

## DEB AND JEFF HANSEN FOUNDATION *Recognized with Seven Seals Award*

The Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation was recently awarded the Seven Seals Award by the Iowa Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The Seven Seals Award is the broadest and most inclusive award given by ESGR and is presented at the discretion of the State Chair or by ESGR senior leadership. The Seven Seals Award is presented in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports the ESGR mission.



Honored during the annual ESGR luncheon in Des Moines, the prestigious Seven Seals award was one of 30 state and national awards presented to well-deserving employers and individuals. "It was an emotional afternoon with both service members and employers sharing stories of support and care for one another," said Allyson Ladd, communications specialist for Iowa Select Farms. "There was a tremendous amount of pride and support shown for our military families, and we were honored to be included."

The Foundation received the Seven Seals Award for the annual Pork Care Package effort, which touches over 12,000 Iowa members of the Armed Services and their families. Every member of all Iowa military units received \$40 worth of coupons good for various pork products, including fresh pork, ham, ribs, bacon, and ground pork, equating to \$480,000 in free pork.

Ladd walked on stage to receive the award, while heartfelt and hearty words of thanks were shouted from the audience. "We were seated at a table with a few services members and they couldn't stop raving about the coupons they had received," Ladd explained. "One Colonel was really excited about the addition of seasonings that were put in this year's packages. He told us he had six kids at home, and the coupons really make a difference when it comes to grocery shopping for such a large family."

Guest speaker BG Shawn Ford, Deputy Adjutant General-Air, spoke about the difficulties Soldiers have when it comes to employment, explaining that they may be called to duty at a moment's notice, pulling them away from their civilian job. Leaves may be for a weekend, a few months or longer, but always leaving behind families at home. He also spoke about the inconvenience a Soldier may put on his or her employer. But most importantly, he spoke about the wide-range support these service men and women receive from people in the room and beyond. Without this type of commitment, these service men and women would not be able to protect our country.

The Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation is honored to have received the Seven Seals Award.

