



City of San Diego  
**MARK KERSEY**  
CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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**New Pilot Program to Connect Military Families through Reading**  
*Technology investment will allow deployed military to read to their children*

SAN DIEGO (April 7, 2015) --- A \$15,000 grant from the District Five Community Programs, Projects and Services fund will help United Through Reading invest in new technology allowing deployed military to read stories aloud to their children at home. Councilman Mark Kersey initiated the funding process which was approved by San Diego City Council Tuesday.

“We owe it to our military to do what we can to support their families in times of need,” said Councilman Kersey. “This new technology pilot program provides a more instant connection between deployed military and their family to help them connect on a level not often possible during a deployment.”

Nonprofit organization United Through Reading helps families separated through military deployment by bringing them closer through reading. The organization sends the same book to the military family at home and their deployed parent abroad. Currently, United Through Reading records deployed military personnel reading a story and delivers it to their family on DVD. With the new pilot program, United Through Reading will also offer online delivery.

The District Five CPPS grant approved Tuesday allows United Through Reading to partner with Google to instantly upload these recordings to the cloud so families don’t have to wait for the DVD in the mail. It will also create a private site for the family to interact.

“United through Reading strives to deliver the highest quality service to our military families, and technology advances continue to support our efforts,” says United Through Reading CEO, Dr. Sally Ann Zoll, Ed.D. “The purpose of this new pilot program is to continue to enhance our service delivery, expand our reach, and maintain relevancy with an increasingly online generation of military families.

Based in San Diego, United Through Reading in 2014 served 103,556 beneficiaries at nearly 200 recording locations around the world distributing more than 25,000 books to military children.

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