

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students support those who fight for our freedom

Heritage Oak students not only develop a love for learning, but a love for this country and the people fighting for it. To share this love and respect, Mrs. Bray's kindergarten class from the 2007/2008 school year made cards and letters and sent them to Iraq last school year, which were received by the Battalion in August 2008. It brought such joy to the men during a very difficult time. Upon discharge last month, Petty Officer Steven Vargas came to Heritage Oak to express his thanks with an Iraqi dollar bill for all those students. He led them on a march to eat lunch, answered their questions about the war, and discussed what freedom really means. He inspired them with his final words..."at the end of the day we get to see our contribution to this war effort in the form of a new bridge, a new school, a new road to help the people of Iraq."

In conjunction with Middle School, the Fourth and Fifth grade classes also did their part in thanking the soldiers. They prepared care packages in partnership with "Packages of Gratitude", an Anaheim Hills-based operation, which sends packages to American military men and women stationed overseas. The packages included personal care articles, stationary supplies for writing home and snacks. Together with warm hand-knitted caps for the cold winter-months ahead and posters and cards, prepared by the pre-school and pre-kindergarten classes, these care packages cheered up our overseas troops deployed far from home and brought a small piece of "home" to our brave heroes!

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon," our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.