



Hampton Military Affairs Committee

August 10, 2009

Langley Civic Leaders Association
c/o Stephen M. Mallon
1001 North Campus Parkway, Suite 102
Hampton, VA 23666

Mr. Mallon:

Please accept my belated expression of appreciation for your generous support to the "Evening under the Stars" celebration that took place the evening of Wednesday, May 13th at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton. The night was a great success. Your generous \$250 donation helped make it so.

I would think we all agree that military spouses are our nation's unsung heroes, watching over the family and the home-front during their loved one's long deployments. The third annual "Evening Under The Stars" was designed as a tribute to the important role they play. On May 13th over 2600 spouses from all branches of the service in Hampton Roads enjoyed a free evening of pampering. While mingling with friends for a "night out," they were able to sample products and services from a wide assortment of vendors who are not there to sell, but instead, only to give those spouses the opportunity to enjoy themselves.

I would encourage you to visit the event next year -- again with Mrs. Peggy Mertz, President of Remote and Waiting Spouses and of our MAC Spouse Support Subcommittee, in the lead -- to see the wonder and excitement in those spouses' eyes. This year's attendees ranged in age from the teens, perhaps, to well over seventy, for retiree wives are welcome, as well. Some of the more senior ladies, incidentally, were the most touched emotionally, for even as they were widows of the Greatest Generation, they were reminded that evening that their service to the country was not forgotten.

Please thank all the members of your Langley Civic Leaders Association on my behalf. God bless you all for your continuing service to those who serve our nation so well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alvin Bryant
Major General (US Army, Retired)
Chairman, Military affairs Committee
City of Hampton