



News Flash

MAY 23, 2007

COME JOIN US AS WE SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

Thank you for your 2007 membership in CEA.

As you are aware, each year CEA selects a charity to support and this year's charity is **Operation Gratitude** - www.opgratitude.com. The primary mission of Operation Gratitude is to send care packages to American troops overseas. Care packages contain food, toiletries, entertainment items and personal letters of appreciation. Through collection drives, letter writing campaigns and donations of requested items or funds for shipping expenses, Operation Gratitude provides civilians anywhere in America a way to express their respect and appreciation to the men and women of the U.S. military in an active, hands-on manner. Operation Gratitude is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer corporation, funded entirely by private donations.

Many of you have supported Operation Gratitude through monetary donations. We are now offering another option for showing your support of the mission of Operation Gratitude. In recognition of the upcoming July 4th Independence Day, Operation Gratitude is holding a Patriotic Drive to gather volunteers together to assemble care packages to send to the service members overseas.

CEA will participate in this Patriotic Drive by way of organizing volunteers to assemble care packages, and we invite you to participate:

Operation Gratitude Patriotic Drive CEA Day for Operation Gratitude Sunday, July 1, 2007

California Army National Guard Armory
17330 Victory Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA 91436
Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - broken down into shifts:
Morning Shift - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Mandatory Break - 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Afternoon Shift - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We encourage you to volunteer for the entire day. If you are unable to do so, they have indicated they need more volunteers for the afternoon shift from

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. If, however, you can only volunteer for the morning shift, that would be great - whatever amount of time you can donate, is greatly appreciated.

There are many tasks that need to take place and volunteers will be placed accordingly. Tasks include: assembling, packaging, labeling, handwriting customs forms, garbage duty, plus more. This is hard work and there is a lot to do. Operation Gratitude typically assembles 1,000 boxes per hour.

- July 1st is the last day of the Patriotic Drive, so the more helpers, the better.
- No one under 12 years of age is allowed to participate.
- Volunteers must wear comfortable clothes and shoes.
- Volunteers must sign release forms.

Please RSVP for this July 1st event by Wednesday, June 20th if you would like to volunteer your time. We will need your name, date of birth and contact information. We will also need to know if you can volunteer all day or just the afternoon shift. You may contact Jennifer Blevins at CEA Headquarters (below) with this information.

If you can't volunteer but wish to send a letter of appreciation - you may do so. The letters are included in the care packages. Check out www.opgratitude.com for more details.

Also, in an effort to support those who are serving who are close to so many of you, we are asking for any of you who may have an immediate member of your family in active duty or being called to duty, to please provide CEA with their name and particulars so that we can send the list to Operation Gratitude. CEA will also acknowledge these individuals through our various programs (newsletter, conference, etc.) throughout the year.

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