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The Alabama *Heroes Welcome Initiative* is a program of the Alabama Military Stability Foundation and is funded by the State of Alabama.

# The Alabama

## *Heroes Welcome Initiative*

Improving Quality of Life for Military-Connected Spouses and Families Moving to and Living in Alabama



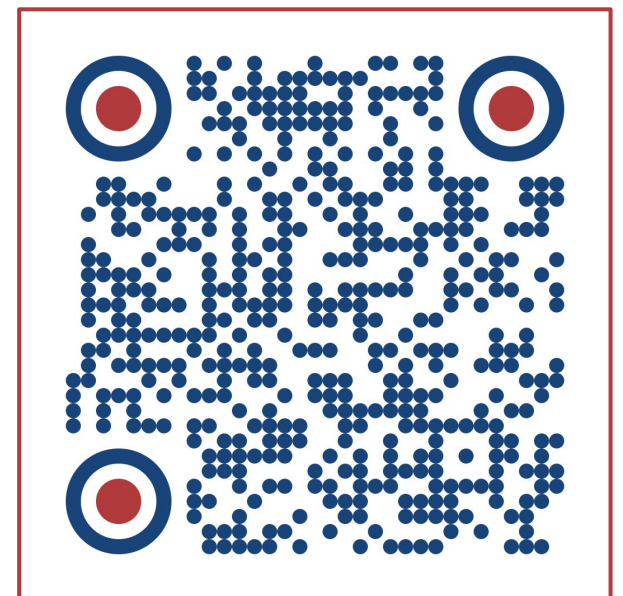
# Alabama Military Stability Foundation

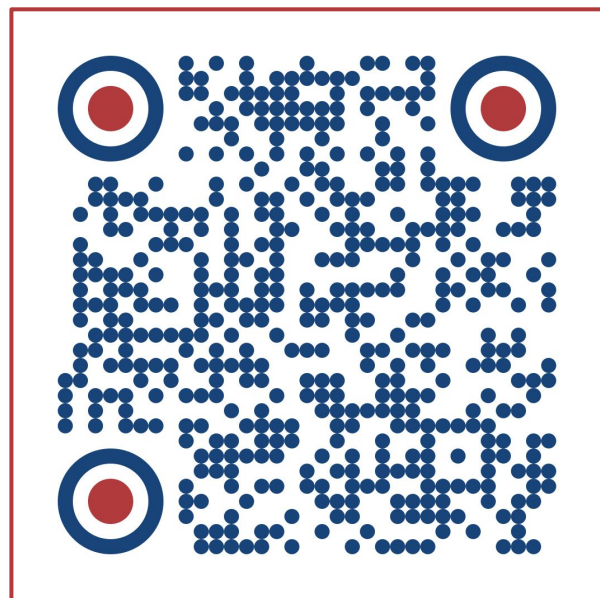
- Operational arm of the Alabama Military Stability Commission
  - Commission chaired by the Lieutenant Governor.
- Supports measures that maintain and strengthen Alabama's military assets and infrastructure.
- Helping to ensure that our military service members, their spouses, and their families are properly welcomed to and supported by their local Alabama defense communities.



# Alabama *Heroes Welcome Initiative*

- Created as a connection to military spouses and families across the state.
- Hosts a resource website that showcases links and POCs for categories most searched by military families moving to a new state – curated by the Alabama Military Family Liaison.
- Gathers “boots-on-the-ground” insights through the Liaison to inform the Lieutenant Governor, legislators, and state agencies of needs within the military community, and opportunities for support.





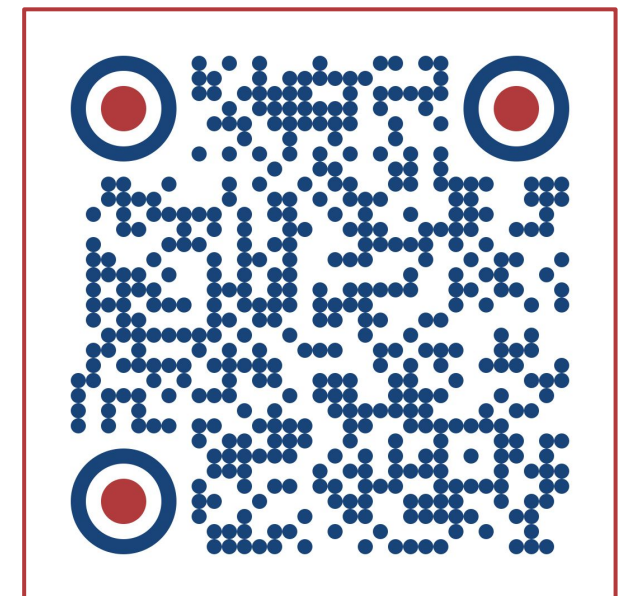
# Alabama Military Family Liaison

- First in the Nation position
  - **3 Pillars**
    - Resource Awareness
    - Community Engagement
    - Advocating for and Developing Policies and Programs that improve quality of life for military-connected families.
- Growing statewide & national **network of networks**
- **Bridging communications gaps** between military-connected families, local communities, and local Installations/Units.
- **Serving all military-connected families**, no matter the component, service branch, or life stage.



