



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

News Release
March 12, 2007
Log # 07-04

Ohio Air National Guard Enlisted Members Honor U.S. Congressman David Hobson with the Ohio Order of the Musket

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Statehouse - March 10, 2007 - On Saturday evening at the Statehouse Atrium 260 military members and their guests watched as U.S. Congressman Dave Hobson (OH-7: Springfield) was inducted into the Ohio Air National Guard's prestigious Order of the Musket. The award, given by the enlisted Airmen of the State, was created in 1990 to honor an individual (military or civilian) who has worked for and enhanced the lives and mission capabilities of the Ohio National Guard and its members. This was only the third time in 17 years that the award had been given.

Congressman Hobson was an Airman in the Ohio Air National Guard from 1958-1963. He was activated for the Berlin Crisis in 1961 and spent 18 months deployed to Etain, France. As part of the guest list the Congressman invited eight members of his old unit that deployed with him in 1961. It was definitely a special night for all of those in attendance, as current Airmen met those who had served before them.

"I have to say that I was not the most stellar Airman," Congressman Hobson said. "But I did my job and I know I grew from the experience. My time in uniform did teach me about the sacrifices that members of the military make in service to the country. That sacrifice creates an obligation on our part to take care of those who serve, and that is why I have made promoting the welfare of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines one of my primary missions in Congress."

"We are thrilled to bestow this honor on an Airman. Not an Airman who became a general, but a person who served in the enlisted ranks and then did great things in the Ohio Senate and now in the U.S. House of Representatives. Now he is an Airman who is treated better than any four-star general," said State Command Chief Master Sergeant Chris Muncy, the host for the evening's event.

The State Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Council receives nominations and votes on submissions for the award. One "no" vote in the sealed ballots kills a nomination. A nomination must prove that the honoree has affected the lives of every member of the Ohio Air National Guard, not just those in one base or one area.

"With his work on military construction, pay, benefits, medical coverage and fighting to keep Ohio bases open during three different Base Realignment and Closure Commission

rounds, Congressman Hobson is seen as the guardian angel not only of the Ohio National Guard, but the National Guard and all military members worldwide,” said Chief Master Sgt. Wesley Smith, Recruiting and Retention Superintendent for the Ohio National Guard.

Members from all four Air National Guard Wing Honor Guard units carried out multiple details to honor the Congressman and his wife. He was given oak-framed prints of the “Proclamation of the Award,” the “Citation to Accompany the Award” and a replica version of the Brown Bess Revolutionary War musket that symbolizes the Ohio Order of the Musket.

On active duty, each branch gives great leaders an “Order of the Sword,” a tradition which began in the days of the Scottish Highlanders, where Soldiers who felt a leader was worthy of their praise bestowed a sword, their weapon of choice, to the leader as a symbol of respect. Since National Guardmembers are represented by the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord, the musket is seen as the weapon that symbolizes service of our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen.

In 1990, Chief Master Sgt. Jon Wilkinson of Cedarville, then the Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Ohio Air National Guard, donated an authentic Brown Bess Revolutionary war musket to be used as the permanent award. It is kept on display at Beightler Armory in Columbus, headquarters of the Ohio National Guard.

The evening was capped by a flag folding ceremony by the 18-member Honor Guard. Congressman Hobson was given the flag from the evening’s ceremony and his wife, Carolyn, was presented a framed print of the Air Force flag folding ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, the adjutant general for Ohio; Maj. Gen. A.J. Feucht, the assistant adjutant general for Air for Ohio; Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, the command chief of the Air National Guard; Command Sgt. Maj. David Hudson, the senior enlisted advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau; and Chief Master Sgt. Jon Hake, the command chief for Air Force Material Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base sat at the head table with the Congressman and his wife. The majority of those in attendance, however, were enlisted members of the Ohio Air National Guard and unit commanders.

Master Sgt. Kandi Hughes summed up the evening. “We were thrilled to enjoy an evening in the most historic building in downtown Columbus, the Ohio Statehouse, while enjoying the fellowship of Airmen and family. We were also proud to honor one of our own. As the toast goes, Congressman Hobson is “A leader among leaders, and an Airman among Airmen. Here, Here!”

For more information about the event, please contact James Sims in the Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at (614) 336-7000.