



# OPERATION GRATITUDE



Sending a Taste Of Home to Our Pennsylvania Warriors Deployed to Poland

## Please Deliver Donations to Carlisle VFW Post 477 No Later Than 15 Oct 2019

**Sponsored by Carlisle VFW POST 477**

**For**

Pennsylvania Army National Guard

**3rd Squadron 128th Armored Cavalry Regiment**

Currently deployed to Poland

(May 2019 till March 2020)

**Donations DROP OFF at:**

**Carlisle VFW**

**2104 W. Trindle Road**

**Carlisle, PA 17013**

(across from Lowes / Burger King)

**\$\$ Donations/Checks should be By Check to:**

**VFW Post 477 – Operation Gratitude**

(Mail to OR Drop Off at **address in red** above)

### Our Local Heroes Have Requested:

- SLIM JIMS / BEEF JERKY (Any Flavor or Style)
- SINGLE SERVE CEREALS / OATMEAL
- HARD SOURDOUGH PRETZELS
- HARD CANDIES
- MICROWAVEABLE SNACKS (Noodles, Mac n Cheese, Rice)
- SINGLE SERVING FRUIT CUPS (Cans only , no plastic)
- CHEWING GUM
- POP TARTS & RICE CRISPY TREATS
- GRANOLA SNACK BARS
- SUNFLOWER or PUMPKIN SEEDS / DEHYDRATED FRUITS
- NUTS, TRAIL MIX (with No Chocolate or Yogurt)
- POWDERED DRINK MIXES (KOOL-AID, LEMONADE Etc)
- K-CUPS (Coffee, Tea or Hot Chocolate)

**CASH Donations ALSO Needed for Shipping Costs**

**Tax Exemption Number: EIN 231182430**

**Questions: Call Rick Olson @ 717-329-6055 or**

**Dick McCoy @ 301-292-8768**



August 5, 2019

Dear Service Organization,

Last year Carlisle Post 477 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars conducted a drive to provide comfort items to Pennsylvania Army National Guard troops stationed in Afghanistan and Kuwait. This drive was called Operation Gratitude and through the generous contributions of local businesses and community service organizations, over 1,500 pounds of items sorely missed by our local heroes was shipped to Kuwait.

In May of this year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron of the 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment of the PA National Guard deployed over 500 soldiers to Poland as part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Position mission. These soldiers will be sacrificing time away from their families until March of next year. In a gesture of thanks and appreciation for their service, VFW Post 477 and its Auxiliary is initiating Operation Gratitude II, to solicit, accumulate, and send comfort items to our Pennsylvania heroes serving abroad. We've been in contact with the troops and they have identified a list of desired items which are listed on the attached flyer.

If you participated in our very first Operation Gratitude drive last year for PA troops deployed to Afghanistan, you already know how good it felt when we sent a "Taste of Home" to them. Nothing says we care and are thinking about our troops overseas like a box of these items from the USA. But whether you participated last year or are being contacted for the first time, I sincerely hope that you will donate to this year's Operation Gratitude II endeavor. Your contribution can be either monetary or the donation of items requested by the troops (see flyer).

As Commander of VFW Post 477, I would like to thank you in advance for considering to donate to this year's Operation Gratitude endeavor. The deadline for your donations is 15 October 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or you may contact my Operation Gratitude II POC, Dick McCoy at (301) 292-8768.

Sincerely,

*Rick Olson*  
Rick Olson  
Post 477 Commander  
(717) 329-6055

Enclosure: Operation Gratitude II Flyer

**VFW POST 477 - CARLISLE**