



The Military Child World Expo **The National Association For Military-Connected Children** The Home of the Military Child

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military Child World Expo Foundation Established as the National Association for Military-Connected Children

Arlington, VA — January 2, 2025

The Military Child World Expo Foundation (MCWEF) today formally announced its establishment as the National Association for Military-Connected Children, providing national leadership, cultural stewardship, and institutional coordination on behalf of children growing up in military-connected families.

MCWEF was created to address the longstanding absence of a unifying national body dedicated exclusively to the recognition, identity, and belonging of military-connected children. While numerous organizations support military families, MCWEF uniquely centers children as a distinct community shaped by service, mobility, and global experience.

“As a national association, our role is to ensure military-connected children are not treated as an invisible population,” said Adrienne Schaffer, Chair, MCWEF. “MCWEF exists to provide continuity, coordination, and a permanent institutional home that recognizes their lived experience.”

The Foundation advances its mission through a national framework that connects families, schools, community organizations, faith institutions, and partners across sectors. MCWEF does not replace existing services; rather, it aligns and elevates efforts through shared standards, recognition frameworks, and cultural stewardship.

A central expression of MCWEF’s work is its flagship national convening, the Military Child World Expo, which provides a free, family-friendly platform for recognition, learning, and community connection. In addition, MCWEF leads targeted initiatives focused on cultural identity, youth belonging, and recognition of teen caregivers.

Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, MCWEF also advances a place-based identity recognizing the region as the Home of the Military Child, reflecting the community’s longstanding connection to military families and national service.

About the Military Child World Expo Foundation (MCWEF)

The Military Child World Expo Foundation (MCWEF) serves as the National Association for Military-Connected Children, providing national leadership, cultural stewardship, and institutional coordination on behalf of children growing up in military-connected families worldwide.

MCWEF advances its mission through a flagship national convening, the Military Child World Expo, and targeted initiatives focused on cultural identity, caregiving recognition, and belonging.

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