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The Mariners' to Host MilKids Fest in Celebration of Military Kids on April 14

NEWPORT NEWS, VA – The Mariners' Museum and Park reaffirms their commitment to serving the military community with their second annual Mariners' MilKids Fest on **Sunday, April 14, 2024, from noon to 4 p.m.** (Eastern time). This event is in celebration of Month of the Military Child, a yearly campaign which aims to increase recognition and awareness of the many sacrifices military families make. The Mariners' MilKids Fest is in partnership with TwelveMillionPlus, the first and only verified digital platform for the military spouse community.

"Our Mariners' MilKids Fest holds an extra special place in my heart, as I am an Army veteran myself," said Howard Hoege, President and CEO of The Mariners' Museum and Park. "I see my own wife and children in the military families we serve, and in many ways, the MilKids Fest represents our Mariners' Team, my own family, and me paying it forward."

The afternoon will be devoted to honoring children of U.S. military service members and providing useful tools and resources from trusted community partners such as Dogs on Deployment, MILLIE, Spouse-ly, and Kidcreate Studio. Families will be welcomed with fun activities inside Museum galleries and outside in Mariners' Park, including:

- Carnival-themed games
- A specially crafted Mariners' scavenger hunt
- Hands-on learning experiences with the Museum's Education team
- Environmental activities with the NOAA team
- A performance by Greenbeats, Live!, presented by Virginia Stage Company
- The opportunity to explore the Mariners' Park ecosystem
- Food and dessert from Island Time Delights and Flossed Out Cotton Candy
- Raffles and prizes

Military families and Mariners' Museum Members will receive free admission to The Mariners' MilKids Fest, and general admission for non-Members is \$1. Alongside participating food vendors, snacks and water will also be available for purchase in the Museum's Gift Shop. The public is encouraged to wear purple—the signature color symbolizing all branches of the military—to this event in support of U.S. military children.

For more information about this event, visit:

<https://www.marinersmuseum.org/event/the-mariners-milkids-fest-2/>.

Media interested in interviews or more information about this event should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones at sjones@MarinersMuseum.org.

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, non-profit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum is home to the USS Monitor Center and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Museum Park, one of the largest privately maintained parks open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1999, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. To provide access to the incredible stories told through the Collection, admission to the Museum is only \$1 per person. For hours and information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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