

Message in a Bottle: Wall of Light

A project about gratitude

There are over 200,000 US military deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan engaged in two wars that have lasted for over ten years. Our awareness of the work and sacrifices by those serving in the conflict and in other dangerous areas abroad is marginal at best. Our country is in need of connecting to those who are working for our basic freedoms and recognizing their contributions to our fundamental way of life.

Let's send a holiday message of hope, gratitude, and well-being to all who are serving in our military, especially those who are engaged in active conflict. Everyone who shares this feeling needs a way to communicate their message. This is the purpose of our project.



The Wall of Light

The proposal is to create an illuminated, translucent wall, 6 ft high and 200 ft long, viewable while driving in the downtown Jacksonville urban core. This structure is the Wall of Light.

Message in a Bottle

The wall is constructed of individual empty water bottles (about 34,000), stacked like firewood, each containing a message written by anyone who wants to contribute. Each message contains exactly 5 words chosen by their creators. It can be words like thanks, hope, peace, love, safety, etc. As each bottle is collected, the words are recorded into a database. As the database grows, a word "cloud" is generated to present all of the words graphically based on their frequency (words used more often will be larger).



MessageinabottleJAX.com

Our website contains the word cloud, a running total of the number of bottles, pictures, and a live feed of the wall. The URL will be published to everyone in the military.

The success of this project depends on our ability to promote awareness of the project and to collect bottles. Handling thousands of bottles and recording the messages will require dedicated help. If we cannot get a significant number of participants, the effectiveness will be greatly reduced.

country family freedom
friendship god grace gratitude
hope light love peace
safety thanksusa

A message in a bottle is symbolic of hope. It is an individual act. When combined, all of our individual messages make up an illuminated collective voice – The Wall of Light. It is our holiday gift to the military, to tell them they are remembered and appreciated by the people of Jacksonville.