

COMMUNITY CORNER

# Families cornerstone of military life, commander says

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

It is often said in the Army, "You enlist a Soldier, but you re-enlist a Family." Our military families are the cornerstone of military life. They are the constant in a time of war and deployments. The strength of our Soldiers often comes from the strength of their Families.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. While we always keep our military Families at the forefront of our minds, in November, we will take a little more time to honor their strength and commitment to their Soldiers. The theme for the Army campaign for Military

Family Appreciation Month is "Taking Care of Those Who Care For You." Brunch, comedy night, movie night and fall festivals events are among the events at Fort Riley — and in the community — that will serve as a thank you to our dedicated Family members. Below is a list of some of the great events our post has planned for its military Families.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Military Family Appreciation Month Proclamation Sign-



Col. Clark

- ing - 10:30 a.m., Nov. 4, Riley's Conference Center
- Comedy Night/Date Night - 8 p.m., Nov. 5, Rally Point Bingo
- Tell me a Story - 3 p.m., Nov. 6, CYSS Parent Central
- Hearts Apart Holiday Card Making - 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 8, Army Community Service
- USO No Dough Dinner - 5 to 6:30 p.m., Nov. 10, Building 7856
- Sunset Zoo Military Appreciation Day - 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 11, Sunset Zoo, Manhattan
- Library Storytime - 1:30 to 2 p.m., Nov. 12, Fort Riley Post Library
- Military Appreciation Brunch - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

- Nov. 13, Riley's Conference Center
- Barn Door BBQ - 6 to 8 p.m., Nov. 18, Building 275
- Family Fitness Night - 6 to 7 p.m., Nov. 18, Building 5800
- K-State Military Appreciation Volleyball Game - 7 p.m., Nov. 19, Ahearn Field House, Manhattan
- Turkey Two-Miler - 8 a.m., Nov. 19, Riley's Conference Center Trail
- Library Fall Festival - 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 19, Fort Riley Post Library
- Butterball Blast - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 19, Skeet and Trap Range
- Family Bingo - 1 p.m., Nov. 20, Rally Point Bingo
- Library Movie Night -

- 6:30 p.m., Nov. 26, Fort Riley Post Library
  - McCain Cirque Mechanics "Boom Town" - 7:30 p.m., Nov. 29, McCain Auditorium, Manhattan
  - Family Fun Bowling - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays, Custer Hill Bowling Center.
- For more on any of these events, visit [www.rileymwr.com](http://www.rileymwr.com).
- The opportunities highlighted for Military Family Appreciation Month are just a small part of what we at Fort Riley provide for our Families every day.
- Keep your eyes on the Post newspaper for more information about these events and others you can participate in to stay involved.

Another good source of information is our Fort Riley page on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/FortRiley](http://www.facebook.com/FortRiley) - and our Fort Riley Twitter page - [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com).

If you prefer TV news, check out Riley TV on post on Allegiance Channel 2, or watch the video clips online at [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil).

Whether our Soldiers are at home or deployed, it's important for our Families to stay connected, learn from others and support each other.

*If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for Community Corner, email [rile.post.newspaper@com.us.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.newspaper@com.us.army.mil).*

## Volunteers receive recognition, awards at ceremony



Melony Gabbert | POST

From left, interim 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thompson; Brig. Gen. Donald MacWillie, 1st Inf. Div.'s deputy commanding general for support; Monika McDwyer, HASFR Fall Apple Day Festival co-pie queen; Lt. Col. Eric Schmidt and Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kinney, 1st HBCT, pose for a picture after presenting McDwyer with an award during the Quarterly Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Oct. 25 at Riley's Conference Center.

## 64 volunteers receive honors

By Melony Gabbert  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Volunteers were honored at the Oct. 25 Quarterly Volunteer Recognition Ceremony for donating time to causes as diverse as assisting with the needs of those being deployed or redeployed, baking pies for the Fall Apple Day Festival, writing a newsletter, assisting with No Dough Dinners, working with the Red Cross and aiding the Wounded Warrior program, as well as many other acts of kindness.

