OPERATION: BIRTHDAY CAKE

A Program By: BAKE ME A WISH!

With Our Partner: Soldiers’ Angels
www.soldiersangels.org
Letters From Soldiers

Attached are some pictures of our party. The Bake Me a Wish cakes were a huge hit. Thank you again for sending them and for your continued support of troops overseas!

Best regards,

Daniel
CW3, AV
B Co Supply Officer
I want to thank you so very much for your birthday cake that you sent me; you want to talk about a surprise!. It meant a lot that someone back home cares enough to send a little happiness out this way...very thoughtful. It was an amazing treat for me and the Marines that I work with. Even with the temperatures out here, the cake remained cold and together...again, to our surprise! I will be spreading the word about your generosity to our troops, for we are thankful! I hope everyone is keeping the faith in us back home as we are fighting the good fight. Each day I wake up with Marines ready to battle evil to keep America safe and there is nothing I would rather be doing. I am unable to send pictures because of the nature of where I work, but I can tell you, the cake did not last very long! Again, thank you!

Joel
MSgt/USMC
Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan

Thank you so much for the cake on my birthday. It was such a moral booster to some of the soldiers to get a desert that tasted like chocolate. It got banged up a little but surprisingly it did not affect the flavor :) I got the cookies and cream brownie cake that was delicious. I am also using the package as a make shift cooler and the gel pack is awesome too. I know this might seem weird to some folks back there but here it is a definite pick me up. Thanks to you and your staff again for thinking of us while we are over here. It sure has been a long year.

SGT Sexton
I want to thank you and your company for the things that you are doing for the Soldiers. I have enclosed a few pictures of my B-day celebration. Without your cake this would have not been possible. Again thank you for all you are doing not only for me but other Soldiers as well.

Patricia Cooley
Hi I am SPC Young and I received a cake for the bake me a wish program and I just wanted to send you a message thanking you. It was very unexpected to receive a cake in the mail here in Orgun-E, Paktika, Afghanistan. Unfortunately the cake disappeared before I was able to take a picture of it and I apologize for sending this message so late but we are in a war zone and have been extremely busy at work here. But again thank you for the cake it really made my day. I also attached a photo of myself to go along with the message.

Peace and Love

I was deployed in Baghdad, Iraq when my friend (who was previously deployed with me earlier that year) sent a cake for my 30th birthday. Attached is a picture of my "party" at the newly built bowling alley in Baghdad, Iraq (Victory Base Complex). Thank you for the cake!

Capt Autumn Lorenz
Thank you sooo much for the brownie cake on my birthday! I was soo surprised I didn't think you could mail stuff like that all the way to Iraq! And it got here right on my birthday. It made my 19th birthday a little more enjoyable. All i could think about was what normal 19 year olds would be doing and I knew it wasn’t fighting a war that dated back to when I was in the 5th grade.

Its people like you that makes this experience worth fighting and suffering for! I wasn’t able to get any pictures the entire combat hospital attacked the cake in like 5 mins!

But it was greatly appreciated

Thank You for all you do,

PFC Zirkle, Brittney

Hello there. My name is SSG Amy Meyer and I'm a deployed military working dog handler currently deployed to Iraq. I received the birthday cake today in the mail and it sure was good. Thank you for partnering up with Soldier's Angels to send it to me, it really brightened my day.

Attached is a photo of my dog (Sam) and I with the cake.

:)  

Thank you again,

Amy Meyer
You chose to write letters of thanks and appreciation to personalize your thoughts and prayers to those you support. You gave freely to others that you have never met. You have donated your time and money in support of those unknown Soldiers. By doing so you have demonstrated to us that we are not alone. It is not just our families that await our return, who want to hear of our activities, who want to see our exhaustive efforts achieve a near impossible goal. You represent America as SHE should be seen. Not as the most powerful nation this world has ever know with a military that knows no equal but as the most compassionate, loving and giving. Our country gives more to foreign aid than any and you continue to give.

Mail day is a pivotal day in the moral of ALL Soldiers. To receive a letter from anyone is a big deal. A small box with treats, tools, books, photos, drawings, sundry items, a cake, etc… makes a Soldier feel appreciated and important. I hope this letter conveys those very feelings back to you. You have made an impression and filled a void. Thank you for your support. You are America at HER best. GOD bless you.

