



The Military Child

The official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.

Experts say that military children are well-rounded, culturally aware, tolerant, and extremely resilient. Military children have learned from an early age that home is where their hearts are, that a good friend can be found in every corner of the world and in every color, and that education doesn't only come from school. They live history. They learn that to survive means to adapt, that the door that closes one chapter of their life opens up to a new and exciting adventure full of new friends and new experiences.

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Our second poem is also anonymous but it covers the other side of the Military Family Coin.



WHEN A SOLDIER COMES HOME

When a soldier comes home, he finds it hard
to listen to his son whine about being bored.

to keep a straight face when people complain about potholes.
to be tolerant of people who complain about the hassle of getting ready for work.
.to be understanding when a co-worker complains about a bad night's sleep.

to be silent when people pray to God for a new car.
to control his panic when his wife tells him he needs to drive slower.
to be compassionate when a businessman expresses a fear of flying.

to keep from laughing when anxious parents say they're afraid to
send their kids off to summer camp.

to keep from ridiculing someone who complains about hot weather.
to control his frustration when a colleague gripes about his coffee being cold.
to remain calm when his daughter complains about having to walk the dog.

to be civil to people who complain about their jobs.
to just walk away when someone says they only get two weeks of vacation a year.
to be forgiving when someone says how hard it is to have a new baby in the house.

The only thing harder than being a Soldier

Is loving one