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Tallahassee woman spends spare time sending care packages to U.S. troops

By [Stephanie Haughton](#) • Democrat writer • June 13, 2008

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For Marsha Morrison "Support the troops" isn't just another catchy phrase for a bumper sticker. It's her passion.

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About 18 months ago Morrison found herself on Google typing in "How to send packages to the troops." She found www.ansoldier.com, a Web site for people who want to help soldiers but don't know how.

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The wife, mother of three and grandmother of two spends all her spare time preparing and mailing packages to U.S. soldiers overseas.

“When you say the word ‘troops,’ these are somebody’s children we’re talking about,” she said. “They’re a part of somebody’s family. It’s not just a faceless thing.”

She began sending care packages in 2006 about two years after her father, Joseph T. English, died. Since then she has sent more than 360.

“My daddy was an unabashed patriot,” she said of the late Army Air Corps captain. “He’s no longer here. I do it to honor him.”

Included in the jumbo shoebox-size packages are personalized letters and essentials such as toothpaste, deodorant and Tampons.

She even includes movies, books, magazines, board games, cigars, calling cards and snacks.

“I think I can reconstruct several cows with the amount of beef jerky I send over there,” she said jokingly.

In the past year and a half, Morrison said, she has spent more than \$3,000 in delivery fees. And more than \$1,300 in military calling cards. She has even hosted “packaging parties” at her church as well as local schools.

Her husband, Jim, said his wife has always had a big heart. Her packages have become such an industry that their house is swamped with items waiting to be mailed.

“Our living room has been a mess for quite a while now,” he said with a laugh. “At one point one group donated a truckload of stuff, and it hasn’t been the same ever since.”

His wife has received letters of appreciation.

“Just last week I received a plaque from one of the guys at the units. It’s amazing that they would have taken the time out to do

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that," she said, tearing up. "I kind of adopted some of these soldiers as my own sons and daughters. Once you start reading some of their e-mails on the Web site, you just can't resist."

U.S. Army Capt. Mark B. Howell, 32, who was deployed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, said he appreciates her generosity.

"Marsha will always have a place in my heart for all the support and morale she had brought to both my unit and I," Howell said. "It is a good cause, and it lets us all know that America supports us and the sacrifices that we have to make."

Morrison is scheduled to speak at the Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum in Carrabelle, on June 5.

"It doesn't matter if you think they should be out there or not," she said of the soldiers at war. "We need to support them — and not with stickers on your car."

For information on how to donate, contact Marsha Morrison at 850-893-8810 or marsha@marshamorrison.com.

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