Brig. Gen. Donald MacWillie, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, said volunteers donated more than 6,000 hours of volunteer service, with 2,500 registered volunteers at Fort Riley, which is more than normal for a post this size, he said.

"Your efforts are indeed appreciated," MacWillie said. "You're the glue."

Volunteers being recognized spoke about giving because of their desire to help, not because of the recognition.

Volunteer Faythe DeMaroney said she has a passion for volunteering and also does it for the troops.

"I don't like recognition for it. I do it for the troops," she said.

Spc. Jessica Terry, 97th Military Police Battalion, volunteered by cooking meals, running errands and babysitting. She also said she helped with parking at the Country Stamped.

"It was a good experience. I volunteered to help others that are deploying or redeploying," she said.

Terry was one of 15 volunteers who received a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, indicating 100 hours of volunteer service.

For those receiving the medal, each 100 hours earns a bronze star attachment, with

the possibility of earning three stars, indicating a total of 400 volunteer hours.

Monika McDwyer, Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley Fall Apple Day Festival co-pie queen, said she was very appreciative about being recognized, but volunteers because she wants to.

Fifth-grade student John Sandoz Jr. also said it felt good to be honored and that he plans to volunteer more, adding that he volunteers for the community.

Becky Willis, Army installation volunteer coordinator, said the event went quickly this year, and it went very well.

"There was (a lot) of interesting work and many interesting awards," she said. "We have lots and lots of volunteer opportunities."

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Willis at 785-239-4593.

## 'Pale Riders' receive Helping Hand award for Adopt-a-School program

By Spc. Summer Woode  
1ST HBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers with the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division received the Helping Hand Award during the Quarterly Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Oct. 25 at Riley's Conference Center.

The award recognizes exceptional meritorious volunteers and public service to Fort Riley and the surrounding communities. It is only for volunteers who go beyond the call of duty. Their service must prove to have an impact on either the military or civilian community, or both.

Since deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in February 2011, the 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., has experienced and endured several hardships. This hasn't seemed to hinder the unit's morale, but instead, has brought them together. The unit's rear-detachment has been carrying on the "Pale Rider" legacy while the unit has been deployed and remains active within the Council Grove community.

Sgt. 1st Class Nickey Babin, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., has been adamant about maintaining the Pale Riders' volunteer service to Council Grove. Babin and his group of Soldiers help out at various events in the town. The unit was recognized for their commitment to the community and their adopted school.



Spc. Summer Woode | 1ST HBCT

Soldiers with the 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., receive the Helping Hand Award on behalf of their unit for its participation in the Adopt-A-School program. Pictured, from left to right, are Sgt. Joseph Maden, Spc. Joseph Pope, Cpl. Matthew Courter and Sgt. 1st Class Nickey Babin.

Sgt. 1st Class George Maden, platoon sergeant, 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., said he believes the Adopt-A-School program exists because of the hard work and dedication of its Soldiers and because the unit's morale, but instead, has brought them together. The unit's rear-detachment has been carrying on the "Pale Rider" legacy while the unit has been deployed and remains active within the Council Grove community.

Sgt. 1st Class Nickey Babin, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., has been adamant about maintaining the Pale Riders' volunteer service to Council Grove. Babin and his group of Soldiers help out at various events in the town. The unit was recognized for their commitment to the community and their adopted school.

The unit was unaware it was eligible for the award.

"We found out about a week ago, and it was a surprise," Babin said.

Lorinda Tritt, Family readiness support assistant, 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt., has been tracking the unit's community service hours and told them they won an award.

"We were really excited," Babin said, adding the 4th Sqn., 4th Cav. Regt. Soldiers participating in the Adopt-A-School program are not tasked to help, but do it voluntarily.

"It really shows that we do have a part with community, and they (Soldiers) are being recognized for the time they do give up," Babin said.

**HUGS NOT DRUGS**



Connor Foley, first-grader, Fort Riley Elementary School, hugs a stuffed animal during the school's Red Ribbon Week activity - Hugs not Drugs - Oct. 26.

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POST

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Click on the ICE link at [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil).