

South Dakota National Guard

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2016 Logistics Dining Out: “Sustainment into the Future”

Story courtesy the 139th Brigade Support Battalion

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The 139th Brigade Support Battalion hosted the 2016 Logistics Dining Out in Brookings, March 5, which included more than 150 Soldiers, retirees and spouses from across the state.

The event was held to bring together the logistics community of the South Dakota Army National Guard in one location and includes service members from the quartermaster, ordnance, and transportation branches.

Units in attendance included the 139th BSB and the 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, along with representatives from the subordinate units within their commands and members from the 109th Regional Support Group.

The President of the Mess for the evening was Lt. Col. Jason Kettwig, commander of the 139th, and Ms. Vice was 2nd Lt. Alyssa Pederson, 139th BSB Lieutenant of the Year and member of Company A, 139th BSB. There were also a great number of past battalion commanders and retirees present at the event, which gave leaders from the past, present, and future a chance to meet both on a professional level and in fellowship.

“The 139th Brigade Support Battalion was honored to have such an excellent turnout of significant past leaders within the SDARNG logistics community, and without their support and hard work, the logistics branch would not what it is today,” said Maj. Rebecca Trygstad, administrative officer for the 139th. “Many of these retirees are the Ancient Order of Saint Christopher recipients, which made the presentation of those awards extremely special.”

The program included two guest speakers. Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Keith Corbett, former assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG and Brig. Gen. Thomas Croymans, director of the joint staff for the South Dakota National Guard. Both addressed the main body and were also involved in the presentation of logistics awards for each branch.

“Both of these leaders were chosen to speak because they have made a significant impact in the logistics community in South Dakota, and through their mentorship they continue to be an influence on both current and future leaders in the SDARNG,” said Trygstad.

There were three logistics awards presented at the event: the Ancient Order of Saint Christopher, the Ancient Order of Saint Martin, and the Order of Samuel Sharpe.

The Ancient Order of Saint Christopher is given to Soldiers who have made significant impacts within the Transportation Corps in the course of their service. Soldiers receiving this award were Sgt. 1st Class Randy Tollefson, Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Neal Gunderson, Sgt. 1st Class Paul E. Gruener (Deceased), Master Sgt. Dean Nixon, CW2 (Ret.) Terry Beynon, WO1 Douglas K. Borchert, Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman, Lt. Col. Robert DeJong, Lt. Col. Timothy Schlotterback, and Col. Anthony D. Verchio.

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The Ancient Order of Samuel Sharpe is awarded to ordnance Soldiers who have made a significant impact to the Ordnance Corps during their careers. The Ancient Order of Samuel Sharpe was presented to CW2 Joshua Brenden from Company B, 139th BSB – the first time the 139th has presented the award. Two other recipients, Master Sgt. Daniel Harrington from the 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class Terry Letsche from the Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, also received their awards at their respective dining outs.

The Ancient Order of Saint Martin is present to a quartermaster Soldier who has made a significant impact in the Quartermaster Corps during military service. First Sgt. Jeffrey Wessels of Company A, 139th BSB, was recognized with this auspicious award, and this was also the first time the battalion has awarded the Ancient Order of Saint Martin.

“As an Army logistician, it was a distinct privilege to share the room with such great leaders, both in the logistics field and in the South Dakota National Guard,” Lt. Col. Kettwig. “We as logisticians get to see each other in passing generally, but rarely do we get to be in the same room to celebrate the Logistics Corps and our accomplishments. I am proud to have been a part of the evening, and I look forward to this tradition being revitalized in our organization.”

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160305-Z-ZZ999-001: CW2 Joshua Brendan receives the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe (Ordnance Corps) Award at the 2016 Logistics Dining Out on March 5, 2016, in Brookings, S.D. CW2 Brendan is the first recipient of the award in the 139th Brigade Support Battalion Pictured left to right: BG (Retired) Keith Corbett, CW2 Joshua Brendan, and BG Thomas Croymans. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. April Masters/Released)



160305-Z-ZZ999-002: LTC Jason Kettwig, battalion commander for the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, receives the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara (Field Artillery) Award at the 2016 Logistics Dining Out March 5, 2016, in Brookings, S.D. Pictured left to right: BG Thomas Croymans, LTC Jason Kettwig, and BG (Retired) Keith Corbett. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. April Masters/Released)



160305-Z-ZZ999-003: 1SG Jeffrey Wessels, first sergeant for Company A, 139th BSB, becomes the first recipient of the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin (Quartermaster Corps) Award in the 139th BSB during the 2016 Logistics Dining Out held March 5, 2016, in Brookings, S,D. Pictured left to right: BG Thomas Croymans, 1SG Jeffrey Wessels, and BG (Retired) Keith Corbett. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. April Masters/Released)



160305-Z-ZZ999-004: Recent recipients of the Honorable Order of Saint Christopher (Transportation Corps) Award come together with past recipients to celebrate their prestigious accomplishments within the Transportation Corps at the 2016 Logistics Dining Out, hosted by the 139th Brigade Support Battalion. Pictured left to right: Back row - CW4 Shawn Bambas, CW2 (Retired) Terry Beynon, SFC Randy Tollefson, MSG Dean Nixon, LTC Timothy Schlotterback, Kay Gruener (wife of the late SFC Paul Gruener), LTC Robert DeJong, South Dakota State CSM James Hoekman, and MSG Scott Bull Front row - WO1 Douglas Borchert, CSM Sam Harkin, CSM (Retired) Leo Sterling, SFC (retired) Neal Gunderson, COL Marty Comes, BG (Retired) Keith Corbett, CSM (Retired) Robert Foster, LTC (Retired) Harold Neuberger, and BG Thomas Croymans. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. April Masters/Released)



160305-Z-ZZ999-005: The 139th Brigade Support Battalion was extremely proud to have a dais of distinguished retirees, among them almost all of the past battalion commanders and sergeants major. Pictured from left to right: Back row – LTC (Retired) Mason Wheeler, CSM (Retired) Ronald Stangeland, CW3 (Retired) James Whitney, LTC (Retired) Randy Rakness, LTC (Retired) Gene Vostad, CSM (Retired) Leo Sterling, CSM (Retired) Robert Foster. Front row – BG (Retired) Keith Corbett, CSM (Retired) Don Hind, SFC (Retired) Ruby Solheim, CW4 (Retired) Larry Howell, LTC (Retired) Harold Neuberger, and SFC (Retired) Neal Gunderson. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. April Masters/Released)

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