



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 8, 2015**

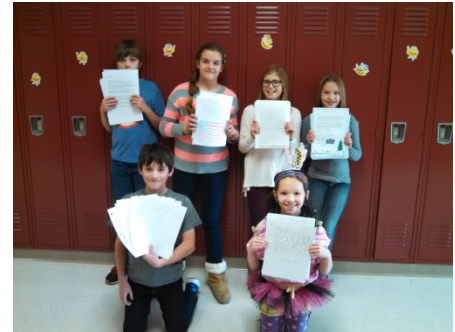
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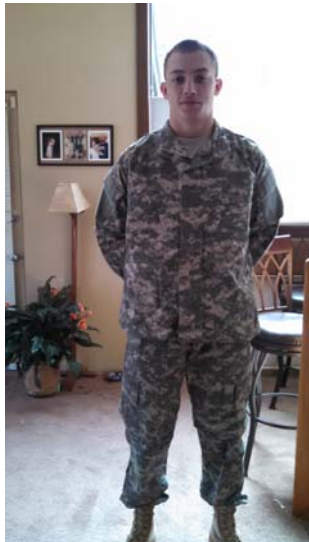
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## CHARLOTTE UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL: PEN PALS WITH NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS

When the newly formed Charlotte Upper Elementary (CUE) Student Council heard that 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Tammy Weissenborn's son, Conner, had joined the Army National Guard, they immediately said, "We should write to him." Conner, a 2013 CHS graduate, has been stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri since September where he is training to be a Military Police Officer.



Early on in the school year students sent letters to Conner thanking him for his service and telling him stories about what is happening back home. He enjoyed the letters so much, he began to share them with many of the other soldiers stationed at Fort Leonard Wood. After the first shipment of letters were received, Conner, wrote the class back and shared that many of the soldiers there don't get any mail, which motivated the students and the idea quickly grew. Since that initial batch of letters were sent, students from each grade at Charlotte Upper Elementary have been writing letters to more than 200 soldiers every week and intend to keep it going through the holidays.



Conner told his mom in a recent phone call that the soldiers appreciated getting the letters. He said there were a lot of smiles and laughter at mail-call. CUE Principal, Blair Klco commented that "this was a wonderful way to celebrate the school's November theme, an "Attitude of Gratitude." "It was an opportunity for students to connect with and appreciate our American soldiers," she said.