



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Just in time for Memorial Day!

Local non-profit group sets goal to sign 10,000 cards for troops during 3-day military appreciation event in Columbia

Operation Thank You takes over the AMC Theatre lobby at Dutch Square Center Mall and the food court this Friday through Sunday, giving shoppers, moviegoers and other patriots an opportunity to write a message of support and encouragement on cards that will be delivered to deployed service members, veterans, and wounded warriors.

The 8th annual card-signing event at Dutch Square Center Mall is part of an ongoing effort of Operation Thank You to collect 100,000 cards each year to inspire America's bravest men and women. McEntire Joint National Guard Base Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Bohlman founded the non-profit organization in 2002 and leads a team of dedicated volunteers.

Chaplain Bohlman says, "As we prepare for the Memorial Day holiday, it is important to remember the service and sacrifice of our troops overseas and those recovering in a military hospital. Writing a personal message of encouragement on a card only takes a minute, but could encourage a military member for a lifetime, as these cards often become treasured keepsakes for service members, veterans and their families."

While serving at a combat trauma hospital in Afghanistan last year, Chaplain Bohlman says he will never forget the wounded warriors who told him that receiving a card was *the best "medicine" they had ever received*. Bohlman hopes that many people will come out during the holiday weekend to help Operation Thank You meet their goal.

The public is invited to sign a card at the Operation Thank You tables at Dutch Square Center Mall Food Court this Friday from 9AM to 7PM and on Saturday and Sunday from 9AM to 5PM. A card signing table will also be available inside the AMC Theatre lobby.

Participants can also purchase inspirational and patriotic gifts to help Operation Thank You raise funds to print more cards and send care packages. Those who can't make it to the event, can view and order a variety of cards online at **OperationThankYou.org** to hold a card signing at their workplace, school or church. This event is sponsored in part by:

