



For Immediate Release
By: Spc. Margaret J. Moonin

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Instrumental Alaska National Guard Supporter Receives Presidential Call to Service Award

Cutlines:

Kulis:

Anchorage business owner Rich Owens, center, is flanked by Lt. Col. Mark B. Welborn, left, Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, and Brig. Gen. Chuck Foster, Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing commander, while holding his President's Call to Service Award after a tribute ceremony held in his honor at the Centerpoint building in Anchorage April 25. The President's Call to Service Award is given to those individuals who dedicate at least two years or 4,000 hours of voluntary service to others at home or abroad. Owens, who was recently appointed as the state chairman for the national committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, was recognized for his unwavering commitment to his community and state, as well as his unending support of military personnel, their families and veterans. Photo: Spc. Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Pinned:

The Kulis Air National Guard Base "Ice Cream Support Squadron" commander, Rich Owens, left, was pinned with The President's Call to Service Award by Brig. Gen. Chuck Foster, Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing commander, during a Call to Service Award tribute held at the Centerpoint building in Anchorage April 25. Owens and his volunteers were given the honorary title of "Ice Cream Support Squadron" by members of the 176th Wing for their continued support of Guardsmen, their families, veterans and service members across the state. "We always thought he was just our guy, but at this tribute, we realize that Rich is everywhere and everyone's guy," Foster said. "No one is second with him; everyone is important, and he makes everyone feel special." Photo: Spc. Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Support System:

Anchorage business owner Rich Owens holds his President's Call to Service Award while surrounded by friends, family and supporters. He quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson saying, "It is with your help that I succeed," when he expressed his undying gratitude for being recognized with The President's Call to Service Award during a tribute held in his honor at the Centerpoint

building in Anchorage April 25. “It is the friendships that I have with all of you here and many others across this town and state that make what I do truly enjoyable and possible,” Owens said. Owens has volunteered and helped out multiple youth programs, non-profit programs, military personnel, military families and veterans across the state. Photo: Spc. Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

Thank You:

Rich Owens, left, owner of Taste Freez and H2Oasis Indoor Waterpark, humbly shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Chuck Foster, Alaska Air National Guard’s 176th Wing commander, as a thank you after receiving The President’s Call to Service Award during a tribute held in his honor at the Centerpoint building in Anchorage April 25. Owens has developed a legendary status with the Alaska National Guard for his support of service members and their families. In a letter read at the event, U.S. Senator Mark Begich said, “Rich Owens has made an indelible mark on the Anchorage community.” The effects of Owens’s volunteer work can be found in many venues throughout the city but none may be as prevalent as his volunteer service to benefit Alaska’s military personnel, their families and veterans. “He has raised the level of awareness of the sacrifices of our military and has helped to make Anchorage one of the most military-friendly towns in the United States,” Begich concluded in his letter. Photo: Spc. Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs