

Fellow Fort Wayne Base Community Council Members,

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the Fort Wayne Base Community Council's mission of ***"Bringing Military Service and Community together."***



Since its inception in 2011, the Fort Wayne Base Community Council has served as a catalyst in unifying the military and civilian components of our community. At 188 truly patriotic members strong (and growing!), in the past year we planned and participated in a record number of programs and projects benefitting local members of the armed forces and their families, and aimed at keeping our community strong and safe.

Because of your generous contributions of time, talent, and resources, our organization has been recognized locally and nationally for providing unique solutions and opportunities for Active, Guard, Reserve and Retired Military. Great collaboration and communication and new relationships formed through FWBCC activities is an exciting outcome of our membership growing in size and diversity. Thank you for your participation!

Education and awareness are also important to carrying out the FWBCC's mission. An invitation with details about the upcoming **October 15th Member/Guest luncheon** will be sent to our members shortly! The October Member/Guest luncheon is hosted jointly with Northeast Indiana Defense Industry (NIDIA), and registration will open first for members to reserve seats to hear guest speaker Walter O'Brien's presentation of, **"SCORPION Unleashed: Protecting America from CYBER Attack"**. Walter is the President and CEO of Scorpion Computer Services, and Executive Producer of the CBS hit show, *"SCORPION"*,

Annual membership dues are essential to continuing the FWBCC's year-round activities and military support initiatives. In the past year, your dues made it possible to start or continue many mission-centric activities:

- **Four annual Member/Guest luncheons**, featuring outstanding guest speakers, updates from military leaders, professional and personal development, and networking opportunities for our members and guests and service-members;
 1. **Guest Speaker Tom Davis**, 2-time Boston Marathon Handcycling champion and U.S. Army Veteran injured in combat in Iraq in 2006
 2. **Guest Speaker LTC Steve Russell**, Author of *We Got Him!* - A Memoir of the Hunt & Capture of Saddam Hussein, and a current Congressman serving the state of Oklahoma.
 3. **Guest Speaker Sergeant Sammy L. Davis**, Medal of Honor Recipient and U.S. Army Veteran, injured in combat in Vietnam War, also known as "the real Forrest Gump"
 4. **Guest Speaker Colonel Kip Clark**, Wing Commander of the 181st Intelligence Wing, Indiana Air National Guard
- **Financial Support for Military Family Programs** - the Nightfighter Infantry Ball and Family Day, Blacksnakes Family Day events, holiday celebrations and other free activities for local service-members and military families to promote resiliency, self-sufficiency, and readiness;
- **Financial support of health and welfare initiatives for homeless Veterans** and current and retired military and their dependents;
- **Support of "Welcome Home" events** as 600 men and women of the 122nd Fighter Wing returned from an overseas deployment;
- **Career transition and employment initiatives** for Veterans, current service-members and their spouses;
- **Engagement in the My City Summit programs** of Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana;

- **Conferences and communication with elected officials** on matters such as those related to economic development and the defense industry in Northeast Indiana, legislation protecting Veterans and current service-members in our community;
- **FWBCC/ESGR guided tours** of military facilities and STARBASE, with time to and meet and chat with Soldiers, Airmen, students, and other FWBCC members;
- **Our Inaugural Memorial Day weekend ‘Race for the Warrior’ 5/10K Race & Walk**, a fundraiser for the Military Support Fund, held at the Fort Wayne International Airport. Results exceeded our wildest goals, all due to a stellar volunteer committee, 356 great patriots and athletes registered to run or walk, 75 cheerful and talented civilian and military volunteers pitching in for everything from event-planning to parking, and dozens of generous sponsors contributing in-kind and financial support;
- **Connecting, showcasing and promoting military and community**-focused activities and programs of our community partners and members

In the past year, the Military Support Fund committee has reviewed and awarded dozens of emergency grants for “Citizen Soldiers” living and working in our community. To date, more than 140 grants totaling more than \$55,000 have provided much-needed relief to selfless “Warriors” and their families in our community, to help them through unexpected hardships such as car or home repairs, medical bills, transportation, or an unusually high utility bill. Colonel Patrick Renwick, the Commander of the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, shared this note of appreciation:

“With the Fort Wayne Base Community Council’s creation of the Military Support Fund, council members and supporters have touched the lives of dozens of military families in Northeast Indiana. My personal thanks goes out to those who extended a helping hand and supported a unit member through tough times; helping our Airmen stay resilient and focused on the mission. This support directly impacts our mission and success by keeping our Airmen mentally and physically able to continue answering their nation’s call.”

As a member, you will be the first to learn more about upcoming events. We are also pleased to announce that your membership benefits now include a permanent name badge featuring our logo pictured above.

Please renew your membership in support of those who continue to answer their nation’s call. You can continue with your current membership category listed on the enclosed invoice, upgrade to a higher level, or choose to donate an extra amount to your membership.

Regardless of what you decide to do or the amount you decide to give, we want to personally thank you for your time, commitment, and generosity to the Fort Wayne Base Community Council and its mission.

Sincerely,



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