

# Actions That Support Groups With A Responsibility For Keeping The Country Strong

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There are certain groups whose jobs were specifically created to keep the country strong. Strong in the sense of safe; Strong in the sense of fair, useful and enforced laws; Strong in the sense of educated citizens; and Strong in the sense of talented leaders with the best interest of the country at heart. These groups include:

- Elected officials
- Firemen
- Judicial officials and juries
- Law enforcement individuals
- Military personnel and veterans
- K - 12 teachers

By understanding the issues these groups face; by supporting and *challenging* them when appropriate; and by ensuring that these groups attract the most talented individuals and have the resources they need to carry out their functions, we can help them do a better job and make the country a better place to live.

## Citizen Actions

1. [Attend a School Board meeting.](#)
2. [Discuss the role of the military with your daughter and/or sons.](#)
3. [Give credit to individuals who act on behalf of the country.](#)
4. [Go on a police "ride-along".](#)
5. [Participate In, or make a donation to, a group with this country as its focus.](#)
6. [Provide feedback to the Police Chief and Oversight Boards on positive and negative encounters with Police officers.](#)
7. [Seek more pay and better conditions for military persons, veterans, teachers and police officers](#)
8. [Send a care package to servicemen overseas.](#)
9. [Volunteer to help out at your child's school.](#)
10. [Wave to a policeman](#)



**Reader Submitted  
Actions**



Educated citizens are critical to an effective democracy and thus to being free. Our country's kindergarten through high school (i.e. K - 12) public and private schools are the primary way our citizens are formally educated. Most public schools are part of a school district which is managed by an elected Board of Directors. These school Boards are instrumental in determining the quality of their schools and thus the education of our children and the strength of our democracy.

While K - 12 schools boards differ from state to state, typically they are responsible for things like:

- establishing a budget and the allocation of funds,
- approving the hiring of teachers,
- approving the building of new schools,
- negotiating contracts with teachers' union,
- determining the curricula and books to be used, and
- setting school policy for such things as school hours, discipline, and dress guidelines.

Most school boards are elected. Attending the school board meeting in ones school district is a great way a) to assess the quality of its elected members and provides them an impetus to do a great job, and b) to gain a heightened awareness of school-related issues and provide in-person input on these issues. A good understanding of the school board and the educational issues they are dealing with results in better voting and more accurate information when discussing school-related issues with others.



**Sites & Resources**



**Readers' Stories**



The Giraffe Project.



Sites & Resources



More Examples



Readers' Stories

## Go on a Police "Ride-Along"



Forget going to an amusement park. Forget watching Real TV. If you want some reality, go on a Police Ride-Along! Many police and sheriff's departments have programs where citizens can ride along with patrol officers. Call your local police department or sheriff's office to find out if they have such a program and if so, how it works.

Many of us live in a "sheltered" world. We live in a socio-economic world where we are generally unaware of the level of crime and violence and poverty and despair.

Riding with a police officer gives one an appreciation of:

- What it's like to be a law enforcement officer.
- The importance of police in maintaining a stable society.
- The importance of police training in order to handle a multitude of situations in ways which not only protect themselves and other citizens from harm but which respect the civil rights of individuals.
- The potential danger police officers are placed in on a day-to-day basis and how courageous they can be.
- How real and dangerous weapons are.
- How devastating it is to have a corrupt police officer or department.



Readers' Stories

Participate in, or Make a Donation to, a Group with This Country as Its Focus



Red Cross

**Provide Feedback to the Police Chief and Oversight Boards on Positive and Negative Encounters with Police Officers.**



**Sites & Resources**



**Readers' Stories**



In the case of our military, we need to make sure Veterans are treated better than they have been in the past. A [commentary](#) from Rush Limbaugh about the discrepancies between how we are compensating families of the victims of September 11th versus how we pay the families of servicemen killed in action says it all.

In the case of teachers, we need to push for fewer children per classroom. The ability to teach or to learn diminishes exponentially as the number of children in a classroom increases. California has a law that restricts the number of children in K - 3 classrooms to 20 and the results have been encouraging.



**Sites & Resources**



**Readers' Stories**



Can you imagine how nice and encouraging it must be for an American soldier living in a new and hostile environment to receive a package of "goodies" from someone they don't know - along with a note of support! You'd be surprised how easy it can be to send a Care Package to a member of our armed forces - just click on Sites and Resources.



**Sites & Resources**



**Readers' Stories**

## Volunteer to Help Out at Your Child's School



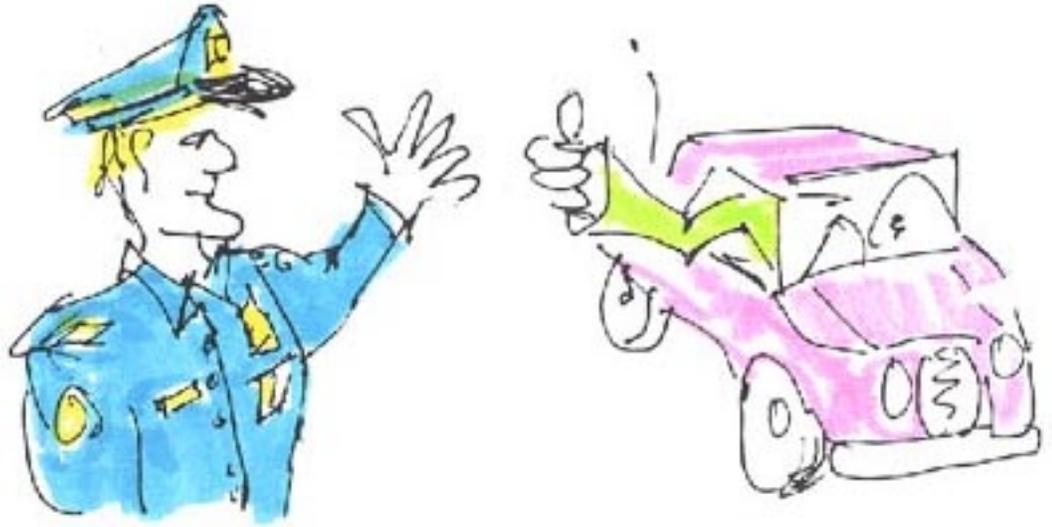
In general public school classrooms are overcrowded. Managing, much less teaching, 30 to 40 kids in a classroom is a daunting task. Most teachers welcome parents helping out with classroom tasks such as taking attendance, grading papers, making copies, providing individual care to certain students. Volunteering to help out in a classroom also reinforces the importance you place on education with your children and helps give you a better appreciation of what it takes to run a school, manage a classroom and how very important teachers are.



## Wave to a Policeman



In a society with many people like the United States, it's important that we respect each other. The Constitution suggests that specially trained Americans like the police, the FBI etc. enforce laws that we created. Normally, when we talk with policemen, it's because we may have done something we shouldn't have. Even though it's unpleasant for us, it's also unpleasant for policemen. Explaining to people what they may have done wrong isn't easy, and they do it all day, every day!



When you wave to a policeman, you are saying, "I understand and appreciate how difficult your job is" and you are thanking them for helping enforce our laws. Just like you would, they do a better job when they feel appreciated, and in addition, the country becomes a safer place to live.

## Additional Reader-submitted "Country Strong" Actions

**BACK**