



Before her son was in the military, Jeannette Hicks said she had no idea.

No idea how much her life would be turned upside down. No idea of how helpless she'd feel as a mother. No idea about the true significance of holidays like Memorial Day.

But Jeannette does now...and she's put that knowledge into action by providing a support group for military moms, run by military moms, and driven by a military mom's heart for prayer.

A member of *The Presidential Prayer Team* and Adopt Our Troops, Jeannette is founder of the Moms of Military Prayer and Support Group (MOMS). It's a nationwide network of mothers and wives of loved ones currently serving in the United States military that, unlike similar support groups, is first and foremost a prayer ministry. One that is having an incredible impact for Christ.

"When our loved ones come back from their deployment, the first thing they want to do is come to a MOMS meeting," Jeannette said. "They want to thank us for our prayers because they'll say they really felt them. They also want to thank us for taking care of their mother, and giving them a place of support while they were away."

Jeannette started what would ultimately become MOMS in March 2001 when her son Matthew left for his first deployment in the U.S. Navy. "When that ship left, I thought I was going to die. There was nothing I could do. No one gets it. No one understood what I was going through. It was terrible," Jeannette said. "So I knew I needed to find another mother who understood my heart. I went back to my church, put an announcement in the bulletin, and started praying with just one mother, Judy Johnson, in my kitchen. That was seven years ago, just before 9-11."

Today, members of MOMS gather together to pray and support their troops and other military families around the country. There are eight active MOMS Chapters, including the one Jeannette oversees in Orange County, CA. A typical Chapter will meet twice monthly for two hours, with the group giving updates on their troops, sharing a devotional teaching, and then having an extended prayer time.

MOMS is also connected to over 300 other military mothers nationwide through e-mail. "Many unique friendships in the group have been formed through these e-mails," she says. "I can't tell you how many times a mom in Kansas will hook up with a mom in California whose sons are serving together. It's just great how the Lord orchestrates such things."

MOMS have been recognized by the U.S. Senate, selected state and city governments, and military organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. MOMS also recently received a personal letter from First Lady Laura Bush praising their prayer ministry.

"We're prayer warriors," Jeannette says of MOMS. "We have to be on our knees daily for our kids. We have to pray for their protection. They're in the Lord's hands, and they don't belong to us anymore. That was the greatest thing I had to learn to realize."

Adopt Our Troops in Prayer also recognizes and thanks Jeannette and all those involved in MOMS for their commitment to passionate prayer for our military men and women and their families. If you'd like to learn more about MOMS or get involved with their ministry, simply visit them online at [www.momsofmilitary.com](http://www.momsofmilitary.com), or call (714) 777-7347.



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