Name: Hannah Wilson
Ballot #: 5
Year: 2013
Major: English Language Arts Education
Qualifications:
   Student Recruiters
   Social Sorority Membership Coordinator and Greek Sing Choreographer
   Strategic Plan 2013-18 Steering Committee
   Omicron Delta Kappa
   Assistant Director for Tiger Tuesdays

Platform:

There is no denying that the Auburn family is made up of a supportive group of people. One aspect of this that I have seen year after year at Auburn, even before I was a student, is the appreciation that this community has for American military. From pre-game and military appreciation programs at sporting events to the displays set up on holidays, it is clear that the Auburn family is appreciative of the soldiers who serve our country. But other than saying thank you, what are we doing to serve them?

I believe that Auburn University needs a way to not only speak of our appreciation for the military, but we also need a way to show our support. As Miss Homecoming, I would like to promote a special organization on Auburn's campus called Support Our Soldiers (SOS). SOS was founded by Rachel Rivers after the death of her brother Lance Corporal Thomas Rivers, Jr. Despite their sadness, the Rivers family told the story of Thomas's life and his service to bring hope to other soldiers and their families. To show their continued support to the military, they began gathering supplies and letters of thanks and encouragement, boxing them up, and sending the boxes to soldiers overseas. As this endeavor grew, members of the community began to donate items and time to create these packages. Rachel and her parents saw how great the love and support was in their community, and they turned this basement business into a non-profit organization Support Our Soldiers that has even been recognized in the state by Governor Bentley.

It is my plan to promote SOS at Auburn to educate and to provide opportunities of ways to actively show our appreciation of troops. One thing I love about SOS is the variety of ways to become involved: you can gather supplies and goodies that soldiers don't usually have access to like instant coffee, sports equipment or magazines; you can write letters of encouragement and thanks to our troops; and, you can donate money to make it possible to package and mail the boxes. Because of the holidays soon approaching, SOS is specifically asking for holiday cards and gifts for the soldiers who will be away from their families. I am challenging students to visit us on the concourse to write letters as well as donate supplies to be put in the care packages. Individually, these may all seem like small ways to show support, but these acts of support and thanks can mean the world to a soldier.

The Auburn Creed says that we believe in our country, “because it is a land of freedom and because it is my home.” Even if we are not personally called to duty, I believe that, in order
to fulfill our duty as Americans and Auburn men and women, we must support those who serve our home so that it will remain a place of freedom.

To read more about Our Soldiers you can visit supportoursoldiersalabama.org.