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STARS AND STRIPES

Community Publication

OKINAWA

VOLUME 19 NO. 9

APRIL 23 – MAY 6, 2026

SUBMIT STORIES TO: OKINAWA@STRIPE.COM • OKINAWA.STRIPE.COM • FACEBOOK.COM/STRIPEPACIFIC

FREE



MOM & DAD WORK A LOT

I like being a military child because I get to live in a nice house. I go to a nice school. It is fun but my mom and dad have to work a lot. My mom is a baby doctor. My dad is just a doctor. But I still have a lot of friends like Timothy. That's what I like about Japan and being a military child.

- Charlie, 2nd Grade, Zukeran Elementary School

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Read more military children stories inside!



Annie

Write a message to your graduate in this space. You can write up to a maximum of 20 words.

Sender's name

LOVE YOU EVERY DAY

Military child is fun to be.
I spend a lot of time with my family.
Love you every day.
I hope you come back soon.
Then we make signs for you.
A good surprise is for you.
Remember we miss you all the way.
You would see us every day.



- Natalie Guzman, 4th Grade, Bob Hope Elementary School

PROUD OF MY DAD

I love being a military child because I like to practice with laser guns. My dad is in the Air Force and teaches people how to survive. Being a military child is fun because I like training.



- Ellis D., 1st Grade, Bob Hope Elementary School

Congratulate a 2026 grad!

Our annual Grad Tab highlighting Pacific DODEA high schools and their graduating classes will appear in the May 21 edition of Stripes Okinawa.

For just \$25, customize your own message that will appear in this keepsake edition.

What you need:

- A photo of the graduate
- Graduate's first name
- Your name, as you want it to appear in print (e.g. "Suzy & Steve" or "Mom & Dad")
- A congratulatory message of no more than 20 words
- The graduate's high school

Send info by May 5, 5 p.m. to PacificGrad@stripes.com and a Stripes representative will follow-up with you right away.

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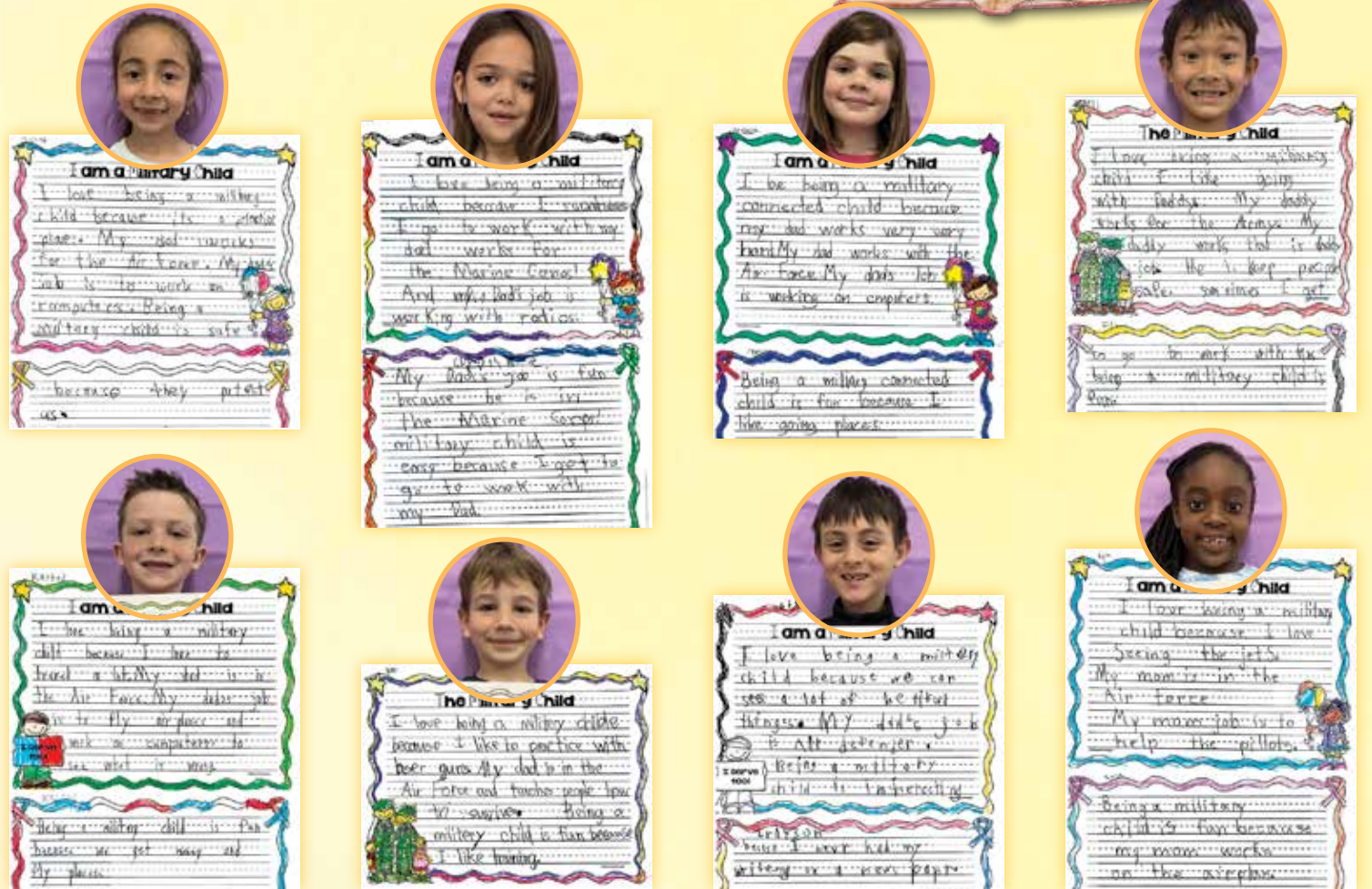
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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School

1st Grade / Ms. Farrell



See more Bob Hope stories on Page 4



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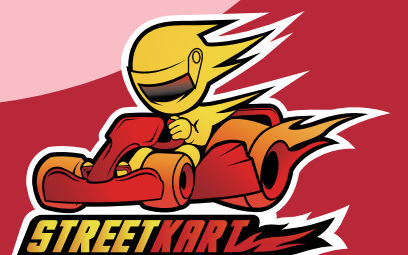
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THIS GOLDEN WEEK – GO BIG, GO CHURAUMI

Golden Week Special 2026

Apr. 25 (SAT) – May 6 (WED)
TIME 8:30 - 20:00 *LAST ENTRY 19:00

Music Night Vol.1
Ryoma Violin Live

A live concert featuring violinist Ryoma and pianist Nanako Taguchi. The performance will center on "SHURI NO UTA," a collaborative piece Ryoma created with local artists to support the restoration of Shuri Castle.

Date : Apr 25 (Sat) & 26 (Sun)
Times: 18:00 / 19:00. * 30-min performance each
Venue: In front of Kuroshio Sea Tank

Music Night Vol.2
Ayano Kinjo of band Kiroro Kiroro special.

Ayano Kinjo of the band Kiroro, who debuted with the hit "Nagai Aida" in 1998 and is beloved across Asia, performs two heartfelt electric piano-and-vocal sets. Kinjo is known for her pure sound and wide popularity across Asia.

Date : May 3 (Sun) & 4 (Mon)
Times: 18:00 / 19:00. * 30-min performance each
Venue: In front of Kuroshio Sea Tank

Stamp Rally Adventure

Explore four locations across the park, layering stamps at each stop to reveal a complete design. Once finished, take home a special souvenir postcard.

Date : Apr 25 (Sat) – May 6 (Wed)
Times: 8:30 – 16:30

Children's Day Special Giveaway

Kids who sign up for an annual pass receive an exclusive gift.

Place : 3F Annual Pass Counter
Date : May 5 (Tue)

OKINAWA CHURAUMI AQUARIUM

OKINAWA CHURAUMI AQUARIUM <https://churaumi.okinawa/en/>
 Event details are subject to change without notice. Thank you for your understanding.

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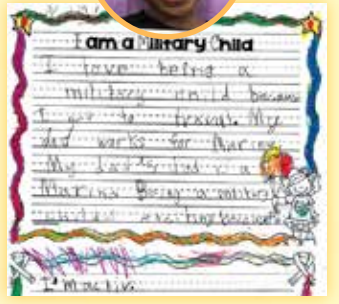
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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

1st Grade
Ms. Farrell



3rd Grade



- Keane Do

Check out more military children stories at okinawa.stripes.com

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School

1st Grade

Ms. Horikoshi

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you have to move. Being a military child is good because you can make new friends. It makes me proud that my parents encourage me. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being one can be difficult because you have to move. Being a military child is good because you get a new experience. Being a military child makes me brave. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child is difficult because your family might have to go some place different. It is good because you can experience nature. It makes proud that we are strong. It is cool to be a military child.

I'm a Military Child

This is my life as a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because I might miss my old home. Being a military child is good because it makes me proud that my parents keep me safe. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It is difficult because you have to move. It is good because you go to school. I am proud to be a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult to move. Being a military child is good because you have new friends. I am proud to be a military child because I am brave. That was my lesson all about a military child.

I'm a Military Child

Being a Military Child is good. By: Ezra Diaz. Being a Military Child can be difficult because you have to leave your pet. Being a Military Child can be good because you can go everywhere. It makes me proud because my parents do a lot for me. That is my life as a Military Child.

I'm a Military Child

This is my life as a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because when I moved here I had to leave my dog. Being a military child can be good because you get to meet new people. Being a military child can be something you can be proud of because I can be trustworthy. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am brave because I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might have to leave your belongings. Being a military child is good because you can meet new people at school. I am proud to be a military child because I am brave. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I like being a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you have a big family. Being a military child is good because you can meet new friends. I like being a military child because I am brave. Being a military child is great.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child is difficult because I will miss my pet. You can meet new friends and teachers, but you may miss your old friends. It makes me proud that my parents help me. This is about being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your family. Being a military child is good because you can make new friends. It makes me proud to be a military child because my family is happy. That was about being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child is difficult because you might miss your friends. Being a military child is good because you can make new friends. It makes me proud that my parents keep me safe. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you have to make new friends. Being a military child is good because you get to make good friends. It makes me proud because we are strong. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might need to learn different language. Being a military child can be good because you get to move into a new home. I am proud to be a military child because I am trustworthy. That was all about my life as a military child.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School



1st Grade

Ms. Nelson

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your home. being a military child is good because you get to move into a new house. It makes me proud because I am strong. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I'm a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your family. Being a military child is good because you can make new friends. It makes me proud that my parents help keep us all safe.

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is good. being a military child can be difficult because you have to make new friends. It is good because you learn new things. It makes me proud that I am brave. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is good. Being a military child can be difficult because you have to move. It is good because you get a new room. It makes me proud that we are strong. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your old home. Being a military child is good because you get a new room. It makes me proud that my parents take care of me.

I'm a Military Child

I am proud to be a military child. Being a military child is difficult because you have to make new friends. Being a military child is good because you can get a new pet. It makes me proud that I am brave when my dad leaves. That was all about my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because I miss my grandparents. Being a military child is good because you get a new class room. It makes me proud because we are kind to everyone. Do you want to be a military child?

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might have to never being a military child is good because you can make new friends. It makes me proud that I am brave. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you have to be new students. Being a military child is good because you get a new room. It makes me proud because my parents care for me. Do you want to be a military child?

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is good. Being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your old home. Being a military child is good because you can get a new pet. It makes me proud that my mom and dad help me grow. I like being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your family. Being a military child is good because you get a new room. It makes me proud that my parents keep me safe. That was my life of being a military child.

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is good. Being a military child can be difficult because you have to move. It is good because you learn new words. It makes me proud that I am brave. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because I will miss my school. Being a military child is good because you can learn a new culture. I am proud to be a military child because my parents help keep us safe. That is my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It can be difficult because you have to move. Being a military child is good because I got to go to a new place. It makes me proud because I graduate from my old school. That was my life as a military child.

I'm a Military Child

I am proud to be a military child. Being a military child can be difficult because you might miss your friends. Being a military child is good because you get to move into a new house. It makes me proud because my parents earn money. I like to be a military child.





Bob Hope Elementary School

4th Grade

Ms. Turco

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Natalie Guzman #7

Military child is fun to be.
I spend a lot of time with my family.
Lose you every day.
I hope you come back soon.
T hope we come together for peace.
A sound surprise it for you.
Rember we miss you all the time.
Y'all would see us every day.

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Maria Rodriguez

Military life is hard.
I miss my family.
Lose you every day.
I hope you come back soon.
T hope we come together for peace.
A sound surprise it for you.
Rember we miss you all the time.
Y'all would see us every day.

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

How does your family stay connected during a deployment?

Anna Cole

Military life is hard.
I miss my family.
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Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Kate Taylor

Military life is hard.
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Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

What is the best thing about having a parent in the military?

CONOR BEM

Military life is hard.
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Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Maria Chavez

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Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Clayton & Amber Jones

Military life is hard.
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girlscouts
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Discover your passions

Gain amazing skills

Girl Scouts across Okinawa want you to join their global sisterhood! Register today and take advantage of our Extended Year membership!

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4th Grade
 Ms. Wood and Ms. Eskins



Team Woodkins

What is it like to be part of a military family?
 Does it make you feel different from your civilian friends?

Life at a military base is very different from civilian life. When you have to move every year with your family, it can be hard to make friends. You don't have a home and you don't know where you are going to live next year. But you are proud of your dad and you are proud of your mom. You are proud of your family and you are proud of your country.

6/11/2026

What is it like to be part of a military family?
 Does it make you feel different from your civilian friends?

Being a military child is hard because you have to move every year. You don't have a home and you don't know where you are going to live next year. But you are proud of your dad and you are proud of your mom. You are proud of your family and you are proud of your country.

6/11/2026

Tell about other members of your family that have served in the military.

My dad served in the military for 20 years. He was a sergeant and he was in the army. He was in the army for 20 years and he was in the army for 20 years. He was in the army for 20 years and he was in the army for 20 years.

6/11/2026

Write a thank-you note to your parent for serving in the military.

Dear Dad, I want to thank you for serving in the military. You are a hero and you are a great dad. I love you and I am proud of you. Thank you for everything you do for our country and for our family.

6/11/2026

Why do members of the military deserve respect?

Members of the military deserve respect because they help and keep the country safe. They work hard and they are brave. They are the ones who protect us and they are the ones who keep us safe. They are the ones who are the best at what they do.

6/11/2026

Write a haiku about life in the military.
 First line: 5 syllables
 Second line: 7 syllables
 Third line: 5 syllables

Life is hard but fun
 It takes a lot of courage
 But it is worth it

By: [Name]

What is the best thing about having a parent in the military?

The best thing about having a parent in the military is that they are always there for you. They are always there to help you and to support you. They are always there to love you and to care for you. They are always there to be your hero.

6/11/2026

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

M is for Mom
 I is for Dad
 L is for Love
 I is for In
 T is for Team
 A is for Army
 R is for Respect
 Y is for You

6/11/2026

Write a thank-you note to your parent for serving in the military.

Hi Dad, thank you for serving in the military. You are a hero and you are a great dad. I love you and I am proud of you. Thank you for everything you do for our country and for our family.

6/11/2026

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 R is for Respect
 Y is for You

6/11/2026

If you had a friend whose parent was being deployed for the first time, what advice could you give your friend about how to make that time more successful?

I would tell my friend to be brave and to be strong. I would tell my friend to be happy and to be proud. I would tell my friend to be brave and to be strong. I would tell my friend to be happy and to be proud.

6/11/2026

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

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 I is for Dad
 L is for Love
 I is for In
 T is for Team
 A is for Army
 R is for Respect
 Y is for You

6/11/2026

Write a kind letter to your parent in the military.

Dear Mom, I want to thank you for serving in the military. You are a hero and you are a great mom. I love you and I am proud of you. Thank you for everything you do for our country and for our family.

6/11/2026

Write a thank-you note to your parent for serving in the military.

Thank you for serving in the military. You are a hero and you are a great dad. I love you and I am proud of you. Thank you for everything you do for our country and for our family.

6/11/2026

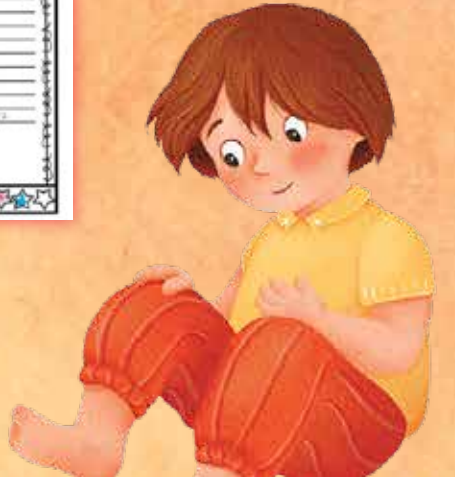
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6/11/2026



See more Team Woodkins on Page 10





UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS in Asia

University of Maryland Global Campus in Asia COMMENCEMENT

2026



Congratulations Graduates! SATURDAY, APRIL 18 OKINAWA, JAPAN

Master of Business Administration

- Richardboy Lirio Alonzo
Erwin Jerome Z. Angeles
Jerome Vincent Nicholas Oliva
Asuncion
Troy Batts-Reyes
Brandon Lee Baxter
Carlos Becker
Justin Billingsley
Scott Allen Birkley
Nathaniel Cantu Jr.
Brian Oliver Carter
Erik Armando Chairer
Chih-Hsun Chen
Joseph Andrew Bolano de La Cruz
Annaliza M. Delacruz
Walter Joseph Fahnestock Jr.
Jinsy Lirio Fassoth
Todd Michael Fedele II
Linda Gallucci
Danielle Legrand
Taeodong Hae
Alexander Hammett
Marc Eric Hernandez
Christina Hestermer
Grey Hodson
Shamar Lee Hope
Lawrence Charles Kamal Johnson
Steven Kay
Justin Lamar Kerns
Ki Hong Kim
Skye Lebreton
Nga Le
Chere Taynae Lee
Danielle Legrand
Jill Velasquez Limjoco
Jonathan Lindstrom
Dayla Moghimi Azari
Nathan B. Newberry
Rose Nerlie Oceant
Amber Ann Padilla
Sierra A. Parzyck
Benjamin Isaac Pittenger
Thomas Ray Regan
Karen Leon Santiago
Andrae Nathan Servida Sarao
Reden Bernard Sese
Jun Shimada
Tyler Christopher Stamples
Gian Carlo Sunga
Vincent Toth
Roy Daniel Vaneek
Taylor Watkins
Ashlie Westover
Tomika Giovanna White
Mark Christopher Witten
Bla Genuay Yang

Master of Science

- Kimberly Ackers
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Salomon Rodriguez-Constanza
David Rothgery
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Devin Harold Saunders
Hana Sloss
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Ronald Bernard Spencer
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Jessica Manco
Dazzle Candelaria Manjares
Kimberly Marroquin
Marisel Martin
Alvaro Martinez II
Esteban Martinez
Jesus Martinez
Joshua Martinez
Julian Andres Martinez
Mario A. Martinez
Priscilla Martinez
Hector Rene Martinez Bonilla
Rachel Maria Mason
Michael Akira Matsuhara
Quentin Matthews
Adrian Marquis Matticeallen
Marcus Aljuan Maultsby Jr.
Jared Mccants
Alec McDermott
Nina McDermott
Miles Dojier Livingston Mckie
Ronald McLeod
Andre Saleem McNeil
Christian Meadows
Oscar Mauricio Soto
Jack A. Sovie
Brendan Scott Speer
Jessie Speller Jr.
Dayverson St Phard
Kai Christopher Stallings
Kejuan T. Stamps
Philip Stanley
Nadia Stephanie Starr
Jessi Stegall
Ali Stepanov
David Stephens
Nicholas Stevens
Alyssa Marie Stewart
Ethan Stigman
Diego Manuel Ramirez
Dong Won Suh
Ta'Shavia La'Tierra Surgeont
Sean E. Sutherland
Heiwa Suzuki
Natalie Swanigan
Douglas Evan Swanson
Rena Williams
Tomoyuki Tanaka
Andrew Tate
Zachary Taylor
Joseph E. Teixeira
Alyana Lee Teang
Ronald Zeak Terry III
Sujan Thomas
Dejanque Thomas
Noah Michael Thomas
Tyron Leon Thomas Jr.
Nicholas Thurmond
Angelica Leigh Tindall
Eduardo Manuel Torres
Eduardo Torres
Luis Torres
Shuhel Toyonaga
Eugene Yuma Trichell
Etienne Trotman
Jack Earl Turner
Abraham Urena
Asadbek Ruslanovich Urunov
George Eilapo Uti
Ashley Uzzle
Sebastian Viala Zavala
Franklin Wayne Valliant
Mario Alberto Vargas
Rafael Vargas-Romero
Jayce Vasquez
Adam Jose Vega
Angelica Vega
Carlos Orozco
Martin Orozco
Grace Nicole Orozco Guerra
Ryan Paul Ortiz
Mohamed Ouedraogo
Sasha Pabon
Ryan Daniel M. Padilla
Nichole Paibarodriguez
Michael Panozzo
Danae Parker
Robert Spencer Parker Jr.
Shiobue Maximus Parks
Doris Renee Leon Guerrero Parr
Megan Parrish
Andre J. Patterson
Victoria M. Paul
Jennifer Leonela Pavon Tobar
Tereasha Shivonya Peasant
Gregory Harrison Reece Pender
William James Penn
William Peoples-Akwe
Lloyd Perkins
Kaliel Perry-Poree
Janet Phillips
Kamiya Pickett
Bervensky Pierre
De Jor Tavell Pinchem
Ricardo Francisco Pineda
Gregory Andre Polk Jr.
Brandon Omar Pondexter
Abigail Poole
Joshua Porres
Chase Wilnard Keonta Porter
Nixon Douglas Potter
Jennie Powell
Lotan Jones
Travis Jones
Xavier DeShawn Jones
Kamariah Janae Jordan
Kimberly Ann Jorgensen
Desiree Aguilar Jumaquiao
David S. Jungblut
Shaneria Jerishia Kafando
Sean Seunghyun Kang
Jonathan Kanouse
Amy Kathryn Karpan
Joseph Renfro
Hareko Lerondo Keel
Markeisha Kelly
Gukbeom Kim
Yongjae Kim
Angela Faith King

- Darren Rickard
Ossian Riedela
Ricardo R. Rioza
Laura Melissa Rivas
Erik Rivera
Harold Rivera
Rosalina Rivera
Tony S. Rivera
Raymond Rivers
Kimberly Gabriella Roberts
Sean Roberts
Varya Alexis Roberts
Jediane Robles
Cleo Rodgers
Desiree Rodriguez
Alex Robert Rodriguez
Diego Ney Hiroto Rodriguez
Jesse Rodriguez
Salomon Rodriguez-Constanza
Salvador Rodriguez-Muro
Jaiden Roman
Meira Roome
Christy Rodue-Fedele
Gabriel Phillip Rosario
Maurice Arthur Rose
Jonah Warsaw Rothstein
Jonathan Rubio
Clay Spencer Ruffin
Isabela Ruiz
Jack A. Sovie
Eric Rupert
Desiree Russell
Elizabeth Russell
Abdul Sadat
Isabel Sairemelgar
Draven Sakiyama-Alvarez
Kai W. Salisbury
Justin Michael Sambor
James Sampson
Daryl Brandon Dilay Sampson
Nancy Sanchez-Aguilera
Angel Santiago
Tatianna Santizo
Erik Santos
Shawn Savann
Ayden Saville
Steven William Sceranka III
Tyrell Schanck
Nathan Schild
Adrianna Schneck
Bryce Anthony Seaton
Isabelle Rose Serio-Davis
Maria Del Carmen Serrato Carrillo
Amit Bikram Shah
Ravi Shankar
Keyshawn Zya' Shaw
Joshua Shepard
Hikari Shiroma
Tyler Richard Shumaker
Joseph Silva
Arnold Augusto Silvera Paredes
Kamarius Simmons
Bram Skinner
Nathaniel Smithey
Quintong Smith
Mickala Smith
Sara Mary Snaidauf
Brenda Lizbeth Sola Maldonado
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Shaneria Jerishia Kafando
Sean Seunghyun Kang
Jonathan Kanouse
Amy Kathryn Karpan
Joseph Renfro
Hareko Lerondo Keel
Markeisha Kelly
Gukbeom Kim
Yongjae Kim
Angela Faith King

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School

Team Woodkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

4th Grade

Ms. Wood and Ms. Eskins

MC

My name is Josh and I am a military child. My mom is a nurse and she works for the military. I love my mom and she loves me. I am proud to be a military child. I love my mom and she loves me. I am proud to be a military child.

Members of the Military

Members of the military deserve respect because they protect us. They are brave and they are smart. They are the ones who keep us safe. They are the ones who are always ready to go. They are the ones who are always there for us.

Why do members of the military deserve respect?

In my opinion, members of the military deserve respect because they are brave and they are smart. They are the ones who protect us and they are always ready to go. They are the ones who are always there for us.

What is it like moving?

When you move, you have to leave your friends and your home. It can be hard to say goodbye to your friends and your home. But when you move, you also get to see new places and meet new people. It can be a fun and exciting experience.

Write a haiku about life in the military.

First line: 5 syllables
Second line: 7 syllables
Third line: 5 syllables

My mom is a nurse
She works for the military
I love my mom and she loves me

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Moving to another place
I love my mom and she loves me
Life can be hard
I am proud to be a military child
Always ready to go
Respect your military
You are also the military child

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Moving to another place
I love my mom and she loves me
Life can be hard
I am proud to be a military child
Always ready to go
Respect your military
You are also the military child

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Moving to another place
I love my mom and she loves me
Life can be hard
I am proud to be a military child
Always ready to go
Respect your military
You are also the military child

What is the best thing about having a parent in the military?

The best thing about having a parent in the military is that they are always there for me. They are always ready to go and they are always there for me. They are always there for me.

