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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Utah Legislators Sign Community Covenant in Support of Utah National Guard Members and Families**

SALT LAKE CITY – In a show of support to Utah Military members and families, legislators signed a Community Covenant in the Utah House and Senate chambers at the State Capitol Feb. 23.

The Community Covenant is a nationwide program “designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families. It is a formal commitment by state and local communities to Soldiers and families of the Army, National Guard, and Reserve,” according to the [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) Web site.

In the House chamber, Democratic Rep. Tim Cosgrove, of Murray, introduced Brig. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, of the Utah National Guard, and a handful of Soldiers, Airmen and families who were on hand for the signing.

The Community Covenant program “works with military families in our community to support educational benefits that they have earned, counseling to work through transitional issues, job employment when they return and medical care for the injuries and illnesses they have incurred while serving their country,” explained Cosgrove to his fellow House members.

“We honor all who participate in the Community Covenant program and encourage all Utah communities to renew their efforts in serving and honoring the families of those who serve in the Armed Forces,” concluded Cosgrove.

Immediately after the House ceremony, Republican Senator Peter Knudson, representing Box Elder, Cache and Tooele Counties, introduced the military group and read the citation in the Senate chamber.

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“It is incumbent upon us to take great pride and care of our Warriors as they have with us,” said Knudson.

Specific aspects of the the Community Covenant in Utah are the Utility-Abatement program, the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust, and Sub for Santa.

“We support our families that stay behind,” said Eric Cieslak, mayor pro tem of Eagle Mountain, who was also present at the signings. “These are the ones who bear the greatest portion of the load when Soldiers go off to protect the country. As a community we need to reach out and take care of those individuals.”