

Moore-Mart receives special recognition at troops rally

CMDR. Griffin T. Dalianis, Ask The Commander

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Courtesy photo

From left, Griff Dalianis, Nashua Mayor Bernie Streeter and Congressman Charles Bass stand with kids from Boys State at the Fourth of July rally put on by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Greeley Park in Nashua.

On Aug. 26, Nashua held a Support the Troops rally at Greeley Park. It would have been nice to have a bigger crowd, but the few hundred people there made up for it in their patriotism.

It was an honor to welcome everyone to the rally. This project was put on by the Mayor's Veterans Council.

The Mayor's Veterans Council is made up of the commanders of all the certified veterans organizations in the city. Representing the Disabled American Veterans, I am the chairman; Bill String, vice chairman, represents the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Dave Smith represents the Military Order of the Purple Heart; Barney Barbera represents the American Legion; Roy Grayden represents the Fleet Reserve; and Kelly Dowling is the mayor's liaison to the council.

The program started off with posting the colors. The color guard was from Post 483 in Nashua. The national anthem was sung by Maj. J. Scott Loring of the New Hampshire National Guard. Loring has sung at each of the wave-offs for our Guard members. His singing can bring tears to your eyes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was presented by State Rep. Dave Smith and the invocation was led by Commander Kenneth York, Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 3.

Other speakers included Mayor Bernie Streeter; Congressman Charles Bass; Tami Littleton, a Nashua resident and mother of a deployed soldier; and Col. Richard Duncan, chief of staff to Maj. Gen. Kenneth Clark, adjutant general of the National Guard. Duncan just returned from a year in Afghanistan.

There were several people in the audience I felt needed to be recognized. They included Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Rice and his wife. Rice just retired after 40 years of serving his country.

There were several state representatives, including Betty Lasky and state Sen. Joe Foster of Nashua. There were also several representatives from our veterans organizations; the New Hampshire National Guard, who brought a truck and a cannon; and several representatives from the Army attached to the Nashua recruiting office.

Letters sent by Sen. Judd Gregg, Sen. John Sununu, Congressman Jeb Bradley and Gov. John Lynch were read. Our congressional delegation and the governor have attended many of the wave-offs and homecomings of the National Guard and the wakes and funerals of those killed in service. They have also gone to Walter Reed Army Medical

Center to visit New Hampshire troops wounded in action.

Another highlight of the day was the presentation of a proclamation from the city of Nashua presented to the Moore family.

Attorney Paul Moore of Nashua had a brother deployed to Iraq. Moore started sending him care packages, and after a few months it grew into sending care packages to all members of his brother's unit. It even grew in dimension so that Moore and his sister and daughter were spending hours a day putting the packages together.

In the last two years, the Moore family has sent more than 4,000 packages to troops overseas through the program that is now known as Moore-Mart. Moore is also a veteran of the Army and is a 100 percent disabled veteran.

As the New Hampshire representative for the Army, I presented the family with Army pins and also Army pins saluting Army veterans.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of Claire Rioux, Ruth Anderson, Kelly Dowling, Dot Nice and Gerry Duncan for their support in this endeavor.

Throughout the program, we were serenaded by the Dave Rasmussen Jazz Orchestra.

Thank you to everyone who showed up for the Support the Troops Rally.

God bless our troops.

- A meeting of the New Hampshire Veterans Advisory Committee was held Aug. 22 at the Veterans Home in Tilton.

The guest speaker was Tim Beebe, director of the veteran centers in New England and New York.

New Hampshire has only one center. These centers deal with the mental health issues of veterans.

The Advisory Committee will be taking an active role in trying to get a second center for New Hampshire, possibly in the Keene area.

Griffin T. Dalianis is commander of Gate City Chapter 7 of the Disabled American Veterans and a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army. He also serves on the Mayor's Veterans Council and is chairman of the State Veterans Advisory Committee. Fax him questions at 598-2523, leave him a message at 598-0780 or e-mail him at GTDPHD@aol.com.