1SG Wagenbrenner

“Hammer Head 07”
Thank you so much for the gift of the Bake A Wish Birthday Cake. I am totally flabbergasted! What a way to mark my 47th birthday; not only do I appreciate your generous gift, but my family back in Colorado Springs is also encouraged knowing that I am well taken care of.

Be assured that I along with the rest of my team will savor every last morsel of the cake. We are an Army Space Support Team located at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. We are at the front end of a 9-month deployment. Please extend my gratitude to all who are involved in this project.

Merry Christmas to all!!!!
Here are some pictures to show how much the cake really meant to me! Not often do people expect a cake to be shipped and reach them in perfect condition and still taste so delicious upon arrival. Thank you so much it boosted my morale 100% (as you can see in all the pictures). It’s a great thing that you are doing for soldier’s and it is greatly appreciated!

CPT Ray A. Garza

Thank you,
Atiya Quick
SPC US Army
Just wanted to thank you and your company for the Birthday Cake. It really brightened my day. Thank you for your support to the troops!

Take Care,
Amy and Sam
Amyrae89@gmail.com

MR. DORNOFF,
2 NOV 2010

Thank you so so so much for your prayers and support. The care packages were awesome. The cake was perfect. My brothers and sisters here had a feast with it. They also sang me happy birthday with it. It was a great time. Well, I am a Blackhawk crewchief. I fly them and also fix them. Its a pretty fun job and also very tiring, but its all worth it when I know that everyone back home is safe. Thank you so much for your support. I cant wait to hear from you again. Wanna hear something funny? After we ate the cake, my sergeant made us run a smile run to burn off the cake. But my and my friends agree, it was well worth it!!! Thank you.

SPC Crespo, Andres.
Thank you for your wonderful service! My friend, Cindy, sent me a Thank You Cookies and Cream Cake. It was mailed 23 Mar and I received it on the 31st. But most amazing of all was the cold pack was still cool to the touch and after about an hour in the fridge, my shop and I were enjoying the most fabulous surprise. It was delicious and gone in minutes! I have attached a few pictures from the ‘event’ as you requested (I’m the one with the big ‘cheesy’ grin). Please continue to offer this wonderful treat for many years to come; I will personally be using it myself in the near future.

V/R
Kimberly R. MSgt, USAF

Thank you very much for thinking of me. Receiving kind gestures like this gives us the drive to continue and complete our mission. I am pictured with a group of Multi-National partners I am serving with in Kosovo. We work hand in hand to ensure the people in Kosovo enjoy the freedoms we have every day. Once again thank you and have a great week.

Brian
I wanted to say thank you very much for the birthday cakes that were sent to me on my birthday this year in Afghanistan. They were awesome.

Me and my guys ate them up! Thank you. It was a wonderful surprise! Here is a couple of pictures of me. I am the short one!

Thanks again.
CPT Norma Hill

Thanks so much for the cake! I think that is a terrific program you run. It put a smile on my face! As requested I am attaching some pictures. My wife will, in the next few days, also post a story on her military spouse blog as well.

www.armyhousehold6.com
Thanks again!

SGT Dan Munson
Jalalabad Afghanistan
I am currently writing this email to you from the lower provinces of Afghanistan in beautiful Kanadhar. I am stationed out here with HMH-361 Det A a USMC CH-53E helicopter squadron that was detached to aid in assault support for the Marines of Operation Enduring Freedom. My wife, Jessica sent me an Oreo cake concoction that was crafted by you and your genius crew. I can say with total satisfaction that in the 3 min it took my crew and I to destroy that cake was the absolute best feeling we have had out here in months. Every slice of home we can get brings us closer there. We try to do the same “operation” for the Marines stationed in the middle of know were Afghan land as you did for me, were the closest thing to a person out here is a guy emplacing an IED or an entire convoy trip away. I did see enclosed in your letter to take a picture of us with the cake and I cannot apologize enough for not getting one, but in my defense there was no way on gods earth to get a picture of that thing before it was demolished. Again I know this is short and not much but I cannot thank you enough for making my birthday out here one that I will never forget. I know that you give every military member you deal with the same great feeling you gave me. I look forward to hopefully dealing with you for years to come.

