



Serving Our Heroes...One Family at a Time

A Non-Profit Organization Proudly Serving Massachusetts National Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families

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**Military Friends Foundation Appoints Representative Mike Rush
to Serve on Advisory Council**

BOSTON – The Military Friends Foundation, a non-profit proudly serving Massachusetts National Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families, is pleased to announce that Representative Mike Rush (D-West Roxbury) is joining our State Advisory Council. Rush, a Lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve, has been a long time champion for Massachusetts service members and their families.

“Representative Rush understands the challenges facing today’s citizen service members and his knowledge of the military and the needs of National Guard and Reserve families will be a major asset to the Military Friends Foundation,” said SGM Jim Kelly (Ret.), Military Friends Foundation President and Iraq Veteran. “Today troops in Massachusetts are facing their highest deployment levels since WWII. Massachusetts military families are in need and we are proud to stand with leaders like Representative Rush and assist these families.”

“I thank the Military Friends Foundation for inviting me to serve on its Advisory Council,” said Representative Mike Rush. “The Foundation’s mission of assisting Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families in times of need is extremely important right now and I look forward to working with the other council members and the board to advance the Foundation’s goals and objectives.”

Representative Rush was an original co-sponsor of the Massachusetts “Welcome Home Bill.” The legislation created the state’s Welcome Home Bonus, increased annuity payments for disabled veterans, and established the *Mass. Military Family Relief Fund*, a voluntary tax check-off box (Question 32E) on the state tax form. The check-off box enables citizens to directly support local military families through a voluntary financial contribution. The Military Friends Foundation administers this fund for the state.

The Military Friends Foundation is a non-profit proudly serving Massachusetts National Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families. We assist eligible Guard, Reserve and Gold Star Families in times of need. The Foundation proudly administers the *Massachusetts Military Family Relief Fund* which was created by the state legislature to recognize the unique contributions and sacrifices made by Citizen Service Members. Taxpayers can directly support the *Mass. Military Family Relief Fund* on their Massachusetts state income tax form under voluntary contribution check-off box Question 32E.

Through generous donations, the Foundation has given hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to Massachusetts military families. For more information on our grants and support programs, please visit www.militaryfriends.org or call (617) 733-7994.

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www.MilitaryFriends.org