

AFTER HOURS

David Carney: Hero to the Heroes

By June Frost
Editor-in-Chief

Retired U.S. Army Sergeant David Carney, communications representative, may not be seen in the spotlight at every local event that praises U.S. soldiers, but you can bet that he is there somewhere behind the scenes doing what he does best – everything in his power to promote those who protect our home front.

Carney's resume reads like that of a dedicated citizen to the American soldier. For example, Carney is a vice president of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), president of the North Alabama Veterans Coalition, treasurer of the Madison County Military Heritage Commission, a member of the board of directors for the Spirit of America, commander of the Cahaba Shrine Temple Legion of Honor, and a steering committee member of the Madison County Veterans memorial.

Imagine how his calendar must look with all those meetings to attend. Carney must be a master of organization to keep up with all the events he oversees. For example, for the Veterans Coalition alone, he oversaw the Christmas party for 400 children of military parents, the Flag Day celebration, a Memorial Day event at Maple Hill cemetery, the Wall of Honor to recognize local military service members, military consultant for the Whitesburg Baptist Church's "I Love America" program, emceed almost every "Welcome Home" and departure event for individual service members and entire units in North Alabama since November 2003, and managed the local Blue Star Service Banner program.

Since starting to work at LMSSC-Huntsville in 2006, Carney has organized the Heart Walk and March of Dimes walks and other community fund raising events. He also coordinated book fairs



Patriot David Carney is shown at left in his "Uncle Sam" costume during the fourth annual Operation Christmas Bear, a program he created to help ensure that children of deployed soldiers receive a visit from "Santa" at Christmas.



David Carney is shown with his wife, Judy, shortly after receiving a beautiful 10-pound, 18-inch bronze statue from the AL National Guard 1169th Engineer Group for supporting U.S. soldiers and their families while the units were deployed to Iraq.

to raise money for United Cerebral Palsy, worked on the ground breaking event for B/406, the recent ribbon-cutting celebration in Courtland, and performed public relations tasks for events such as Young Minds at Work.

With such a busy schedule, it makes one wonder when he had time to earn a Master of Science Degree in Administrative Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

When asked what motivates him to lead such an active volunteer schedule after hours, Carney responded, "I feel that my purpose is to be of service to my fellow patriots and to help make their lives as easy as possible in any way possible."

Carney responded to a question regarding his favorite award, "I felt very humbled recently when Rex Reynolds, Huntsville Director of Public Safety, gave me a certificate of appreciation at the firefighters graduation. I mean, accepting thanks from people who do so much more than I do. Fighting fires! His explanation was that I supported 22 of his employees and their families while the employees were deployed. I didn't know they were city employees, and it wouldn't have mattered. They just needed the support and were 22 of hundreds of other soldiers fighting for our freedom."