



Press Release
Oct. 16, 2015

“Journey 88.3 radio listeners encourage America’s Armed Forces with thank-you cards.”

After more than a decade of war, many Americans have forgotten the importance of supporting our service members and remembering them in our prayers. In response to this growing need, Operation Thank You designed a variety of thank-you cards to encourage active service members, wounded warriors, veterans (especially of the Vietnam War), and military families.

Liberty University alumnus and School of Divinity adjunct professor Dr. Brian Bohlman founded Operation Thank You in 2002 as a 501(c)(3) ministry to encourage the brave men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition to being the executive director of Operation Thank You, he also serves as a chaplain in the National Guard.

Each 4x6-inch card features an attractive high-gloss front and a matte finish back for easier writing with a pen or marker. All cards include a pre-printed message of encouragement, along with a space for someone to write their own message and where they’re from.

Proverbs 25:25 says, “Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.” In the same way, your message of encouragement will touch the hearts of service members and their families. Such messages of support are often kept by service members as treasured keepsakes of their deployment, inspiring multiple generations as they are read by a recipient’s spouse, children, and even grandchildren.

Over the last 13 years, Operation Thank You has sent **more than a million cards** by partnering with individuals, businesses, schools, places of worship, and ministry organizations. Cards are included with care packages sent by the various organizations to military chaplains throughout the year.

This show of support is especially meaningful during the holidays. Over the next few months, **The Journey listeners** have an incredible opportunity to partner with Operation Thank You to bless our service members with cards of encouragement during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Though it is impossible to know who will receive your card, rest assured that God knows, and each card is a ministry of His grace, lifting the spirits of a service member who is far away from family and friends. Imagine how meaningful your handwritten card would be in a day of emails, text messages, and tweets. Your card and personal message will give hope to a service member who has put themselves in harm’s way for our nation.

Here's how to participate in Operation Thank You in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Visit www.OperationThankYou.org and click on The Journey link to order cards (available in packs of 25 or 100 for a donation of 20 cents per card).

Be sure to send a tweet about @OperationThank

- 2) Hold a card signing at your place of worship, school, business, etc. Sign each card and write your own personal message of encouragement. Pray over your cards and for the recipients.
- 3) Return the signed cards by mail to Operation Thank You **by Dec. 10** for inclusion in the chaplain care packages to arrive by Christmas. Pray for the chaplains who will help distribute your cards.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why does Operation Thank You charge for these cards? As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Operation Thank You receives no funding from the Department of Defense or any other U.S. government agency. Operation Thank You is run by a dedicated team of volunteers on a very limited budget. Though we are a small nonprofit organization, we have a big mission to inspire America's bravest men and women. Recupercating the cost of cards helps cover our printing and postage expenses.

2. What methods of online payment do you accept? We accept debit or credit cards at our secure online store, or you can use PayPal.

3. Can I place an order over the phone or by mail? Yes. Phone orders with a debit or credit card can be placed Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST by calling toll-free 1-866-645-6284. Please leave a detailed voice mail if your call is not answered. Orders by check or money order can be sent to Operation Thank You, Order Department, P.O. Box 5235, West Columbia, S.C., 29171.

4. How soon can I expect to receive my cards after I order them online? Operation Thank You ships most orders within 48 hours of receipt and confirmation of payment. Standard and priority shipping options are available. Free standard shipping is available for any orders over \$50.

5. Who should I ask to sign the Operation Thank You cards? Friends, family members, co-workers, students, community clubs and associations, attendees at various places of worship, veteran groups and organizations, and persons attending special events held during Memorial Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day. Be creative and plan a special card signing event and ask local media to help promote it. You can also network with other military support organizations.

6. What should I write in the personal message area? Always write positive and encouraging words that will uplift the person who receives it. Avoid negative and demeaning words that would discourage the recipient. **Please refrain from using politically charged comments about any elected official.** Remember, these cards are meant to remind the recipients that their service to our nation is not forgotten.

7. Where will my cards be sent? Military chaplains request signed cards and make them available to service members at their deployed locations. If you have a friend or loved one who is deployed, please ask them to have their unit chaplain request signed cards at www.OperationThankYou.org.

8. Can Operation Thank You give me the mailing address so that I can mail the cards directly to the deployed chaplain? No. For security reasons, we're not authorized to give out any mailing addresses. We only send care packages to chaplains who have requested signed cards. Also, deployed service members are cautioned about receiving and opening any unsolicited packages.

9. Can I give my signed cards to another organization who sends care packages? Yes! In fact, we suggest that you contact the Family Readiness Program Manager at the nearest military base or National Guard unit to inquire about providing your signed cards to a deployed unit. You can also contact your local American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), or USO.

10. Can I send Operation Thank You a different type of card that I purchased elsewhere? We ask that you don't do this, because our specially designed 4x6-inch cards fit best in the care package boxes that we use. Our cards have been in circulation since 2002, and military chaplains have grown familiar with the format we use.

11. Can I mail Operation Thank You other care package items such as food, toiletries, or clothing? No, but we encourage you to go online and search for an organization that will accept these items. Please only send us your signed Operation Thank You cards.

**** Please visit our [Contact](#) page at www.OperationThankYou.org if you have a question that's not answered above. Thank you!**