V/R
Capt Wesley “Mantooth” Matthews

I just wanted to say thank you for the cake. It was a little late, but on time. We ate the cake so fast we couldn't get pictures, sorry. Most of us that ate it said we would have to spend more time out during the day doing patrols to sweat out the chocolate. But it was sssoooooooo good!!! I think you organization is doing a great service to us by providing these great cakes for us while we're deployed. Most Soldiers are chocolate fiends and most of the cakes you make are chocolate so it's win-win for everyone. The pictures of the cakes made some of our mouths water. Once again I just wanted to say thank you very much for the cake. Please continue to support the Troops over here. We sure do appreciate it.

Thank you
V/r,
SFC Scott Ross
My name is Colleen. I am an officer in the United States Navy and am currently deployed with the Marines. I am a nurse and work in the shock trauma platoon at Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq.

Not too long ago I requested a few goodies from Soldiers Angels to help our corpsman celebrate their corps 111th birthday. We were fortunate enough to have an angel send us two of your cakes for the celebration. They were AMAZING!

I have attached a picture with our corpsman and your cakes. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do for those of us deployed!

Very Respectfully,
Colleen L. Abouelgubein

I received the two specially made birthday cakes from your company and just wanted to thank you so much! The first cake was gone within a hour the second one I took to my room and shared with my roommate, then we brought it back to work and it was finished in minutes!

Thank you so much for thinking of us out here. I was so surprised when I received that really large package! It was so nice to receive those cakes and to have a normal feeling birthday. I just want to thank you, the Soldier’s Angels, the McBrearty Family and Terri Swain for sending me such a wonderful gift. We’ve been out here over 13 months and last year I had such a sad birthday being out here. This year it's nice knowing someone thought about me and it was so wonderful to have those cakes to share and gather the rest of the troops for my day!

God bless and thank you again,
Janeene Yarber
The picture attached is long overdue. Last March I received one of your cakes for my b-day. I cannot tell you the surprise when I opened the box!

You not only allowed me to celebrate my 30th birthday almost like I would at home, but it also gave me and those I work with an opportunity to “take five” and share something fun. No words can describe how amazing your work and dedication is, I will recommend you to everyone I know with a loved one overseas. Due to the nature of our unit, we were not able to provide you with a more exciting shot due to security reasons. Should you need to publish this picture, please let me know.

Thank you very much, and I hope you have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Christian V. Marin
Today was my birthday and I received two cakes from bake me a wish and everyone insisted on singing Happy Birthday so that was a little embarrassing. I want to thank you for what you are doing to support service members overseas. Your cakes helped make a dull day a little more fun for everyone. Again thank you for your support, it is truly appreciated.

G. T. Vandertang
Sergeant First Class

First of all, I want to thank you for making it possible so that I received two birthday cakes on my birthday. My name is David Saari. I can not even begin to describe to you how excited everyone here that I am stationed with was when I got two birthday cakes. We finally just opened up one of the cakes to enjoy it. I wish I could send you some more pictures, but unfortunately, due to the strict limits caused by the military e-mail system, I will only be able to send you a couple. Thank You again for the cake.

Best Regards,
SSG David Saari
First and foremost I must say that "Operation Birthday Cake" is a great program! I didn’t believe the guys when the told me I had a birthday cake waiting for me with my mail. Talk about a surprise. And the cake itself... delicious!

Now, a bit about myself and what I am doing. I am an Officer in the United States Air Force currently serving in Afghanistan with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). By trade I am an Air Battle Manager and when I’m not with the RAAF I fly with JSTARS (Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System). Out here, I am working in a CRC (Control and Reporting Center). A CRC uses a ground based radar to track the movement of aircraft. Basically, we provide command and control to the military aircraft flying over here. I only have a couple months left here and then will return home and start preparing for my next deployment later this year.

I have attached a couple pictures, but unfortunately we tore into the cake before I read the letter! This truly is a wonderful idea and it was one of the best birthday presents I have ever received. Thank you for making it possible.

