



State of Rhode Island
Office of Lieutenant Governor
Daniel J. McKee

September 30, 2020

Dear RISCPA members and partners:

I hope this letter finds you well during these unprecedented times. My office, in partnership with the Rhode Island Manufacturer's Association, the Rhode Island Society of CPA's, the Rhode Island National Guard's Family Assistance Center, the United States Postal Service, and the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross, is preparing to launch the **18th Annual Operation Holiday Cheer** (OHC) initiative. This year, the Rhode Island National Guard currently does not have any units scheduled for deployment for November and the upcoming year and due to social distancing requirements and the health and safety of all our volunteers and partners, Operation Holiday Cheer will therefore focus on supporting and replenishing the Rhode Island Military Family Relief Fund. A holiday package will also be mailed to those Rhode Island military based personnel on active duty and away from home for the holidays.

The Rhode Island Military Family Relief Fund was established by a bill sponsored by former Lt. Governor Charles Fogarty in 2004. The fund was created to assist Rhode Island military members and their families in times of crisis that can reasonably be expected to be remedied with a one-time grant that is either financial or casualty based. A brochure with more information about the fund is included with this letter.

COVID-19's impact on our state resulted in the activation of 500+ members of our R.I. National Guard to assist with the state's response to the pandemic. These men and women soldiers were redeployed from their regular day jobs and assigned across the state at COVID testing sites and to numerous state agencies to support the state's COVID efforts.

Your contribution to the Military Family Relief Fund will help our Rhode Island military members that have been impacted during this pandemic; many of whom left higher paying jobs to protect and serve the citizens of Rhode Island.

Operation Holiday Cheer is a seasonal initiative focused on supporting our service men and women, what better way to support them through this pandemic than to replenish a depleted grant program established to assist in times of great need. We hope that you will consider contributing this year. As in past years, donations can be made to the American Red Cross (charitable donation) with a memo for Operation Holiday Cheer, please see enclosed document for details. All funds will be donated by the American Red Cross to the Military Family Relief Fund. Donations received by November 15, 2020 to support Operation Holiday Cheer are greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (401) 222-2371 or tabatha.dube@ltgov.ri.gov with any questions or visit www.ltgov.ri.gov/ohc. Chief of Staff Anthony Silva is coordinating the program through my office this year and is available to answer any questions on his cell at (401) 578-4220. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Lieutenant Governor