



**JWB Jewish
Chaplains Council®**

Serving Jews Who Serve®

a signature program of  JCC Association
of North America



**Sheva
Center**

Innovation in Early Childhood
Jewish Education & Engagement

Community Helpers: Our Nation's Men and Women in Uniform



JCC Association of North America's Sheva Center for Innovation in Early Childhood Jewish Education & Engagement offers an innovative approach to early childhood education, striving to raise the excellence in JCC early childhood programs in North America by offering a diverse range of opportunities to empower administrators and classroom educators and position JCC early childhood education centers as beacons of excellence.

This July 4, Independence Day, let us engage our youngest children and their families in a meaningful exploration of the values upon which our nation was founded.

We want the children in our early childhood programs to learn and understand that soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen, are community helpers. We should not fear seeing people in these uniforms, rather we should believe that they are, as part of our communities, there to help and protect the things we value.

Consider constructing experiences around July 4th that will serve to enrich this celebration from hot dog eating contests and fireworks to an understanding that these men and women help the United States to be safe and strong.

RESOURCES AND IDEAS:

- Videos/images for you and your families to watch that might be a provocation for your thinking.
[Click here](#) for an image of service members today.
[Click here](#) for a video of the National Guard helping people in distress.
[Click here](#) to see The National Guard assisting after Hurricane Florence.
- Lead a discussion with the children about how these people are alike or different from other community helpers that they know and are aware of.
- Invite a service member in uniform to speak with the children about their work helping people. JWB Jewish Chaplains Council – jwb@jcca.org can assist you in connecting with a service member to speak in-person, or virtually, with your class.
 - o Present the service member with cards to distribute to service members.
 - o Sing a song to the service member.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION:

- Ask parents to talk to their children about any service members or veterans in their family or among their friends. The children might bring to school a picture of the service member and a short answer about how the service member is/was a community helper.
- Create a bulletin board about service members who are related to the children in your school to honor them during the week of July 4th and beyond.