

## **News Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Gary Sabol  
360-618-6217

### **Arlington High School Senior chosen as a Military Child of the Year semi-finalist**

ARLINGTON- Arlington High School (AHS) Senior, Matthew Suce, was chosen as a semi-finalist for the national Operation Homefront Military Child of the Year.

Matthew is a member of the AHS National Honor Society, Key Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Through these groups and on his own, he has collected food for the poor, helped the elderly, and volunteered at community events. While he didn't make it to the final selection, his focus remains on helping others.

"My focus is to really help individuals in need," said Matthew. "Through servant leadership, I can bring positive changes to my community."

He has enlisted in the Washington National Guard and will also attend Central Washington University starting in the winter quarter. He will be part of the Reserve Officer Training Corp at the university and plans to join the Army after college and major in Army aviation.

Matthew, along with his younger sister Sabrina, attended the April 3 proclamation signing with Gov. Jay Inslee declaring April as Month of the Military Child.

"I was really honored to be part of the signing ceremony," said Sabrina, a Junior at AHS. "It was nice to have military families recognized."

Volunteerism is a big part of the Suce family. Matthew and Sabrina's mother, Nohelia who is a substitute teacher in Arlington Public Schools, was the 2018 Washington National Guard Spouse of the Year. Her husband, Junior Suce, is a U.S. Army Training Non-Commissioned Officer. The family was based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Lakewood, moved to Puyallup, and relocated to Arlington in November of 2018.

"The Suce family is very involved in educating their community about military culture and the transition from active duty to the National Guard," said Robbin Seeberger, Lead Child and Youth Coordinator with the Washington National Guard Child & Youth Services. "The whole family is involved in the Washington National Guard Child & Youth Services across the state of Washington. They assist with our summer and winter camps, regional events, and various training opportunities."

"Being a military family with a spouse who may be deployed really teaches you resilience, but also helps you empathize with other military families who need help," said Nohelia. "My husband and I have tried to teach our children to give back and help those who need that extra support."

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Arlington High School Senior, Matthew Suce, was chosen as a semi-finalist for the national Operation Homefront Military Child of the Year. Matthew talked with Gov. Jay Inslee during an April 3 proclamation signing declaring April as Month of the Military Child. (Photo credit: Joseph Siemandel - WA National Guard Public Affairs Office)