Write a thank-you note to your parent for serving in the military.

Dear Mom,
I thank you for serving in the military. You are always there for me and you are always ready to go. You are always there for me.

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Moving to another place
I love my mom and she loves me
Life can be hard
I am proud to be a military child
Always ready to go
Respect your military
You are also the military child

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Moving to another place
I love my mom and she loves me
Life can be hard
I am proud to be a military child
Always ready to go
Respect your military
You are also the military child

Why do members of the military deserve respect?

Members of the military deserve respect because they are brave and they are smart. They are the ones who protect us and they are always ready to go. They are the ones who are always there for us.

Write a thank-you note to your parent for serving in the military.

Dear Mom,
I thank you for serving in the military. You are always there for me and you are always ready to go. You are always there for me.

What is it like to have a parent in the military?

Having a parent in the military is like having a superhero. They are always there for me and they are always ready to go. They are always there for me.

PeS is the best

PeS is the best because it is always there for me. It is always there for me and it is always ready to go. It is always there for me.

What is it like to have a parent in the military?

Having a parent in the military is like having a superhero. They are always there for me and they are always ready to go. They are always there for me.

Write an acrostic poem about life in the military.

Moving to another place
I love my mom and she loves me
Life can be hard
I am proud to be a military child
Always ready to go
Respect your military
You are also the military child





Check out more military children stories at okinawa.stripes.com



Team Woodkins



See more Bob Hope stories on Page 16



Tropical Dream Center (Churashima Botanical Garden) Sunflower Field & Exhibition 2026

April 29²⁰²⁶ (Wed) – May 6²⁰²⁶ (Wed)
8:30–19:00

Sunshine in Full Bloom—Only in Okinawa! Step into a sunflower-filled tropical dream this Golden Week—snap photos, explore vibrant fields, and enjoy a burst of spring colors at the Tropical Dream Center (Churashima Botanical Garden).

Adults (High School & up) ¥760
Middle school & younger FREE

FREE entry to both the Tropical Dream Center and Oceanic Culture Museum on 4/ 25 (Sat) & 5/ 4 (Mon)!



Special Bonus Days FREE Admission!

April 25²⁰²⁶ (Sat) & May 4²⁰²⁶ (Mon)

Admission to Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium is not included.

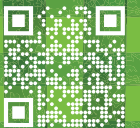
Tropical Dream Center (Churashima Botanical Garden) and Oceanic Culture Museum

On April 25 (Sat) & May 4 (Mon), enjoy FREE entry to both the Tropical Dream Center (Churashima Botanical Garden) and Oceanic Culture Museum—open to all visitors!



OCEAN EXPO PARK TROPICAL DREAM CENTER (Churashima Botanical Garden)

OCEAN EXPO PARK <https://oki-park.jp/kaiyohaku/en/>



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CELEBRATING MONTH OF

E.C. Killin Elen

Addie Krake

My home in Okinawa is fantastic because you can see whale sharks and sumo wrestlers or manta rays!

I love that living in Okinawa means that I can go swimming, eat Blue Seal, and play at playgrounds.

Life can be hard sometime because you have to move every 3 years and go to a new school and make new friends.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I will focus on good things like friends and ice cream.

The thing I love the most is the shaved ice! It's great for hot days and for long trips. My favorite flavor is blueberry!

At times it can be hard when it's burning hot and we can't go outside or when it rains really hard.

Right now though, my goal is to finish math everyday and do my best in school.

You can't beat being a military child. You get to see new places, and make new friends and try new foods and learn lots of new things!

Lucia Franco

My home is in Okinawa but it used to be in North Carolina. My Okinawa home is in Yamitan.

I love that living in Okinawa means that I can try new foods and make new friends and have nice teachers.

Life can be hard sometimes because I have to leave friends behind and can't eat my favorite foods anymore.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on school and work and on friends and mom and dad and sisters and my brother.

The thing I love the most is the food in Okinawa, and the lantern festival and my mom and dad and Max. And ice cream and shaved ice.

At times it can be hard when getting hurt and crying or getting yelled at or breaking up with your best friend.

Right now though, I want to do all of the division problems in Kung Fu Math!

You can't beat being a military child. You get to have friends, and eat great food, and have wonderful teachers!

Dellah Rumi Ermel

My home is Okinawa, Japan and beautiful Colorado Springs. I love the big mountains and the cold weather.

I love that living in Okinawa means sunny beaches, yummy blue seal ice cream, and the beautiful jungle. I love swimming in the waterfalls.

Life can be hard sometimes because I miss my cousins, my grandparents, and my friends that live back in the United States.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on having fun, working hard in school, and playing hard!!

The thing I love the most is the yummy soba and sunny warm weather! When it's sunny, I like going to Toni Beach.

At times it can be hard when I miss my home too much and it's hard to sleep. Before I go to bed my mom lays next to me.

Right now though, I'm having fun and playing with my brothers, and messing around with my classmates! We like to play tag at recess!

You can't beat being a military child. I get to visit my home state every summer, and get to have awesome adventures in Colorado and in Okinawa!



Owen Angin

My home is Okinawa. I moved from Nebraska. I love Nebraska but I also love Okinawa.

I love that living in Okinawa means that I can eat ramen and play baseball all day long. Except when it's recess. Then I play kickball.

Life can be hard sometimes because my mom and dad leave the island to go visit family or to go on work trips.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I remember that I can eat ramen and play with my friends. I like to play tag.

The thing I love the most is to sleep and play with my friends, and play catch with my dad.

At times it can be hard when my dad goes on a work trip and my mom goes to see her horse, and family.

Right now though, I do things to cheer myself up. The thing that cheers me up the most is playing with my friends.

You can't beat being a military child. It's the best! You get to go on fun plane rides and you get to try new foods and make new friends all around the world!



Aria Burcham

My home is Okinawa, California, and the Philippines. In the Philippines, I get to see my aunts, cousins, and my grandparents!

I love that living in Okinawa means that I can go eat ice cream, go swimming, and visit many restaurants.

Life can be hard sometimes because of typhoons or when my mom gets mad or when I get scared of the dark!

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positive things like going to the zoo.

The thing I love the most is my home and my school E.C. Killin. At school I get to play with my friends and play Procky.

At times it can be hard when my parents deploy or when my friends move away.

Right now though, I will stop focusing on the negative things and focus on all the delicious ice cream I can find in Okinawa! Yum!

You can't beat being a military child. Because we get to visit places around the world and we get to try new things! I love being a military child!



OKINAWA

Elle Friction, I love Okinawa because.....



Elle Friction

My home is Rycom bay in Okinawa, Japan, but I have also lived in Washington D.C. and Virginia.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can go to the beach any time of the year! I love the beach!

Life can be hard sometime because I have to move alot moving is hard because we have to say goodbye to friends.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I think of the positives like going and getting the best sushi! Love shrimp!

The thing I love the most is getting ramen! get ramen at hama sushi and get a lot of sushi there too!

At times it can be hard when I have to say good bye to my friends or family member.

Right now though, I have to say goodbye to my dad because he is on a deployment.

You can't beat being a military child. because you can see so many things that most people never get to see!!

Jack Randen

My home is very special to me because I have lived in it for five years. My home is here in Okinawa in Plaza Housing.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can try a lot of new foods and it is really peaceful. I love shaved ice and watermelon.

Life can be hard sometimes because this year I am going to move to Rhode Island. And I might not see my friends again.

Instead of focusing on the negatives I will focus on the good things like meeting new people and trying new foods.

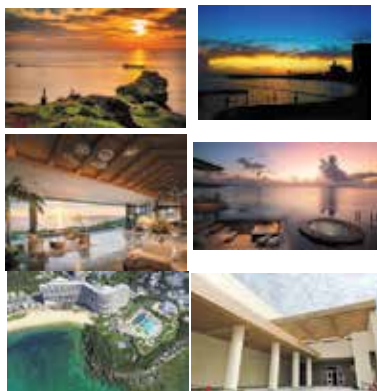
The thing I love the most is going to the beach, staying at Okuma, going to the parks, and the schools and all the people.

At times it can be hard when I miss my friends, when I meet new people, and when I go into new schools.

Right now though it feels like heaven with all my friends, my school and my home.

You can't beat being a military child because life is AWESOME!

OKINAWA!! MY HOME



Elliott Pres

My home is in Okinawa and in South and North Carolina. I am so happy to know the world and also know the countries around us.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can try a new language, eat seba, blue seal ice cream, and learn about their culture.

Life can be hard sometimes because my dad has to deploy all the time and it can be hard when we don't know what to eat!

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I can find the positives like eating pizza or eating shabu-shabu (hotpot) and sight seeing spots.

The thing I love the most is my family.

At times it can be hard when me or friends move and when my ice cream melts.

Right now though my ice cream doesn't melt anymore and I have a lot of friends.

You can't beat being a military child because you can see the world, make new friends, and try new languages.

Elliott Pres



Mael

My home is in Okinawa, Japan. I live in 2 places there! San Antonio and Okinawa.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can go to the beach, eat seba, and learn about their culture.

Life can be hard sometimes because my dad has to deploy all the time and it can be hard when we don't know what to eat!

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I can find the positives like eating pizza or eating shabu-shabu (hotpot) and sight seeing spots.

The thing I love the most is my family.

At times it can be hard when me or friends move and when my ice cream melts.

Right now though my ice cream doesn't melt anymore and I have a lot of friends.

You can't beat being a military child because you can see the world, make new friends, and try new languages.

Mael Costorena



Sora Id-Deen

My home is in Okinawa, Japan. I live in Ginowan City. There are really nice people in there.

I love that living in Okinawa means I get to go to E.C. Killin. Also, I love to go to Sushiro. My favorite sushi is salmon.

Life can be hard sometimes because I have to do hard math problems. Also, it is very humid in Okinawa which makes my head hurt.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I am grateful for my dogs. They are very playful. My dogs are named Rolo and Oscar.

The thing I love the most is my friends and family. Also, I love to go to round one. I love to go inside the inflatable balls.

At times it can be hard when I have to move to another place. Like when I had to move to Okinawa from Maryland.

Right now though, I love my school there are people in there that are very nice, and I have a lot of great friends.

You can't beat being a military child. It is amazing, awesome and stupendous. I love going to round one on my birthday and getting to go to new places that is why being a military child is amazing.

Sora Id-Deen



Jack

My home is Okinawa, Rycom Bay. There is a pool I could go to in the play soccer.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can go to the beach with my family!

Life can be hard sometimes because I have to do hard math problems. Also, it is very humid in Okinawa which makes my head hurt.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I am grateful for my dogs. They are very playful. My dogs are named Rolo and Oscar.

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You can't beat being a military child. It is amazing, awesome and stupendous. I love going to round one on my birthday and getting to go to new places that is why being a military child is amazing.



OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Elementary School



Castorena

I live in Hiyagon But also in San Antonio. It is warm like Okinawa.

I get to go to Blue Seal and eat ice cream. It is the commissary!

It is rainy and also thunders. I love it because it is rainy and also thunders, and my friend Eric too.

I really like the Elephant and the Bunny too. They're cute.

Exchange of Camp Foster and Camp Foster!

My ice cream melts because of the heat. I hear loud noises or mean things.

I like math and grade school.

I love doing work and love to eat. I love being a Military child.

Nora Hassell

My home is Okinawa, Japan and Honolulu, Hawaii.

I love that living in Okinawa means I get to go to the pool and I have a great school.

Life can be hard sometimes because all my friends move away and I still live here.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives. I read, write, go to Terra, and go to school.

The things I love the most are my school and all the libraries on the island. I love to read, and could spend all day inside the library.

At times it can be hard when I have to move away and when my friends move away.

Right now though, I'm focusing on reading Anne of Avonlea and writing my own book called The School For Royals.

You can't beat being a military child. Because I go to great libraries, have blue seal and many other things. I love being a military child.

Brianna Miller

My home is Okinawa but my real home is Iwakuni and I live on Camp Lester.

I love that living in Okinawa means I get to eat Japanese ramen and I get to play at the pool and the wonderful beach.

Life can be hard sometimes because I have to leave my friends and I get mad and it's hard to calm down, but I can.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives and I get to play at the pool and hang out with friends and family and go to fun places.

The thing I love the most is my puppy Sade, my school my teacher and playing in the water and outside.

At times it can be hard when I leave people I love, my puppy getting sick, and leaving my classmates.

Right now though, I'm working with my puppy to listen and to calm down and to have fun.

You can't beat being a military child because you do new things, eat new things and meet new people.

Brianna Miller

Leonardo Mathie

My home is Okinawa Camp Lester, Snohomish Washington, San Diego California, and Italy.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can go eat at Bluesel, I can try new sports and I can go to round one.

Life can be hard sometimes because I'm leaving friends behind constantly and I have to leave my pets behind.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I can go swimming in different places and try new things.

The thing I love the most is the new friends I can get and I can get Yakiniku.

At times it can be hard when it's too hot and I have to play inside or when there's a typhoon.

Right now though, I'm focusing on school and trying to solve a chunky mirror cube.

You can't beat being a military child. You can't be luckier, you get to go to new places and can try more things. It's great being a military child. It can't get better.

OKINAWA! By Leo Mathie

Payton Fairley

My home is in Okinawa, Virginia, and Kansas. It's so cool that I live in so many places!

I love that living in Okinawa means the weather, temperature, beaches, and food.

Life can be hard sometimes because my dad has to go on trips because of work and sometimes I miss my friends.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives like playing with my friends, going to the pool, and much more.

The thing I love the most is hanging out with friends and eating soba.

At times it can be hard when we move away or when I fight with them.

Right now though, I'm working on my homework and studying for tests.

You can't beat being a military child. It's so fun to play outside, run around on the beach, and eating new foods.

Payton Fairley

Jaxon Hui

My Residence I like living there because it is summer and a big field where I could play.

I love eating soba and having fun and going to the beach.

Because sometimes typhoons come when they knock over trees.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives. I never give up.

When it's summer I get to go to the beach and play tag with my friends.

My parents get into a disagreement. I'm saying nice things to them.

My school helps me learn in 3rd grade. It's fun to do things like math and reading.

I can play at the Araha and eat yummy soba.

Check out more military children stories at okinawa.stripes.com

Colin Stroud

My home is in Okinawa Camp Lester and Indiana. My house is tiny in Okinawa.

I love that living in Okinawa means I get to play with friends and go to the pool.

Life can be hard sometimes because it gets really humid and it rains a lot. Also parents get deployed.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives like the beach, the pool Round One and Blue Seal.

The thing I love the most is my family, school (ECK), also my teacher Miss Whittington.

At times it can be hard when things don't turn out as we plan.

Right now though, I go to ECK and play soccer through MCCS.

You can't beat being a military child. In Okinawa you can go to ECK! Also, you can go to Blue Seal and Round One. You should visit these places one day.

Jolene Snyder

My home is Okinawa but also in California.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can always go to the beach in summer!

Life can be hard sometimes because of when parents get divorced. But I get to spend time with each of them each week.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I can eat shaved ice and go to the beach. I like to make splashes with water.

The thing I love the most is going to the mall At Rycom. I like buying little toys.

At times it can be hard when a friend moves. It is hard because I can't tell anybody stories.

Right now though, I am having a great time in Okinawa. In fact, I am in the middle of school.

You can't beat being a military child. Because Okinawa is the best and the weather is great!

Joey Miller

My home is Okinawa and Texas.

I love that living in Okinawa means I can eat blue seal and I can go to the beach and go kart racing.

Life can be hard sometimes because you can move away from friends and family.

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positive during the summer time the water is warm at the beach.

The thing I love the most is to eat sushi and go to the ocean.

At times it can be hard when I try food and I do not like it.

Right now though, I am on a lacrosse team and I am working on being able to catch the ball.

You can't beat being a military child. Because I can eat new things and go to the beach.

Joey Miller

Eric Buehner

My home is amazing, living in Okinawa and California. I get to explore different places for years!

I love that living in Okinawa means you can go to amazing schools and restaurants!

Life can be hard sometimes because in summer it is always boiling outside!

Instead of focusing on the negatives, I look for the positives like food, knowledge, and the beach!

The thing I love the most is the delicious food and the amazing schools!

At times it can be hard when my dad leaves on deployment. It's hard because my mom is the only one at home.

Right now though, I am focused on beating kung fu math masters!

You can't beat being a military child. You get to meet new people and explore the world.

Eric Buehner

Okinawa!!!

See more Mr. Vallis & Mrs. Whittington's class on Page 14

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

3rd Grade Mr. Vallis & Mrs. Whittington

E.C. Killin Elementary School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Nasir Dulcio

My home is Okinawa and North Carolina. I love that living in Okinawa means I get to eat okinawa soba. And I get to play with my friends. Life can be hard sometimes because I have to move away sometimes. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on enjoying okinawa and have fun in okinawa. The thing I love the most is learning new things in school. And spending time with my family. At times it can be hard when we are going out to eat but it is closed. Right now though I am doing fine right now and am playing soccer. You can't beat being a military child- being a military child is fun and cool and going to new places.

Nasir Dulcio

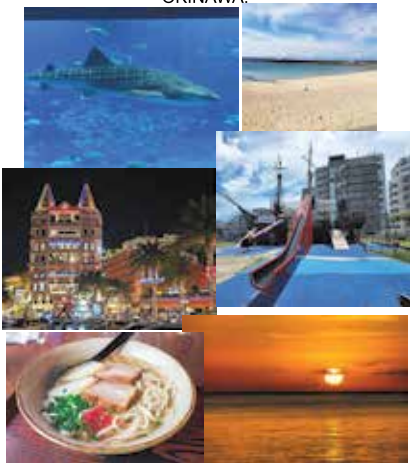


Alessandra Delgado

My home is in Okinawa, Japan I live in New Camp Lester. I love that living in Okinawa means I go to a new school and I make new friends. Life can be hard sometimes because it is hard to see family and you have to leave friends behind. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I am grateful for having new friends and I focus on the positive. The thing I love the most is Round one, Family and friends and I also like the beach. At times it can be hard when we have to move to different countries. Right now though I love my teachers, my classmates and family and also my pets. You can't beat being a military child. The places in Japan are fun and delicious like Round One, Yakinku and other places.

Alessandra Delgado

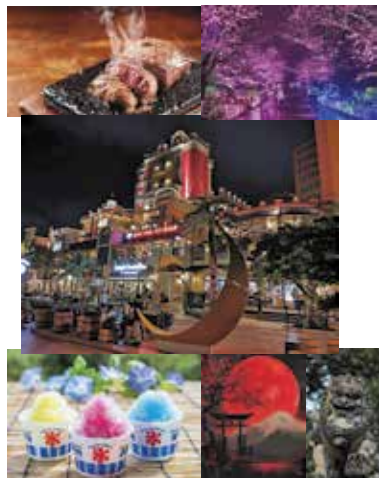
OKINAWA!



Daxton Adrel Salas

My home is Okinawa, Japan I live on Camp New Lester. I love that living in Okinawa means I get more and better friends. And there are bases. On base I run around to meet my friends. Life can be hard sometimes because, My family always gets deployed. Right now my mom is deployed and my dad will go to Korea soon. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I am grateful for my friends and my family. They care about me a lot. The thing I love the most is my friends, family, soccer, wagyu steak, my dogs, goldfish, my teachers, and me. At times it can be hard when Natural disaster effect where I live. For example lion typhoon is happening they spill water everywhere. Right now though there are people that love and take care of me. You can't beat being a military child- I love to see people all around the world and to see places all around the world.

Daxton Slas

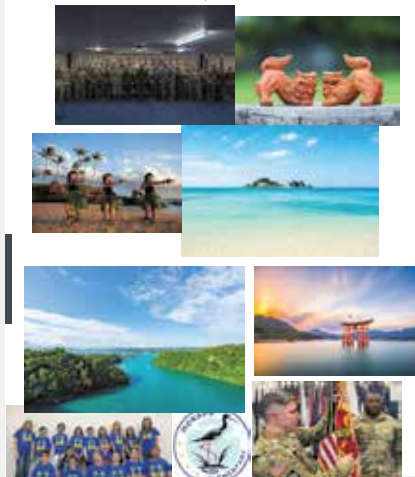


Kayla Rhoades

My home is North Carolina, Georgia, Hawaii, and Okinawa and I think of all of the places I've been as my homes. I love that living in Okinawa means I can easily go to Kyoto and explore so many different things like banana spiders, and the sea wall. Life can be hard sometime because, that I am a military child so I have to move away from friends, schools, and beaches. I also will miss the adventures and so many things that I can explore! Instead of focusing on the negatives, I can focus on the positives and some positives are I can enjoy and Takisaki. The thing I love the most is my friends and the fireworks every Saturday. It's also just amazing to live in Okinawa and make new friends. (Although I do miss my other friends) :-). At times it can be hard when I have to leave my pets, amazing hikes, and AMUSEMENT PARKS! Right now though my goal is to make my dad's birthday the BEST birthday even though my moms not here. You can't beat being a military child- because I've been able to go to these amazing places and that's the life of being a military child! I hope you love it as much as I do! THANK YOU!!!

Kayla Rhoades

live your life!



Archer Bill

My home is in North Carolina. I love that living in Okinawa means going to Okuma and camping on the beach. Life can be hard sometimes because my friends move. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I like to ride the scooter to help me relax because I like the breeze. The thing I love the most is my cats don't go outside anymore so they are safer. At times it can be hard when the pool is closed and you can't control the weather. Right now though I am working on doing better in school and lacrosse. You can't beat being a military child- because you travel more and you do things you can't do anywhere else.

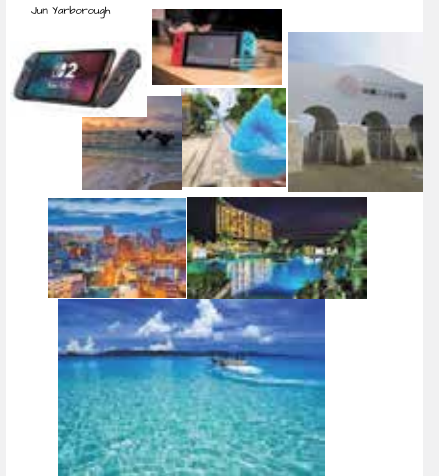
Archer Bill



JUN YARBOROUGH

My home is in Okinawa, Japan I live in adaniya in my house I watch tv sometimes. I love that living in Okinawa means eating ramen, the park, sometimes the beach, the pool also. And tickling my brother. Life can be hard sometimes because it is hotter in Okinawa than most places. Sometimes in the middle of summer it is too hot to play outside. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I am grateful for having a family, and playing with my games. The thing I love the most is playing with my family, my house and playing outside too. And shaved ice. At times it can be hard when I do my homework with hard questions I ask for help on my homework. Right now though My GEGE and OGE are not here yet. And sometimes I can see my GEGE and OGE. You can't beat being a military child it is fun for me because I go to the zoo, I get to have play dates to.

Jun Yarbrough



Reana Salazar

My home is in Okinawa, Japan I live on Camp Foster. I love that living in Okinawa means I get to eat Blue Seal at the beach. Life can be hard sometimes because it is hot and it is uncomfortable. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives like playing with my friends. The thing I love the most is sushi and friends. I ate sushi with my friend. At times it can be hard when there are natural disasters. And when me and mom fight. Right now though I like my teacher and my family. You can't beat being a military child. You get to eat Blue Seal at the beach with friends.

Reana Salazar

Okinawa



Scarlett Lamm


My home is in Okinawa but it's also in Ohio, California and in North Carolina. I love that living in Okinawa means all year around it is hot, cool or blazing. Life can be hard sometimes because I have to leave my friends behind. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I focus on the positives like all the food or the schools or the beach. The thing I love the most is the food where I love to eat out the most is yakinku. At times it can be hard when my dad leaves for work or when I have to move away from my friends. Right now though I like to write stories in school and at home I like to make pictures. You can't beat being a military child. The weather is amazing, the schools are awesome, the food is delicious, and you get to see so many places.

Scarlett Lamm



Check out more military children stories at okinawa.stripes.com





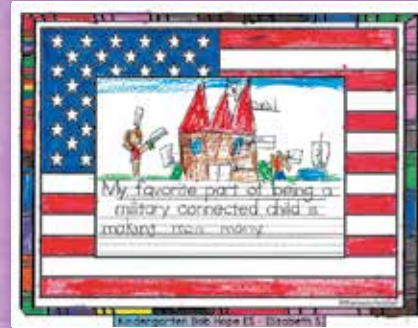
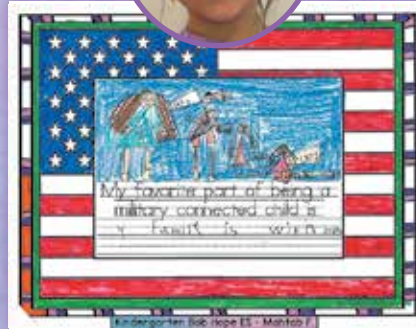
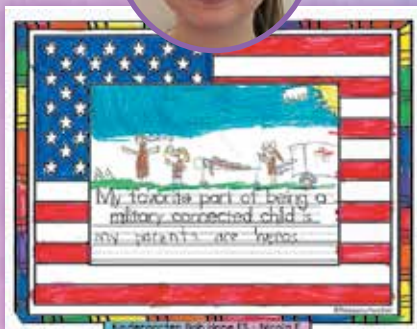
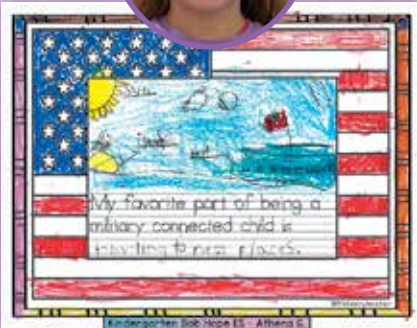
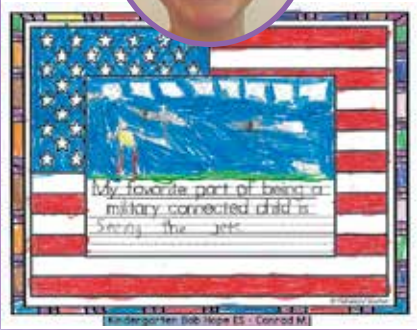
CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Kindergarten