Respectfully,

J. Haynes, 1 Lt, USAF
I received my Birthday Cake yesterday! I want to thank both organizations for the wonderful cake along with all the thoughts and prayers. Thank you so much. It was truly delicious and enjoyed by many. It was a wonderful surprise that brightened my day. It is the little things – such as cards, letters and treats – that makes our day here. Mail call is a very popular time and always brings smiles to Soldiers’ faces. It is heartwarming and humbling to receive mail (and tasty treats) from those back home that we have not met or know, sending their thoughts and well wishes. It lets us know that we are thought of and appreciated.

I applaud your support to the Troops and your program “Operation: Birthday Cake”. Know that it DOES make a difference to us here; knowing and ‘seeing’ the support you give.

Mrs. Tallo & Soldier’s Angels– You have done so many things for us already – and you just continue to give your time, effort and support. Please pass along my thanks to Brett and Katie Kaufman as I understand they were also involved in making my day in sending this cake.

Again – THANK YOU for your support!
Sincerely,

MSG L. Bates

I received your present a yesterday and I must say I was very touched. I was kind of shocked and took a minute to open it. As I was reading your letter, everyone else had already dug into the cake until I got to the part of the letter that said you would like some pictures! I rushed over and saved the rest of the cake from the claws of my hungry co-workers. I was able to get some pictures but I must warn you, two-thirds of the cake was already gone! It was very good and I cannot begin to tell you how appreciative I am of your kind gesture and that of the Soldiers Angels. They have been so good to me throughout this entire deployment.

I have enclosed some pictures of some of my co-workers and I. Again I thank you for the cake. I am actually from New York City so I will definitely be stopping by your store to say thank you in person!

L. James
I am MSgt. Mike Owen of the 447th ESFS security forces in Bagdad Iraq. I am currently stationed at Camp Sather. I am a Tennessee National Guardsman and have been on active duty for the past six months. I had a birth day new years eve and turned 50. I spent it working with a great bunch of guys who all miss home. I love my wife very much and I don't know how she went about finding your organization but it was a tremendous surprise when I received the cake in the mail. This is so not like her. I can't tell you how a very depressing day turned out to be a birthday that I will not every forget. We shared your cake before we left out for our afternoon mission. I took a quick picture which I have attached. We have soldiers from Uganda here that help run the base security. When I explained to them what was taking place and how people like you have organizations that support the troops it only encouraged them to want to become citizens even more than before. In the picture is a Ugandan which we call Apollo. He ate most of the cake before we retuned but hey the look on his face was priceless. Again thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,
MSgt. Owen

I want to thank you for providing this service for me and my wife. Neither of us thought I would be having a birthday cake today, considering where I am, and you made that possible. I just called my wife to tell her and she couldn't believe that it got here exactly on my birthday. Most of the soldiers I work with are at different locations today and I hope to share this with them tomorrow. I will try to get pictures and send to you. At home, I always say "my birthday is no big deal", but now I see how important it is to me and my family, because it is another day for us to share something together. The cards, gift and now the cake helped to pick up my spirits today.
Again, thank you.
Sincerely,
Daniel L. Oliphant
LTC, LG
My sister-in-law and her family ordered one of your cakes and had it sent to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for my birthday. Despite time in shipment and a 5,000 mile journey, it arrived in perfect condition and was the centerpiece of a little party my staff surprised me with. I've attached a photo of us and the cake. Thanks for everything you are doing for deployed troops and recognizing our collective sacrifices. The constant support and encourage we receive from folks back home is a true source of strength and inspiration. God bless.

Cheers,
SMN

My name is SGT Deutsch, Kasandra and today I received a birthday cake from you! It was delicious. It was convenient though because not 2 days ago another one of the soldiers on my team SPC Winsper, John

I've sent some pictures in this email...THEY ARE AWFUL...gives us some slack we're soldiers not photographers :)

have a good day. hope to hear from you soon!

the pictures are all of most of my team...and us devouring the cake...i think it lasted 15 minutes it was delicious and one of me.
Although I was unable to send any photos of my birthday celebration… I just wanted to send you a quick e-mail to thank you for the cake that your organization recently sent me for my birthday. I was very surprised to receive the package and was grateful for this wonderful gesture. Although I am not in an austere location, and we have many amenities where I am, it still meant a lot to receive the cake… a reminder of home. Your words of kindness on the letter also meant a lot.

