

## Education

By DONNA BOYLE SCHWARTZ




### OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES:

National nonprofit group offers guidance to students enlisting in the military

**A**s many recent graduates prepare for college life, a select group of former students are getting ready for a bigger challenge: military life. These new enlistees and their parents face a huge transition, but fortunately, due to the efforts of the national nonprofit group Our Community Salutes ([ocsusa.org](http://ocsusa.org)), they don't have to face it alone.

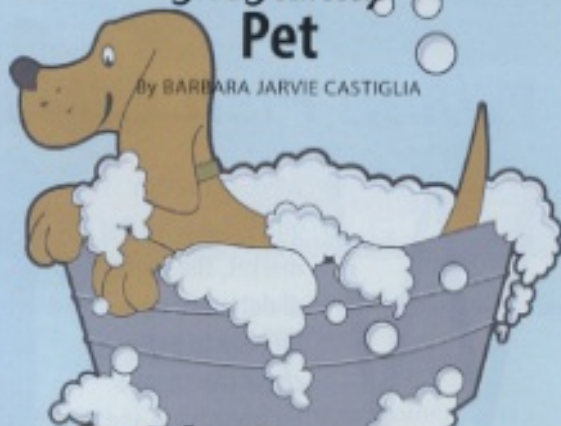
"We estimate that over 15,000 military-bound high school seniors, at over 30 OCS ceremonies, will be honored across the country in 2019; over 100,000 people will be in attendance, on-site and online," says OCS founder and president Dr. Kenneth Hartman, an educator and former U.S. Army officer. Hartman was a member of the Cherry Hill, N.J., school board in 2009 when he discovered that not a single school district in the tri-state area was doing anything to recognize and honor graduating high school seniors who were planning to enlist in the military. He founded OCS to provide enlistees and their parents with guidance, information, resources and community support.

Hartman says that community recognition and support is vital to new enlistees and their parents. "Given that few new enlistees have family members who have served, the challenges are big and real: for example, how to manage your finances," he explains. "Moreover, 75 percent of all new enlistees will only serve for four years, so early college planning is a must for new enlistees, and their parents must learn how to be their 'transition coaches.' That is why we created 'OCS Connect,' the first and only online community for new service members and their parents ([ocsconnect.org](http://ocsconnect.org)).

OCS is partnering with three major universities—Southern New Hampshire University, University of Maryland University College and American Military University—on OCS Connect, which will provide the nation's 150,000 new service members and their parents with important advice and resources needed to properly plan and prepare for higher education and personal financial success. 

## The Family Pet

By BARBARA JARVIE CASTIGLIA



### Bath Success: It's All in the Prep

**M**ilitary life can already be stressful, which is why it's important to make bath time for your pet as stress-free as possible. Want to know the secret to a happy bath time? It's all in the prep. Have a plan in place and assemble all necessary supplies ahead of time—if you're scrambling, your dog will sense any anxiety and bring that tension into the process.

**Step 1:** Gather all your supplies in a caddy for easy access. These may include:

- Brush
- Dog shampoo
- Towels (repurpose old towels)
- Toothbrush and cleanser
- Ear cleaner
- Eye cleaner
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Nail trimmer
- Small bucket (for rinsing, if you don't have a shower spray attachment)

**Step 2:** Find the most appropriate bath spot for your breed. A small dog can be bathed in a kitchen sink, while a larger dog might be more comfortable in a bathtub or special dog bath. (Only bathe outside if the weather and water temperatures are both warm.) Make sure the water is warm, never hot or cold. Because tub mats can be slippery for a dog's feet, place a towel at the bottom of the tub so the pup is steadier.

**Step 3:** Do's and Don'ts

#### Do:

1. Always work neck to tail.
2. Rinse and rinse again to remove all soap remnants.
3. Gently towel dry your dog. Using more than one towel can be effective to get the dog as dry as possible and avoid chills.

#### Don't:

1. Don't use human soaps or shampoos, even baby shampoos.
2. Don't forget to avoid the eyes and ears. (Cotton balls can help prevent water getting in the ear canals.)
3. Don't pour water over the dog's head. (Dogs may develop secondary ear infections from moisture getting into the ear canal.)
4. Don't use a hair dryer until you and your dog are comfortable with the entire bath process. 