Ms. Payne





CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School



Kindergarten

Ms. Rodriguez



Check out more military children stories at okinawa.stripes.com

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Elementary School

Kindergarten / Ms. Seno

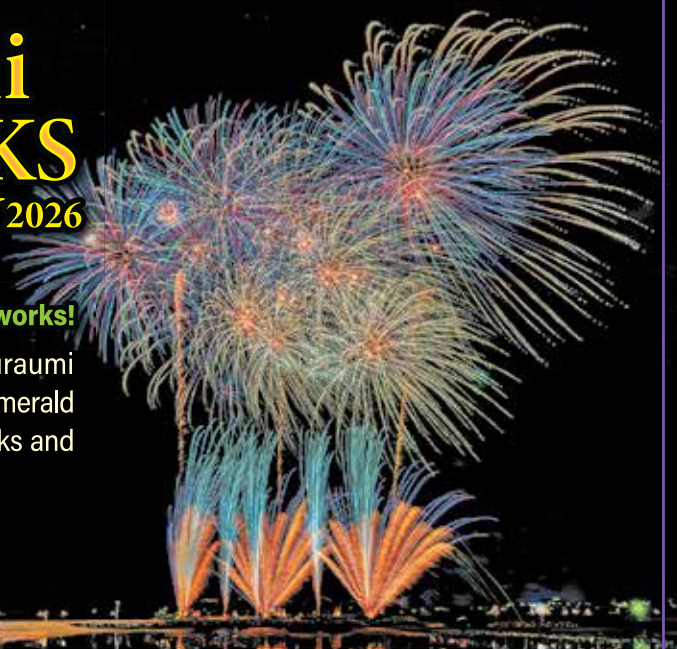




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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

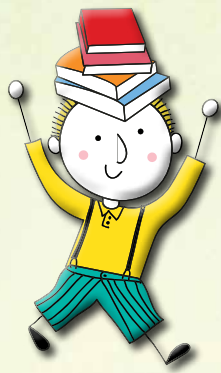
Bob Hope Elementary School



Kindergarten

Ms. Crockett





celebrating Month of the Military Child

Zukeran Elementary School

2nd Grade Mrs. Harrold-King

Leo

I like being a military child because I move a lot. My dad works in the military. My dad works as a marine. Being a military child makes me special because we get to go to new places and eat cool looking food. I like moving because I like getting more friends. When I move, we get to ship our stuff to the house. I feel good about being a military child. I am proud of my family because they do a lot of stuff to make me stay safe and alive.



Name: Karen Date: 3/2/2026

Hi my name is Karen and I like being a military child because I love going on adventures with my family. I also like making new friends. My mom is a teacher and my Dad works in the military. They work very hard.

Name: Asher Date: March 20, 2026

Month of the Military Child

I like being a military child because I make new friends, and I was my first day at school I was scared then my friends cheered me up. Another thing I like being a military child because I meet new teachers. It was my first day of school. I was surprised and sad and scared because the school is big and I was sad that Miss H doesn't work at Kinser. The last thing I like being a military child is going different places because of the Sun Sets.

Name: Ember Date: Feb 25, 2026

Month of the military child.

I like being a military child because I like moving to new places and making new friends. I'm moving to Okinawa in a couple of months and my dad knows he will deploy a lot so that's the hard part. He also said probably every month we live there he will probably deploy for a couple of days. I don't like the deployment part though, but at least my dad usually brings back presents. But I am excited to move to Okinawa. Some times I don't like being a military child because of deploying, but most of the time I do.

Name: Jayla Date: 2/27

Month of the Military Child

I like to be a military child because my dad works at the marine corps and he works really hard to earn money. I used to be scared of having to go home. I can't use to it, and I feel water I made lots of friends. I was scared anymore. The next year I was in first grade it was hard to fish with lots of friends.

Asher

My dad is in the military. I like being a military child because I get to learn about my dad's job. My dad works as an EOD technician. Being a military child makes me special because I get to learn robots that people don't get to learn about. I am safe and I am proud of my family.

Blaine

I like being a military child because I like making new friends and going to new places. My dad is in the military. My dad works as a marine. My dad brings back cool stuff. Being a military child makes me special because the people that are in my family and are in the military protect the Earth. I am proud of my family and you should be too.

Name: Liana Date: Feb 29, 2026

Month of the Military Child

I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and make new friends. My dad works as a marine. Being a military child makes me special because we get to go to new places and eat cool looking food. I like moving because I like getting more friends. When I move, we get to ship our stuff to the house. I feel good about being a military child. I am proud of my family because they do a lot of stuff to make me stay safe and alive.

Hudson

I like being a military child because I like the food court. My dad is in the military. My dad works as a marine. Being a military child makes me special because he is strong. I am Hudson. I am proud of my family.

Name: LAYLA Date: _____

Month of the Military Child

attending Zukeran English. My dad makes me special because he is strong. I am Hudson. I am proud of my family.

Robert Cochran

I like being a military kid because I get to move and make new friends. My dad is in the military. He is a marine. Being a military child makes me special because our dads protect us. I am safe and I am proud of my family.

Name: Ava Date: March 3

my military child writing.

I like being a military child because I get to see how cool it is. My dad is in the military. My dad works as a marine and works very hard. Being a military child makes me special because I get to move to different places. I am super proud of my family.

Hakeem Vicente

I like being a military child because I like to travel, make new friends, and meet new people. I like traveling to other places because I like to explore other places. I like making new friends because I need friends. I like meeting new people because I like greeting them. I like being a military child!

I like being a military child because I like to travel to new places and making new friends. My dad is in the military. My dad works as a marine. My dad brings back cool stuff. Being a military child makes me special because the people that are in my family and are in the military protect the Earth. I am proud of my family and you should be too.

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celebrating Month of the Military Child

Zukeran Elementary School

2nd Grade
Ms. Pruemmer

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I like being a military child because I get to live in a nice house. I go to a nice school. It is fun but my mom and dad have to work a lot. My mom is a baby doctor. My Dad is just a doctor. But I still have lots of friends like Timothy. That's what I like about Japan and being a military child

Charlie



I do not like being a military child. I do not like moving because you have to leave your best friends but you meet new people. I like traveling to places like Sapporo and Kyoto. It is a lot of fun and I like traveling to New York. There are fancy pizzas. In North Carolina there are Target and Walmart. I like to play with my friends because they are fun. My best friends are Autumn, Ella, Lindsay and Mia.

Aloka



I like being a military child. One reason is that I get to meet new friends. When I lived in Michigan I made 14 friends. Then I moved to Okinawa and made 6 new friends. Another reason is that I get to travel to mainland Japan. I get to travel to a safe place with a lot of activities. I get to visit Disney Sea with my family. The final reason is that I get free things. On Valentine's Day I received free candy. One time during literacy night I got a free squishy. I'm so lucky to be a military child. I get to experience many different things!

Deon



I like being a military-connected child. One reason I like being connected to the military is because I like to travel. Being military-connected allows my family and I opportunities to travel. For example, my family went to the USA and Canada. I tried blueberry cake for the first time and I got to meet my baby cousin. In Canada I got to harvest blueberries for the first time. Another reason I enjoy being military-connected is because I get to live in Okinawa. Reason two, I experience Japanese culture in Okinawa. I go to Kumon so I can learn Japanese.

Eiden

I like being a military child because I like living at the Hospital houses. My Dad is in the military. My dad works as a Marine. Being a military child makes me special because I live in Okinawa and try different snacks. I am brave. I am proud of my family.

Juliet



I like being a military child because I like to travel. I loved it when I went to Thailand because I got to see elephants. I love them a lot. I got to go to a park. It was fun. I loved when almost every time I got an ice cream. I love when I get to visit my family. I like when my family calms me down. I love them a lot. I do not like when my dad goes away. When my dad goes away I get so sad. My dad is the best dad in the world. He plays hide and go seek. Sometimes me and my family go on bike rides. I like when I meet new friends because I have more than 100 friends. I love being a military child!

Madison



I like being a military child. I like it because they have shirts for fun events and lots of fun. I don't like moving because I just like Okinawa. It is the safest place in the Pacific and I have been to 9 countries. Thailand was very fun. In Thailand we also went shopping. My dad is a marine. There are good things about being a military child.

Conrad



I like being a military child because I can travel. My family has been to Taiwan. My dad is in the military. My mom works with the police officers. Being a military child makes me happy because I get to travel. I am happy. I am proud of my family.

