

## Sending Holiday Cards to Service Members and Veterans in 2014

Snopes.com is a great way to verify the truth behind articles or posts that we read online!

RTC looked into the INCORRECT claim regarding sending holiday cards to service members and veterans by addressing them to "Any Wounded Soldier" or "Any Service Member" c/o Walter Reed Hospital. This program and others have been updated in recent years.

This year we CAN turn to local Red Cross chapters to send cards.

Local Red Cross offices will collect, sort, and distribute the holiday cards using an events-based approach in their local communities. Local Red Cross offices will:

1. Hold events to sign or make holiday cards
2. Schedule card-sorting times.
3. Coordinate card delivery to the military, vets and families in their communities.

These changes will allow local Red Cross offices to better concentrate on reaching out to the members of the military, veterans and families in their community — neighbors helping neighbors.

The Red Cross has also provided these guidelines for sending cards to service members:

- Ensure that all cards are signed.
- Use generic salutations such as "Dear Service Member." Cards addressed to specific individuals cannot be delivered through this program.
- Only cards are being accepted. Do not send letters.
- Do not include email or home addresses on the cards, as the program is not meant to foster pen pal relationships.
- Do not include inserts of any kind, including photos, as these items will be removed during the reviewing process.
- Please refrain from choosing cards with glitter or using loose glitter as it can aggravate health issues of ill and injured warriors.
- If you are mailing a large quantity of cards, please bundle them and place them in large mailing envelopes or flat rate postal shipping boxes. Each card does not need its own envelope, as envelopes will be removed from all cards before distribution.

Also please note that the "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program is for the delivery of holiday cards only. Those wishing to donate items such as phone cards or military comfort kits should go to the Help Our Troops section of the Red Cross online catalogue.

Read more at

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/christmas/soldiercards.asp#kBGSMB538Ytz42fx.99>