Thanks for your support… “Operation: Birthday Cake” is a great idea! Anyway, just wanted to take a minute to say thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you, your family and everyone in your organization who makes this possible.

Respectfully,

Scott W. Lamont
Wow, I just had the most amazing thing happen to me that I feel overly compelled to share. It’s currently 12:27 am December 6th local Iraqi time and I’m sitting here on this frigid desert night juggling work trying to complete my routine duties along with two final exams for classes I’m currently enrolled in; rather daunting endeavor. Well I just got the most delightful surprise in my life of recent. Two Marines just delivered me a rather conspicuous box addressed to me from a gentleman in New York whom I’ve never heard of. The attached customs declaration did not clearly state the boxes contents. I was leery about accepting it, let alone opening it. But hey, I’m a Marine right? Worlds finest, no one would be so brazen as to ship a WMD right onto the base, and especially to me…

So with reluctance, over care and an eager audience I slowly tore into the thing.

***@@@ (^_^) @@@***

AMAZING… enclosed was a Belgian Cookies and Cream Fudge Brownie Birthday Cake….!!! Complete with a Birthday Card and enclosed in a decorative gold and purple box with compartmentally positioned bags of liquid ice. It begun it’s journey from New York, NY on the 26th of November.

BakeMeAwish.com who’s program is “Operation: Birthday Cake” has a goal to eventually send thousands of birthday cakes to randomly selected troops deployed in all parts of the world with the intent to offer celebratory gestures that give hope and gratification to American service members. Wow, I’m truly flattered, his plan worked!! The arrival of this cake was a special occurrence indeed. Notwithstanding the wonderful birthday gift I recently got and knew of its shipment and shipper, this gift was really euphoric in that it was unexpected, meticulously crafted and delivered. GOD is GOOD…..!!

I’m totally humbled and gratified and just felt the need to share this moment. Although my birthday isn’t until December 25th I was soooo expecting it to just be another day. Well this cake gives me reason to think and feel otherwise. (-:

God Bless and Happy Holidays….

Beryl Wilson Jr
I want to tell you a story about a paratrooper that was with us in Afghanistan. A young fresh face 21 year old all American Paratrooper, he always had a smile on his face that pretty much spelled trouble but that deep look in his eyes that once had a sparkle now held pain. He was in charge of 10 other young infantry soldiers, and he knew that one of his soldiers was having a birthday in a few days and he also knew that they would be outside the wire.

Not having received any mail for a while and having a mess hall that KBR ran like jail, and we weren't worthy of the food.

Well the young 21 year old paratrooper did what anyone would do for a fellow soldier. He came upon a cake, not a big cake more like a cup cake and while outside the wire on his soldiers Bday, they all gave the soldier his Bday cake. He didn't think anyone remembered his birthday, and he smiled and teared up but brushed it off with a joke. But you could tell that it meant the world to him to know that someone thought of him on his birthday.

The 21 year old Paratrooper got killed, but when I heard what you guys are doing, I thought of him, because like him, you guys are making a huge impact on our soldiers lives.

Thank you!

I just wanted to take the time out to thank you for what you do with your company and being able to send cakes to our military. I just purchased a cake from you and sent it to my amazing and brave boyfriend SSG. John Gould in Afghanistan. He was SO ecstatic to receive such a comfort from home for his birthday!! He told me how loved, and appreciated it made him feel in this difficult and lonely time between us. Thank you for giving us a way to stay bonded during our separation from his deployment. It really boosted his moral, and I can speak for him when I say that it means more than you'll ever know to those guys. Keep up the good work, and thanks again!

With Much Appreciation, Alicia
Imagine my surprise when I had a package in the mail. It was MY Birthday cake sent to me in Baghdad, Iraq. How awesome that was and still is. My Mom started this and I have to say she is the most awesome and clever woman I have ever known. The cake was so very good and still moist! Thank you doesn't cover what your cake and company did for me!!! THANK YOU!!!

