



For Immediate Release

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Cindy Smith, American Heart Association, honored by Department of Defense for patriotic support.

Columbus, Ohio – Cindy Smith, Senior Vice-President, Human Resources & Talent Development at the American Heart Association, Great Rivers Affiliate was presented with a Patriot Award September 27, 2016 by Randy Gasser, Ombudsman Director, Ohio Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in recognition of extraordinary support of a spouse whose husband is in the Ohio National Guard.

Smith was nominated for being highly supportive of the National Guard by Jung Kim-Perry, spouse of Staff Sergeant Ikia Perry.

“Supportive employers like the American Heart Association are vital to the success of our mission and the defense of this nation,” said Randy Gasser, Ohio ESGR Ombudsman Director. “Our Guard and Reserve members could not perform their military duty without knowing their civilian employers support them 100 percent, and this is especially true for those employers who support not only the service member, but their spouses as well”

“I had no idea how much this meant to Jung and her family. We are proud to support her and her husband, and all members of the Guard and Reserve,” says Smith. “The American Heart Association proudly employs current and former members of the armed services and their dedicated spouses. Their employment enriches our diverse workforce which enables us to more fully serve our mission of building a culture of health, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke, for all Americans,” Smith said.

Jung stated that “Cindy is committed to supporting the military including hiring Guard & Reserve members and spouses. I’m an Ohio National Guard service member spouse and anytime I need flexible hours, to take time off or work from home she has approved. This helped me personally when Alpha Battery 1-134 Field Artillery Unit, was away for annual training.”

ESGR, a Department of Defense program, seeks to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States. For more information about ESGR outreach programs or volunteer opportunities, call (800) 336-4590 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

Photo and Photo Caption next page.



Photo Caption: Randy Gasser (right), Ombudsman Director, Ohio ESGR, presents a Spouse Patriot Award to Cindy Smith (center) of the American Heart Association. Jun Kim-Perry (left) nominated Cindy for this award for being supportive while her husband was deployed with the Ohio National Guard. Photo taken by American Heart Association.