

PEGGIE BROTT believes in helping her three children find the silver lining in any situation and enjoys all the adventures Army life brings. She was inspired to write "Saying Goodbye" during her husband's second deployment.

ALISON BUCKHOLTZ is the author of *Standing By: The Making of an American Military Family in a Time of War*. She wrote "The Good Day" for her children, Ethan and Esther, while her husband, a Navy pilot, was deployed.

JUDY HISSONG moved several times while her dad was in the Army and made many friends along the way. The friendship in her poem "Best Friends" continues today after seven moves and many, many years.

AMY HOUTS, the daughter of an Army tech sergeant, has written 37 books for children. She was inspired to write "When Mommy Comes Home" and "When Daddy Comes Home" after reading about a mother saying goodbye to her young children before deploying.

JENNIFER JESSEPH has been writing poems for more than 20 years. When she thought of parents deploying, the image of a kite came to mind and that's when she wrote "Holding Mom's Kite."

CHARLENE KOCHENSPIRGER is a writer who lives near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base with her firefighter husband and two children. "Mama's Been Called Up" was inspired by her children's school librarian who wanted more books about moms who deploy.

JULIE LABELLE's son grew up to be a Marine just like his dad. Their Marine neighbors were also good role models for how to play hard in the mud and get hosed off at the end of the day "Just Like You!"

CHRISTY LYON loves to read to her two boys before bedtime. She wrote "Good Night" to add a prayer for safety and grateful thanksgiving for their day.

KAREN PAVLICIN exchanged more than 800 handwritten letters with her Marine husband during his deployments. She loves to leave love notes in her son's lunchbox and read reminders from her treasure box. It was her son's love note on the pantry door that inspired her to write "Love Letters."

DONNA PORTELLI loves to make a wonderful space for each person in her family. A recent move to a new neighborhood and her daughters' attempts to make their new space their own inspired her poem "My Space."

CINDY SHAW is married to an Army military police officer. They currently live on post next to the parade field. Each evening, their children run out to watch the lowering of the flag, inspiring her poem "It's Five O'Clock."

MICHELLE TONSMEIRE's husband has been in airborne units all over the world. She was inspired to write "My Daddy Jumps Today" the first time their young son watched his daddy jump at the drop zone. Michelle lives in North Carolina with her husband and two children.

QUINETTE COOK, illustrator, lives in Minnesota with her husband, two children, and a Weimaraner named Jazz. She holds a BA in commercial art and design from the University of Minnesota.

