

Dear Friends,

This week I visit Tyndall Air Force Base to sign several pieces of legislation that honor those who have served in our nation's Armed Forces. While we can never truly repay them for their sacrifices, we can demonstrate our deep appreciation through our prayers for their safety and for



their families, and through continuing Florida's reputation as a military and veteran-friendly state. The new legislation supports business owners with military service-connected disabilities and veterans residing in Florida's State Veterans' Homes. We also have enhanced the Family Readiness Program and expanded student access to Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs.

Later, I signed legislation that will create the Florida College System, which will strengthen Florida's community colleges and help them transition to four-year colleges. This step will ensure that affordable higher education is available to more Floridians. Higher education strengthens Florida's workforce, and more students will be able to receive the education needed to fill jobs in their communities.

I also visited with individuals with disabilities, their families, and advocates at the 10th Annual Family Café Conference in Orlando. There, I signed two bills that will open doors for the people with disabilities and their families. One bill will ensure we have more Guardian Advocates for people with developmental disabilities. The other will require our public schools to teach disability history and awareness to help our young people understand the challenges persons with disabilities face every day. As people learn, they realize that persons with disabilities are just like anyone else – with the same wants, desires, and abilities to achieve great things.

May God bless our great state, and a happy Father's Day to all.

**Statement by
GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST
Regarding Father's Day**

"A father's influence extends to more than molding character and instilling confidence. As my father has done for me, fathers encourage, love, guide and support the ongoing success of their children. I join Floridians this Father's Day weekend in celebrating and honoring the men who shoulder this responsibility each day.

"I appreciate the unwavering and steadfast commitment of our fathers and salute those who serve as father figures throughout our state. Our thoughts and prayers are with our military

fathers who are away from their children while serving our country and defending our freedoms.”

**Statement by
GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST
Regarding Flag Day – Saturday, June 14, 2008**

“Since our nation’s birth, the American flag has served as a symbol of our country’s strength and unity. Throughout the world, its stars and stripes represent not only our history, but also the principles of our nation’s founding – universal liberty, justice and opportunity. Everywhere our flag is flown, it signifies a nation unified and a people whose faith in freedom are the cornerstones of our democracy.

“As we pay special tribute to this symbol of America, I encourage all Floridians to take time to reflect on our rich national heritage. By doing so, we honor those whose service and sacrifice have secured our present blessings and commit ourselves to ensuring hope and honor for future generations.”