



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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## Supporting our Troops in 2009



This week, throughout Southeast Missouri, we will gather, share our resolutions for the coming year, and enjoy each others company. However, there are some who will not have the opportunity to spend New Years with their

families—the dedicated men and women who are serving overseas. Instead, these brave men and women will spend their New Years in dangerous places, protecting the safety of those of us here at home.

This New Years, if you choose to make a resolution for the upcoming year, please consider what you can do for an American soldier, sailor, airman or Marine serving far from home. Here are some ideas of ways to honor and show support for those serving our country.

**Send a message to our troops.** The easiest way to send a note of thank you and encouragement to our troops is to send a message online. The Department of Defense has a service set up that will allow you to post a note for service members to read at [www.americasupportsyou.com](http://www.americasupportsyou.com) — the official Department of Defense web site encouraging support of U.S. Military troops around the world. You can write your message by clicking on the “Thank the Troops” link. (Note: The Department of Defense no longer accepts unsolicited mail, so if you choose to send a letter to a service member, do so through one of the many organizations, such as [www.soldierangels.com](http://www.soldierangels.com), that help send letters and packages abroad.

**Make a donation.**

There are a variety of non-profit groups that accept donations—and not just the standard items we often think of. Frequent flyer miles, gift certificates, vehicles, and phone cards are all



collected by many charities and distributed to those who are serving. For a list of possible donations and the organizations that are collecting, visit <http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/americasupportsyou/help.html>.

**Get involved.** There are organizations and charities that do good work for our troops throughout Missouri. They are often looking for volunteers. For a list of groups in our state that are offering support to those serving abroad, visit

<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/americasupportsyou/StateSupport.aspx?ID=mo>.

For more information on Veterans affairs in our state and what you can do locally, visit the Missouri Veterans Commission at <http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/> or call (573) 751-3779.

No matter what you see ahead for 2009, I hope that you have a safe and happy New Year.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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