# Goals

- Increase military spouse awareness of available resources across all outlets: on and off local DOD Installations, Statewide, and National.
- Increase engagement between military spouses and their local defense communities.
- Initiate and contribute to the development of new programs, resources, and policies to support military-connected spouses and families moving to or living in Alabama.



# Programs and Engagement Opportunities

***MSAN Alabama Military Spouse Mentorship-HUB***



***Alabama Purple Star Schools Program***



***Social Media Engagement + Alabama Connections E-Updates***



# Programs and Engagement Opportunities

*Alabama Statewide Military Spouse Advisory Council*



*DoD Military Spouse Employment Partnership – Spouse Ambassador Program Member*



*Also:*

- Workforce Development and Community Welcome Programs
- Upcoming Military Spouse Summit Program



# MSAN Alabama Military Spouse Mentorship - HUB



The Alabama Military Stability Foundation (ALMSF)  
+ The Military Spouse Advocacy Network (MSAN)

The **Alabama Mentorship-HUB (AL-HUB)**

- The **AL-HUB** is a first-of-its-kind resource that provides a range of free programs to military spouses at the state and local levels, including but not limited to:
  - 24/7 access to resources & support provided by mentors who are both military spouses + professionally-trained mental health allies
  - Free training modules on a growing variety of quality-of-life topics
  - Connectivity with the Military Family Liaison and the ALNG TAG's Spouse
  - Connectivity with the Alabama Military Spouse Advisory Council and its virtual meetings



# Alabama Purple Star Schools Program



Recognizes public K-12 schools committed to successful transitioning of military students and their families to their new homes and schools; and providing continued support and resources for those students and families.

- School Liaison Officers (SLOs) are a wealth of knowledge and critical to helping the State support military students and families.
- The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is recognized as the national advocate for the Purple Star Schools Program and provides professional development related to the military lifestyle and challenges faced by military students.
- ❖ The ALSDE funds MCEC to provide Community Coordinators in each of our main defense communities to facilitate professional development and help schools understand best practices for meeting the Alabama Purple Star Schools designation criteria.



# Alabama Purple Star Schools Program



## Criteria:

Military Family POC on Staff

POC Attends Professional Development Related to Military Families

Military Family-Focused Resource Page on Website

Student-Led Transition Program

Military Recognition Event(s)

## Optional:

Military Family PD for Additional Staff/Teachers

Additional Military-Connected Events

School District/City/County Proclamations for Month of the Military Child

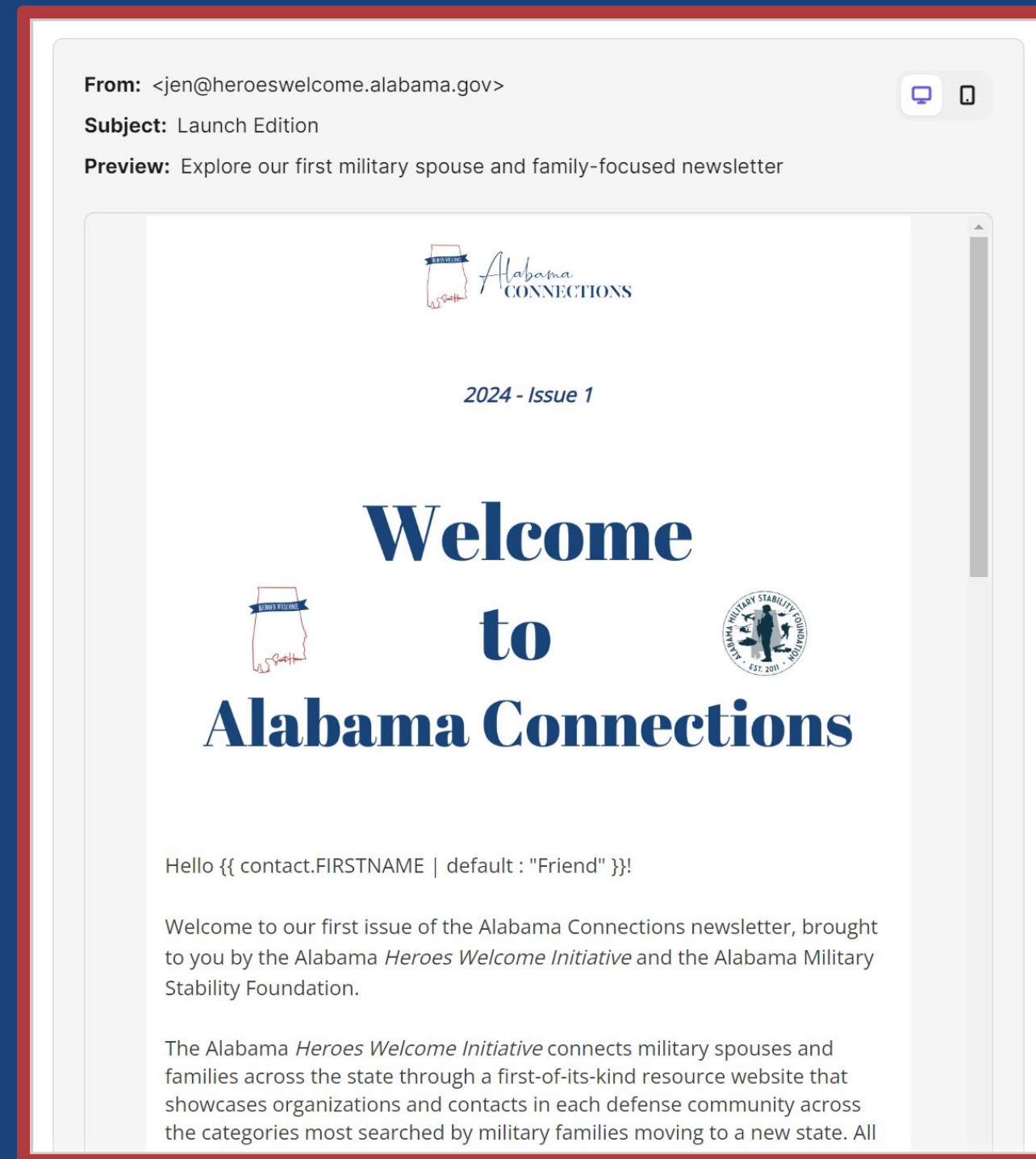
Purple Up! Day Celebrations for Month of the Military Child



