



June 21, 2021

Armed Services YMCA Member,

As President and CEO of Armed Services YMCA of the USA (ASYMCA), I offer my organization's strongest support for the Operation Military Experience (OpME) study being led by Purdue University's Military Family Research Institute. ASYMCA urges our members and their families to participate.

The ASYMCA has great respect for the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University. ASYMCA has benefitted for several years from the work done by MFRI and the expertise of its director, Dr. Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth.

The OpME study will provide leading-edge information about the enduring effects – good and bad -- of OIF/OEF deployments for children and their families. The study will include families who are still serving, as well as those who have left military service. It will also include families with military moms, as well as siblings in military families. This study will be one of the first to include these segments of our population, and the information gained will benefit both military families and those organizations that support them.

ASYMCA works hard to ground its programs in scientific evidence. We cannot do that without help from families who are willing to participate in research. Offering programs such as child care to enable spouse employment, early learning programs to help nurture and prepare military children, and mentoring programs for military youth, ASYMCA focuses on strengthening the military family as a whole. The research done by MFRI contributes significantly to the impact we have on families in each military service.

If your family receives an invitation to participate, I urge you to accept. The procedures for this study have been rigorously reviewed, and you can feel safe in doing so.

We at Armed Services YMCA appreciate greatly all the ways that your family has served our country, and the sacrifices you have made along that journey. We hope you will share your experiences with the OpME team.

Very Respectfully,

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President and CEO
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