

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

WALK OFF THE WAR



A Life Member of NGAT, SGT (Ret) Robert Crampton, is heading out for a walk this spring...a long walk, 2,185-miles. He will be joining forces with the Warrior Hike "Walk off the War" Program as they hike the entire National Scenic Appalachian Trail (AT) from Maine to Georgia. This outdoor therapy program supports combat veterans transitioning from their military service by thru-hiking the AT. 85-year-old Robert

was last deployed to a combat zone during WWII, and he will be the oldest person to complete such an adventure. He will be joining other younger veterans who have recently returned from the wars from Iraq and Afghanistan. The program will provide them with their equipment and supplies required to complete the six-month hike. Trail town support will also be coordinated in the form of transportation, food, and lodging with other veteran organizations and community groups located along the trail. Robert will be part of a handful of older Warrior Hikers who will hike along, offering support, guidance, and camaraderie. Robert claims to have no aches and pains and is practicing hiking thirty miles a week with a loaded pack to keep up with the younger Warriors. He is proud to be a member of NGAT and to have served in the Texas Army National Guard. He will be an inspiration to everyone up and down the entire Appalachian Trail. For more information about "Warrior Hike" go to warriorhike.com. ☆

149TH FIGHTER WING BIDS FAREWELL TO CHIEF RODGERS

Members of the 149th Fighter Wing bid farewell to NGAT Life Member Chief Master Sgt John Rodgers at his retirement ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas, on Jan. 11, 2014. Col Michael Reid, the wing's maintenance group commander, officiated the ceremony for Chief Rodgers who is retiring after 33 years of dedicated military service. ☆



COL JEFF ADKINSON HONORED AT CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



NGAT Life Members LTC Marvin Johnson (left) and LTC Michelle Bryant (center) congratulate COL Jeff Adkinson (right) following his

change of command and retirement ceremonies held recently in Temple, Texas. COL Adkinson relinquished command of the 36th Sustainment Brigade to LTC Stephanie Purgerson. During his retirement ceremony, COL Adkinson was presented with the Legion of Merit Medal and the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal for his years of dedicated military service. ☆

OCS GRADUATE HONORED



NGAT President-Elect LTC Daniel Quick presents 2LT Kristen M. Blakeway, a member of HHD 1-133 FA, with a free Annual Membership in NGAT and a statue in recognition of her selection as Honor Graduate for Officer Candidate School Class #56. ☆

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, RITA



Recently the Joint Forces Headquarters bid farewell to Executive Secretary Rita Sanchez who is moving to another position within the Joint Forces Headquarters. Rita has been the Executive Secretary for four Adjutant Generals: MG Wayne Marty, MG Jose Mayorga, MG Charles Rodriguez and Maj Gen John Nichols, and she has seen a lot of change within the National Guard over the years. During her farewell ceremony, SSG Michael Courade presented her with a plaque displaying photos

of the four generals she has worked for and the current Joint Forces Headquarters staff for her years of faithful service. ☆

NGAT SILENT AUCTION SEEKS DONATIONS

The NGAT Silent Auction is a vitally important fundraising tool for our National Guard Association of Texas Education Foundation. We are always seeking new support through donated items. Your generous gift of an auction item will help us be able to continue to offer scholarships and support unit activities. Your donations to the auction are tax deductible.

To donate, contact MSG (Ret) Billeck-Zuniga at 512-454-7300.