

Soldiers Say ‘Thank You for the Letters’

Some soldiers who have been serving in Iraq and Afghanistan recently made special stops at schools around the United States. They stopped by to share their experiences and to thank students for letters and packages they sent.



While he was on leave last month, a soldier from Yuma, Arizona, stopped to visit students at a local middle school. “Keep the cards and letters coming,” Sgt. Allen Ienn told students who have been writing all year long. “We get the biggest kick out of them. We read some of the cards you guys are writing over and over again. Some of the soldiers don't get any mail, so your letters mean a lot to them.”

The soldiers even hang the cards around their doors so the inspirational greetings are the last things they see as they head off to work in Iraq, Ienn said.

In Shelby County, Alabama, students welcomed Sgt. Demir Lico to their school. They had written letters to Lico's army unit in Afghanistan. “The letters mean the world to us,” Lico said. “We sit around our table, all of us reading. The letters put smiles on my troop's faces.”

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mission represents
military inspirational

Lico presented the students with an American flag that flew in Afghanistan. He hopes the students see the flag as something special. “This is the greatest country in the world, and that flag represents this country and freedom,” Lico told a news reporter.

Fourth graders in York, Pennsylvania, have been writing letters to soldiers in Afghanistan. Each student wrote letters to nine different soldiers at the Christmas and Valentine's Day holidays. Last month, Sgt. Keith Lloyd stopped by to thank the students for their letters. “We're over there doing what we have to do to get the mission done... It's a good break in the evening to sit down and read a letter,” he said.

Sgt. Ryan Schmitt recently paid a visit to second graders at a school in St. Ansgar, Iowa. He thanked students for the letters they wrote while he was in Iraq. Getting letters from students “brings a little bit of brightness to the day,” he said. Schmitt even took pictures of Flat Stanley in front of the big military trucks he repairs in Iraq. Schmitt is about to return to Iraq for another tour of duty. Many students have pinned yellow ribbons to their backpacks as a way to remember him until he comes home again.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This month -- just in time for Memorial Day -- you can help one company reach their goal of sending 1,000,000 letters to our soldiers. Learn more at ramtrucks.com.