Your Soldier,
SFC Colleen Lee McCloskey

"Regard your soldiers as your children, and they will follow you into the deepest valleys. Look on them as your own beloved sons, and they will stand by you even unto death!"
- Sun Tzu, the Art of War-

I thought you might like to see the fruits of the labor of your cakes and how good it was too. It was a really good cake and was nice to receive in the combat zone. It was sent in a well packaged box and arrived in great condition. Thank you

Sincerely,

Sgt Scott Grumbling
Before anything else, I should probably introduce myself. My name is 2LT Kevin Sandell, I'm the lieutenant in Afghanistan who received a birthday cake on behalf of your company for my 24th birthday on 10 October! I greatly appreciate what you do for us over here, and it goes a long way to offer birthday wishes to Soldiers. That military wife in your letter said it exactly right, as we do miss a lot of the small things after a while. It's awesome the creative work military supporters do for all of us, and I wanted to offer my sincerest thanks to you for the unexpected, yet heartfelt show of support you offered through this very tasty treat.

The cake was definitely awesome. My wife's family picked out the perfect flavor - I believe a carmel apple cake, and it made for a great fall birthday cake. Looking through your catalog gave me plenty of ideas for future use, and who knows maybe we'll even order a couple cakes for our Welcome Home party next year. As you'll see in one of the pictures, I passed on a few slices to some of my Soldiers to enjoy during a movie night at our facility. They absolutely loved it!

Beyond the two pictures of my birthday, I've included three more pictures for you. The first shows my original platoon – all eight of us - on the day we left for Afghanistan (the other 12 Soldiers met us over here). The second shows my platoon at a weapons range, which helps to show the terrain and what we like to do for fun. The third picture is the funny picture as it shows what we have to endure when it's our birthday. For me, I got put in handcuffs and legcuffs and then doused with shaving cream. Then they took me to the cell block and sprayed me down with a water hose head-to-toe. My guys even unbloused my boots and stuck the hose right up my pants. Having an actual birthday cake to enjoy later that day made it all worth it.

Thanks again so much for the amazing show of support you offered through this gift! It's always great hearing from military supporters back home. I wish you the best, and I will definitely get your name out there, and you'll probably be hearing from us next year as well. Thanks again for your generosity, Bake Me a Wish!

Sincerely,
2LT Kevin Sandell
My name is CPT James Stultz and I recently received a cake from you guys. My pictures aren't great and I was going to get one of us doing this outside but we are currently in a very bad part of Afghanistan and take fire if we congregate outside for too long. I am in the Kunar Province at FOB Blessing. I just wanted to thank you for the birthday cake. I believe my wife put my name in and it just so happens that one of the other officers in my battalion has the same birth date so I shared it with him and some of the other guys I work with. It was very good and it was even better to see that people still care out there and have not forgotten us. I have also attached some photos I took while on patrol, this will show some of the terrain we are working in. It might not get as much attention as Iraq, but after serving now in both theaters, it is a tough mission. A little bit of generosity goes a long way here and I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you are doing. Have a good weekend and thank you again.
Sincerely,
CPT James Stultz
I was very surprised when I got the package in the mail. Unfortunately I did not get any pictures to send you because I made the mistake of opening the gifts in front of a room full of hungry Airman. Needless to say for a brief time I was very popular. And for that time we all were in heaven eating the great cake you sent me. But the most important thing is that we all felt that people remember us and care about what we are trying to do here. No matter what the media might say I can tell you first hand we are making a difference here. And people like you back home are making a huge difference for us by doing what you do.

I can not thank you and everyone involved enough. You definitley made my Birthday one to remember over here. Please from all of us here thank everyone involved for their kindness.

Thank you

Edward Dubaniewcz

I want to thank you for the cake I received today. It really meant a lot to me that my wife found a way to make my birthday special and you helped her accomplish that goal. The cake is extremely yummy and it looks great too. Yes, the rigors of the military life are tough, but people like you make it worth while when you do special things like this to let us soldiers know that we are appreciated. It helps us wake up in the morning and know what we do is not in vain. Once again thank you, and YOUR service is really appreciated.

Very respectfully,
Todd D. Williams
SPC (P), U.S. Army
www.BakeMeAWish.com
888-YUR-WISH
211 East 43rd Street, Sut305
New York, NY 10017
(p) 212.888.7840 / (f) 212.888.7849