# Alabama Connections: E-Updates (Newsletter)

## Monthly email updates:

- Featured resource plus two additional resources
- News & events relevant to military-connected spouses and families
- Legislative updates as available
- And more



# Alabama Military Spouse Advisory Council



## Mission:

Our mission is to offer structured connectivity with military spouses on a larger scale, furthering efforts to improve military family quality of life in Alabama.

## Purpose:

The Council's primary purpose is to expand the Military Family Liaison's local presence across the State with more direct connectivity in each defense community on a more regular basis.

The Council also serves as a unique and significant statewide experience for our military spouse community leaders.



# DoD Military Spouse Employment Partnership

The Career Accelerator is a paid fellowship program for spouses of currently serving members of Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members.

- places selected military spouses across a variety of industries and locations where they receive professional training, mentoring, networking and hands-on experience
- matches military spouse talent with organizations based on their skill sets

## Participating Employer Benefits:

- Early access to a pipeline of highly skilled and educated military spouse talent
- Opportunity to host military spouses at no cost
- Recognition through promotional activities and social media engagement



In January 2026, this successful initiative will become a permanent, Defense Department-backed program: the Career Accelerator.



# DoD Military Spouse Employment Partnership



## Participating Employer Benefits:

- Unlimited access to highly skilled and educated military spouse talent
  - Free solutions for targeting and connecting with military spouses
- Opportunity to host military spouses at no cost, as the program is fully subsidized by the Defense Department
- Networking with the Defense Department and other industry-leading partners
- MSEP Specialist assigned to the organization to facilitate military spouse recruitment and retention efforts
- Partnership development activities including LinkedIn partner group, and partner-to-partner mentoring
- Military community hiring events and DOD military spouse hiring fairs
- Facilitated access to military spouses at military installations worldwide
- Recognition through promotional activities and social media engagement



# DoD Military Spouse Employment Partnership



## Partner Categories:

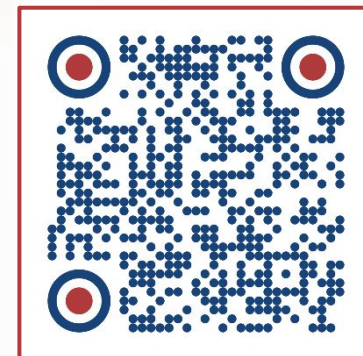
- **Enduring Partners**
  - Large corporations with career opportunities nationwide
- **Community Action Network (CAN) Partners**
  - Smaller businesses with career opportunities in a few states or just one, sometimes local businesses with opportunities only in a small footprint
- **Spouse Advocacy Network (SAN) Partners**
  - Organizations advocating to military spouses and companies about the MSEP program and The Career Accelerator fellowship
  - Nonprofits and others that are highly engaged within the military spouse community but not hiring
    - Serving military spouses through employment support, advocacy and communications, and/or education resources



# Summary

- I advocate for solutions to the challenges faced by military-connected families.
  - Solutions are often found in Legislative actions, community engagement, new programs, new or updated policies, or connecting spouses and service members with existing resources.
- As Alabama builds a stronger, more action-based sense of community and belonging for military-connected families, we bridge both real and perceived gaps, offering a *rising tide for the entire community – the entire state*.
- I invite you all to explore the *Heroes Welcome* website, connect with me, and spouses to join me in the Alabama Military Spouse HUB!

Scan the QR  
Code  
to Visit  
Heroes  
Welcome





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# THANK YOU

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website.

