

# Fueling Energy's Success

*A meet and greet with Irene Smith*

## **What was your role in organizing and planning the hall of fame?**

I was the assigned project officer. The Defense Logistics Agency Energy Hall of Fame had never been held before and it was my responsibility to turn the commander's idea and concept into reality.

## **Why do you feel that having the hall of fame is important to the organization?**

I think everyone at DLA Energy is dedicated to their jobs and mission success. With so much of our focus, energy and effort dedicated towards our jobs and then you add the daily stress of life in the Washington D.C. area, it is easy to overlook the everyday heroism that exists. I think the hall of fame is an opportunity for all of us to step back and realize the amazing accomplishments we do on a daily basis, and thank those exceptional individuals for going the extra mile and making positive differences in people's lives.

## **How do you feel the planning and execution of the first hall of fame went?**

Initially, I was a bit overwhelmed by the planning and execution. The DLA Energy Hall of Fame instruction was still being revised and a whole set of unknowns and decisions had to be figured out and approved by the DLA Energy

commander. This was planning from the ground up with a lot of moving parts.

In the Kunkel Conference Room, we faced renovation challenges. We had to come up with a long term solution to display 50 Years of Leadership and develop a DLA Energy Hall of Fame display. It couldn't look like anything that DLA or any of the other primary-level field activity had.

Another challenge was the gap in time that existed from when our nominees for the Hall of Fame worked at DLA Energy and when they retired. The DLA Energy Hall of Fame was a concept that languished for five years. Nominations had originally been written up in November 2012 for the initial hall of fame to take place in summer of 2013, but that never occurred due to the government sequestration in August through September 2013. Gathering biographical information from individuals who had retired 18 years ago was a major challenge. Trying to find pictures, biographical information and testimonials was at times difficult. Also, two of the nominees were deceased. Fortunately, the families came through with personal photographs of their loved ones.

Next year's Hall of Fame will be so much easier to organize!

## **What went into making the event a success?**



Irene Smith, Defense Logistics Agency Energy public affairs officer, performs her duties as the mistress of ceremonies during the inaugural hall of fame ceremony held at the McNamara Headquarters Complex, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, May 19. Photo by Tanekwa Bournes

A tremendous amount of teamwork, planning, coordination and oversight from the front office staff.

## **Who all was involved in organizing the event?**

This was a joint project with many people helping to make the event a success. I can't name them all, but the executive assistant, Army Capt. Keith DeSilva, was invaluable with his command guidance, ceremonial experience and is a terrific person to bounce ideas off.

I couldn't have done this job without my public affairs specialist, Liz Stoeckmann, who came up with the idea of the digital display and monitors and worked with the DLA Headquarters Video team to develop the video. She played an essential role in the planning and installation of the digital display board and created the slide shows for each monitor. As a key member of the DLA Energy Hall of Fame Planning Committee, Stoeckmann jumped right in and took ownership of creating a six minute video and slideshow highlighting the lives and accomplishments of the six hall of fame inductees. She wrote the script, col-

lected historical data and pictures of the honorees and worked with the DLA videographer to flawlessly coordinate a video highlighting the six former members of the DLA Energy community for their significant and enduring contributions

Estee Pender was invaluable in his role as the protocol officer. Estee was brand new to DLA Energy and did not have any previous experience as a protocol officer. He was a fast learner and jumped in and provided tremendous support in liaison with the inductees' families. He created the seating charts, parking assignments and coordinated the joint service color guard. Blessed with a cool head and lots of patience, he was my right hand person.

## **Anything you'd like to add?**

I think the DLA Energy Hall of Fame is a terrific addition to the DLA Energy command culture and will foster an enduring sense of community among DLA Energy employees. 