

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KATE BROWNING
County Legislator, 3rd District
Public Safety Committee, Chair



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COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Legislator Browning Joins in Recognizing 125 Soldiers of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion

Troops Recently Returned from 10 Months of Service in Kuwait



(Legislator Browning congratulates Specialist Angeles as his son, Sebastian, looks on.)



Pictured left to right: Legislator Browning (fourth from right) presenting certificates for special honors to soldiers SPC Jennifer Torres, SGT Robert Diaz, SSG James Weidemann, SSG Edwin Morales, SPC Damian Acevedo, SPC Rafael Jefferson, SGT Nadine Navarro, and SGT Wilfred Astacio. Also pictured to the right of Legislator Browning are Commissioner Tom Ownens, Islip Town Public Works, MAJ Shawn Hatch, and CPT Marty Young.

Ronkonkoma, NY – On Saturday, December 6, 125 soldiers assigned to Company B and Company C of the 642nd Aviation Support Battalion were recognized at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Ronkonkoma for their year of service in Kuwait from September 2013 to September 2014. Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) joined

friends and family to honor the soldiers for their service, and to present certificates to 10 soldiers who received specials awards.

“I was extremely grateful to be able to participate in recognizing these brave men and women who sacrifice so much in order to ensure we have our freedom here at home,” stated Legislator Browning. “It is also so important to acknowledge the families of these soldiers that endure so much while they are serving overseas. This recognition is for them as much as it is for our troops. I wanted to be able to personally thank them for their service to our country.”

Soldiers who received special awards included:

SSG Edwin Morales – 25 Years Dedicated Services

SPC Jennifer Torres - Singer of the National Anthem

SGT Robert Diaz - Outstanding Maintenance Support During Deployment

SPC Alejandro Patino - Outstanding Maintenance Support During Deployment

SSG James Weidmann - Outstanding Mission Support for ULLS – AE Network

SPC Damain Acevedo - Outstanding Unit Supply Support During Deployment

SPC Ralphael Jefferson - Outstanding Unit Supply Support During Deployment

SGT Nadine Navarro - Outstanding Unit Support For Co 642 ASB

SGT Anthony Lanham - Outstanding Unit Support For Co 642 ASB

SGT Wilfred Astacio - Outstanding Unit Support For Co 642 ASB For Always Making it Happen

While deployed to Kuwait as part of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, these soldiers completed 186,000 man hours of aviation maintenance work to support 2,700 orders. These efforts kept 44 Army aircraft flying to support missions across Kuwait, the Gulf of Arabia, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. They also oversaw 186 ground movement missions across the area, moving more than 3,000 troops and 5.8 million pounds of equipment with no accidents or injuries.

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