

In Praise of Military Kids

We honor you the military kid, the youngest of our unsung heroes whose daily choices are fed on *courage* and starved of complaints.

*You whose shoulders slump with heavy realities you don't always understand but whose feet still move one **brave** step at a time.*

You who shows patriotism every time you wave goodbye to the moving truck **or** your mom or dad.

*You who knows another move is around the corner but will still *reach out* to the new friend living across the street.*

You whose roots may be shallow but support *beautiful blooms* just the same.

You who takes up the slack of a missing parent by not slacking off on household chores.

You who are **practiced** at making *friends* quickly even though you know *goodbye* will come just as fast.

This is for you the military kid, you who are more adept at conversing with grown-ups than some grown-ups are.

You who struggles in your new environment but doesn't want to worry mom or dad with how you feel.

*You who let the *words and tears* fall anyway.*

You who wanders the halls of your new middle school desperate to make sense of your mixed-up schedule.

You who asks the new kid at school to sit by you at lunch because you knows how terrifying that initial walk into the lunchroom can be.

This is for you the military kid, you who memorizes your home phone and address just in time for it to change.

You who ignores your flip-flopping stomach on the first day of your fifth school in five years.

You who when asked, "Where ya from?" are never quite sure how to answer.

You who handles new situations with incredible adaptability but mature-beyond-your-years dependability.

You who knows that home is more about the *people* you're with than the place you sleep.

You who unknowingly serves and sacrifices so much alongside your parents, never asking for anything in return.

You who knows that being called a **brat** is not an insult but a *badge of honor*.

*This is for you the military kid, you who don't expect a well-deserved **thank you** but earned one just the same.*

To you we say heartily and exuberantly: thank you. Thank you for all the quiet ways you serve well. You are seen, appreciated, and wildly loved.