

NDW kicks off Month of the Military Family

11/06/14

Story by Shawn Miller, NDW Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Throughout November, Naval District Washington (NDW) is recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of military spouses, parents, children and relatives through Month of the Military Family.

The Armed Services YMCA began Month of the Military Family in 1996, and the U.S. Government, communities and businesses across the country have recognized the occasion annually since then in a show of support.

In the annual presidential proclamation declaring the start of the commemoration, President Barack Obama said the country must reaffirm a solemn vow to serve military families as well as they have served the nation.

"The selflessness of our military families tells a story of unfailing duty and devotion," the proclamation states. "Through long deployments, difficult separations, and moves across the country and overseas, spouses and partners put their careers on hold and children take on extra responsibilities. With grace and resilience, families endure the absence of loved ones and shoulder the burdens of war. And when battle ends and our service members return home, their families support their transition and recovery."

The Naval Support Activity (NSA) Washington Fleet and Family Support Center hosted the inaugural Month of the Military Family Expo Nov. 5 at Washington Navy Yard (WNY) to open festivities for the month.

"The expo involved several organizations that serve and support service members, veterans, and their families; both on and off the installation," said Paul Grossman of NDW Fleet and Family Readiness. "WNY is a very diverse population consisting of service members, veterans, family members, government and contract employees; all with a common bond supporting our military. Visiting the expo provided all attendees an opportunity to learn about the programs and services that they might not know about."

Organizations represented included the School Liaison Program, National Military Family Association, Navy Family Line, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the USO, and Navy Wounded Warriors, among others.

Throughout the rest of the month, installations across NDW will continue to host other events, Grossman added. "At each installation are planned events to include informational tables, special tree lighting, a variety of special classes, pizza night, crafts for children, and holiday card marking for troops overseas," he said.

For more information about specific events on local installations, contact your local Fleet and Family Support Center. For more news and information from around NDW, visit www.facebook.com/NavDistWash.



Service and support organizations provide information to visitors at the inaugural Month of the Military Family Expo at Washington Navy Yard, Nov. 5. The expo, sponsored by Naval Support Activity (NSA) Washington Fleet and Family Readiness, sought to spread awareness of programming designed for military family members. (Photo by Shawn Miller)

