduction

The Community Covenant Program is an initiative created in 2008 by the United States Army, designed to reach out to all military service members regardless of service branch. The intent of the program is to encourage cities and towns across the country to formally commit their support to service members (current and former) and military families residing within their communities. The initiative in Utah began in early 2010 with a Community Covenant Citation read on the floors of the Utah House and Senate.

An integral part of this formal commitment is tailoring each city, town, and county Community Covenant to the local level according to the needs of local service members and the desires of local leadership. Each Community Covenant is unique and can be as simple or complex as the leaders who create it want it to be.

Essentially, cities and towns are encouraged to form a collaborative group consisting of civic leaders, educators, law enforcement officials, religious representatives, health care providers, Veterans Service Organization leaders, local businesses, and other organizations of their choosing. The purpose of this collaborative group is to evaluate and decide on what the community can collectively do to support service members and their families.

Ideally, we'd like to see each city set up a volunteer military liaison position to keep elected, school, and law enforcement officials and local clergy aware of the service members in their area who are deployed, thus ensuring that families of service members are being well cared for. Such a liaison would be able to coordinate with the local community and also be educated on the benefits and programs that are available from the National Guard and other services.

As a culminating event to every Community Covenant, cities, towns, and counties are encouraged to create a document (The Community Covenant) that formally declares their commitment to supporting service members and their families. The document is typically signed during a ceremony that can be as big or small as the community leaders want to make it, and will include signatures of key leaders or organizations within the community. We suggest that local media and community members be invited to take part in the ceremony. Also, we want to make sure that veterans of past wars and retired service members also be included in the ceremony, as well as in the planning of the actual Community Covenant, to remind them that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

We have many resources and will provide guidance for this program, but it is our hope that individual communities will become excited about the program and pool their collective resources and creativity to shape their Community Covenant to the unique needs of their community and give it a local touch. We believe the Community Covenant initiative can lead to increased awareness and support for military service members in each of Utah's cities, towns, and counties, as well as to increased patriotism and devotion to community and country.

We appreciate your willingness to read about the Community Covenant Program. Please feel free to email or call me if you have further questions.

With utmost respect,

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family matters,
because families
matter”

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