Analeigh

I like being a military child. I travel a lot because my mom is in the military. I go to Disney and I go to Universal. I love seeing my family and I love seeing my cousins also. I move a lot because my mom is in the military. I love to move a lot because I get new friends like Analeigh and Autumn. I feel good being a military child.

Lindsay

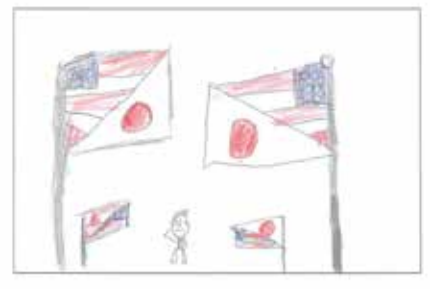


My family and I traveled all over the world and I traveled to KSA and USA and Okinawa. When I meet new people I feel sad because I don't want to leave my old friends behind. I hate moving because I leave my friends behind and I love all my friends and family. I like being a military child.

Chadwick

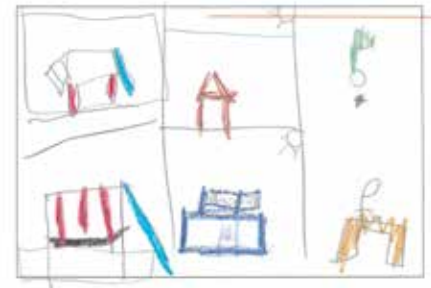
There are some good things and bad things I like about being a military child. Some of the things I like about being a military child are moving, and traveling. When I move I miss all my friends. I will have to make new friends when I move. It is hard when my friends have to move too. I like going on airplanes. I went to Tokyo Disney and Universal Studios. This summer I will go to Florida. My dad is a Marine. I like when we go places. I like when he gets stationed somewhere and we can go to different places. I feel good about being a military child because you get to go places.

Ryker



I mostly like being a military child because I have a lot of friends like Tanner, Tucker, Asher and all my other friends. When Tucker comes we play Quicksand. Most of the time we play soccer. I traveled to Okuma and stayed there for 1 day then I went to Hamasushi and I ate tuna and noodles and I got a toy. I played golf and putt-putt while my brothers went swimming. But when my brothers got inside the water they instantly got out of the water because it was so cold. Then mom bought a glass boat tour. Playing with my friends is one of the good things about being a military child.

Harvey



I like being a military child. I like traveling because you can see a lot of better things everywhere around the earth. You can go to Miyajima, Sapporo, Tokyo and Osaka. You might see snow. I love playing with friends. I also miss my old best friends like Shana, Eliza, and Presley. You might be lucky to go to other places if their parents say yes. You can also have a sleepover. Moving is so sad because you leave your friends. You meet new friends. You have to say your farewell good bye. Being a military child can be fun.

Autumn



I like being a military child because I move. Soon I am going to Washington. I feel happy on a plane. Ryker and I play soccer together. Eiden and I play together at recess. I play with Deon at recess. I feel happy when I play. I went to Tokyo and it was fun and cool. It was fun in Osaka. In Korea I got a sweater. I feel happy when I travel. The things I like about being a military child are friends, travel, and moving.

Sterling



I like being a military child because we can travel. My dad is in the military. Being a military child makes me special because I can go to California and Michigan. I am special. I am proud of my family.

Leilani



(We are open this month please check our website for April business hours and details.)

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Stripes Sports Trivia

Which former New York Knicks guard was also an award-winning quarterback at Florida State?

Answer

Charlie Ward

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DID YOU KNOW?

In Japan, the "Jumbo Draw" heralds the arrival of each season with the dream of becoming a millionaire. Unlike the Powerball and Mega Millions drawings in the U.S., the largest Japanese lottery is held only five times a year - each drawing coinciding with the changing of the seasons. With a first prize of 500 million yen (\$4 million) per unit, "Jumbo Takarakuji" aka Jumbo Draws, start selling one month before the drawing. Public lottery shops, or chance centers as they're called, are ubiquitously situated in train stations, banks, shopping malls and parks, some likely near your installation.

Kanji of the week



Language Lesson

Let's meet at the station.

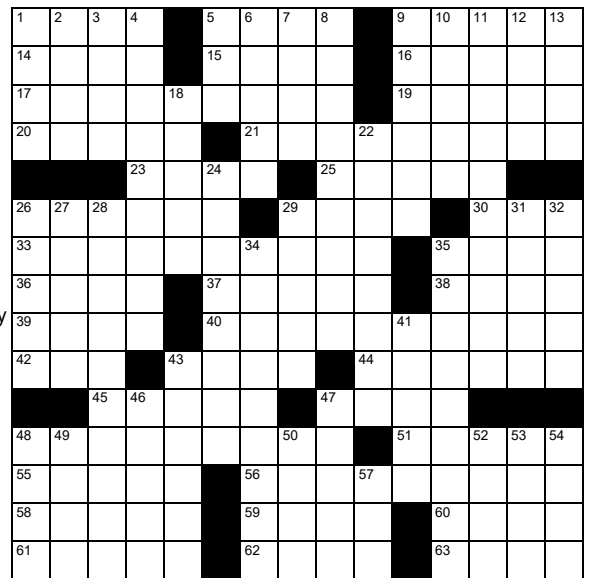
Eki de aimashoo

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Turning point?
- 5 Unruly crowds
- 9 ___ in the right direction: 2 wds.
- 14 Part of the Corn Belt
- 15 On ___ (without a contract)
- 16 Mecca native
- 17 Burt of 1960's "Elmer Gantry"
- 19 Clean completely
- 20 Items on to-do lists
- 21 Seismic source
- 23 Caviar fish
- 25 Outspoken
- 26 Lucky charm
- 29 Out of shape?
- 30 Where Switz. is
- 33 Penalty
- 35 Beheaded Boleyn
- 36 Begged
- 37 Peter, pumpkin-wise
- 38 Portion out
- 39 Cleanse
- 40 Etcher's fluid
- 42 OH to MA direction
- 43 Kind of curve
- 44 Thanksgiving fare
- 45 Regarding birth
- 47 Depend (on)
- 48 Sponsorship
- 51 Works, as a field
- 55 Buyer's proposal
- 56 Wistful for the past
- 58 Smelled awful
- 59 Icicle former
- 60 Hogwarts librarian Pince
- 61 Puts a stop to
- 62 Fax button
- 63 Equinox mo.



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- 2 Weather tracking org.
- 3 Admits, with "up"
- 4 Fall off the wagon, perhaps
- 5 Publisher's pile: Abbr.
- 6 Chose
- 7 Microwave sound
- 8 Copyist of old
- 9 ___ ratio (TV spec)
- 10 Spa feature
- 11 High-collar top
- 12 Result of honing
- 13 Fishing spot
- 18 Contents of some urns
- 22 Penitent
- 24 Plato was one
- 26 Eden fruit
- 27 Disney's Chinese warrior
- 28 Humdrum
- 29 Midler of music
- 31 Loosen a knot
- 32 Oboe-sounding
- 34 Views from isles, often
- 35 Lilylike flower
- 41 Mea ___
- 43 Baby birds?
- 46 "___ we all?"
- 47 Varnish ingredient
- 48 Luxurious
- 49 Shaving lotion brand
- 50 1990s VP
- 52 Grimm villain
- 53 Spineless sort
- 54 "Beat it!"
- 57 Covered in Cottonelle, say

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	R	C	S	S	C	U	D	I	R	O	N		
F	I	A	T	S	C	O	F	F	N	O	D		
A	C	M	E	A	R	R	O	W	H	E	A	D	S
R	E	P	L	A	C	E	D	E	R	N	S	T	
A	L	I	K	E	D	A	R	T					
N	A	I	A	D	N	A	I	L	B	I	T	E	R
A	G	G	R	E	S	S	I	V	E	A	R	G	O
M	E	N	S	H	A	R	E	R	S	A	R	A	
E	N	E	S	O	V	E	R	T	U	R	N	E	D
S	T	R	A	I	N	E	R	S	R	E	S	T	S
				L	E	E	R	I	S	A	L	L	
A	M	O	U	R	N	F	L	T	E	A	M	S	
W	A	L	K	S	O	N	A	I	R	A	T	O	P
E	S	A	I	C	L	U	E	S	S	O	D	A	
S	S	N	S	R	E	T	D	E	R	S	T		

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

	9		7	8				
7	6							3
	5			1				6
		2	8			9		5
4								
				2		8		
		5	2	3				
			6			3		
	4	8						

HOW TO SOLVE:
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

1	6	9	7	8	5	3	2	4
3	7	4	1	2	9	8	6	5
8	5	2	6	4	3	7	1	9
4	1	5	8	3	7	6	9	2
7	8	6	2	9	4	5	3	1
2	9	3	5	1	6	4	8	7
6	3	1	4	7	2	9	5	8
9	4	8	3	5	1	2	7	6
5	2	7	9	6	8	1	4	3

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