



Operation North State Is Requesting Your Assistance with its 2015 NCCARES Christmas Box Project – It's Your Care Package North Carolina – Get Involved!

September 1st, Operation North State (ONS) began accepting the names of 1500 North Carolina deployed troops to receive its 2015 NCCARES Christmas Boxes - utilizing North Carolina's People, Places, Products and Pride. Currently, we have received requests for 600 boxes; we kicked off major media support and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) a few weeks ago but we still have a long way to go. This "All Volunteer" Project is your care package North Carolina – please join us. We still need to receive recipients' names, cash donations to help cover shipping costs and holiday messages written to the troops. You still have three weeks to host a collection party of NC items – give us a call and we can provide you a list of needed items.

Considered one of the state's most popular Christmas gift box projects, this year's gift box will feature a minimum of thirty-six (36) North Carolina products and messages. This is our 6th Anniversary of the project! Last year's gift boxes included premier North Carolina goodies and special messages from Governor McCrory, Senator Kay Hagan, Senator Richard Burr, "The King" Richard Petty and thousands of messages from children and seniors from around the state.

There are numerous ways that you, friends, family-members, coworkers and fellow club-members can provide your assistance.

- Help spread the word about the NCCARES Christmas Box Project.
- Host a fundraiser/pass-the-hat; ONS is in need of cash donations to assist with shipping expenses and a few items in the box.
- Collect NC goodies to go in the NCCARES Christmas Boxes - the donation doesn't have to be 1500 items, a dozen here - a dozen there - they all add up. Popular items are 3 oz. bottles of Texas Pete Hot Sauce, bags of Hampton Farms Salted/Roasted in the Shell Peanuts and any Lance Cracker peanut snack products. All products can be purchased at your local grocery stores.
- Encourage North Carolinians of all ages to write Christmas messages to NC's deployed troops. ONS can provide suggestions as to the messages to write and furnish a message template if needed.
- Sponsor a Toiletry Drive; all items collected will be used in the NCCARE Gift Boxes as well as be distributed to veterans living in North Carolina's Veterans Homes (there are 4 facilities around the state - a total of 400 beds). Contact ONS for the Toiletry Drive logo and popular toiletry items to collect.
- We need volunteers to address customs forms and labels as well as write simple thank you notes - postage and thank you notes will be provided by ONS.
- AND, submit names of deployed North Carolinians to receive the NCCARES Christmas Box. They are FREE to the first 1500 names received. Church prayer lists are a great source for names as well as ask folks at your work, within your clubs and in the community if they know a troop that won't be in North Carolina for the Christmas Holidays. Note: As for the NCCARES Christmas Boxes recipients, the deployed troops do not have to be in harms-way to receive a gift box; he or she must call North Carolina home and will not be in the home-state this Christmas with their respective families and loved-ones.

To provide recipients' names, go to <http://www.operationnorthstate.com> and fill out the Request Form or send an email to mailbox@operationnorthstate.com. The project is funded by donations; again, there is no charge to submit names - the boxes are FREE! Go to Facebook: Operation North State "Photos" to review the products, messages, packing parties and thank you notes associated with 2013's successful project. Contact Operation North State to offer your assistance; donations are needed and greatly appreciated. Call [336.764.5967](tel:336.764.5967) or visit the website: <http://www.operationnorthstate.com> or Facebook: Operation North State.