

ONLINE VIDEOS, DVD

Law firm helps send messages to troops

Service offered free to families

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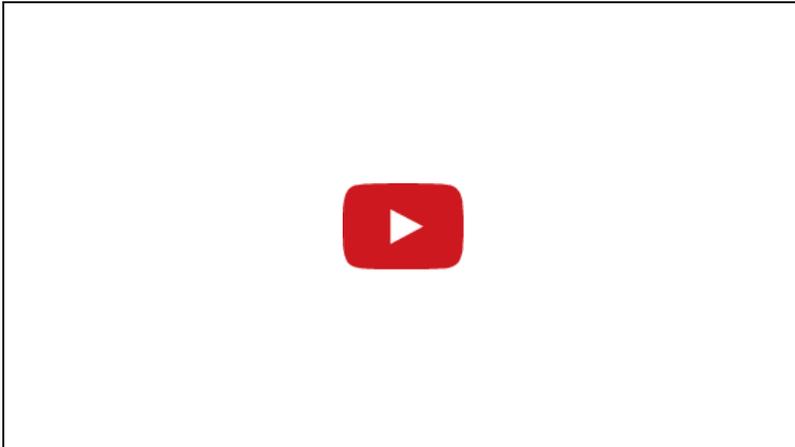
A local law firm is hoping to bridge the miles between military members and their families with a free video service to send messages of support overseas.

Any family with a loved one in the military can schedule an appointment to film a video, said Anneke Godlewski, a communications consultant at the firm, Charles Boyk Law Offices. The program will be permanent and available year-round, she said.

She said the idea began around Veterans Day, when staff members were considering how to honor area military families. The firm has an in-house videographer and production studio and wanted to put it to use out in the community. In the past, the firm has used the videographer to highlight other community events, including charity races and bike donations to deserving children.

"I've had a lot of military people in my own life and know how hard it is to be far from their loved ones," she said.

Families can bring in photos to be used in the video. The shots are edited and set to music. Servicemen and women can watch the videos on the firm's YouTube channel or on DVDs the firm makes.



It's all free of charge, and Ms. Godlewski said they are flexible and accommodating with schedules.

The first to use the service were Tom and Carol Bedell, who made a video for their two sons who are both serving in the Navy. Kevin is serving aboard the USS Comstock somewhere in the Persian Gulf, his father said. Jordan is stationed near San Diego, though he was able to visit home in Toledo last week on leave.

Tom Bedell said making the video was a good experience for their family.

"You're always looking for a way to connect with your loved ones," he said.

He said he would "highly recommend it" to other military families, calling it "a high point of our holiday."

To watch the Bedells' video, search "Charles Boyk Law Offices" on YouTube.

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