

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

Dear Friend,

April is both the “Month of Military Child” and “National Poetry Month.” In recognition, I am hosting the 2nd Annual “My Experience as a Military Child” poetry contest for all children of military families across Minnesota. I hope to recognize the extraordinary work of our men and women who serve, as well as the families they hold dear in Minnesota.

The “My Experience as a Military Child” poetry contest is for children of military families in grades K-12 throughout Minnesota with three age categories of grades K-6, 7-9, and 10-12. This includes children who have parents, grandparents, siblings or aunts or uncles who are either active military or military veterans.

“My Experience as a Military Child” Poetry Contest Rules:

- Participants may only submit 1 entry per person to poetry@franken.senate.gov or by mail to:

Office of Senator Al Franken
c/o ‘Poetry Contest’
60 Plato Blvd., Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55107

- Poem maximum word count of 250 words, no minimum word count
- Entry must be submitted by April 10, 2013 and must have name of military child, child’s grade, parent/guardian name, address, phone number, name of school.
- Entries will be judged based on six criteria, including: relevance to theme, creativity, judge’s impression, fluency, structure, and technical excellence.

Top winners in each category will be selected to receive the following:

- Invitation to join me at a reception in my St. Paul office along with my special guest judges: Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Shellito; Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen; Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, Major General Rick Nash; Minnesota Commissioner of Education Brenda Cassellius and Tom Giaimo, University of Minnesota Wrestler and member of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.
- Press release of winning poem and photo from reception sent to local newspaper (with parent/guardian authorization)
- Grand Prize: 1st place winning poems in each age category will be framed and displayed at my offices in Saint Paul or in Washington DC. First place winners will also receive an autographed book by famed Minnesota author and host of “Prairie Home Companion” Garrison Keillor.

I encourage you to participate in this year’s “My Experience as a Military Child” Poetry contest! If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to email poetry@franken.senate.gov or call my office at 651-221-1016.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator