



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Karen Sampson
Soldiers of the South Carolina National Guard, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment attend an Adopt-a-Soldier event held at the MWR Dec. 13.

Sumrall

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brainstormed an idea to put together a gathering dedicated to the Soldiers for Christmas.

“The minute it was mentioned, it just took off,” said Jones who took pride in her student’s endeavor. “They were just so excited about it.”

For two weeks the students practiced singing songs and assembled gift bags, cards and candy bags, said Jones.

All students carried bright red signs with their adopted Soldier’s name.

“We were trying to help out our Soldiers because they just returned from a long deployment,” said student Angel Hartfield.

Angel wore a Santa hat and held a sign adopting Staff Sgt. Duane Campbell from Summerville, S.C.

“I feel privileged to be a part of this,” said Staff Sgt. Derrick McCormick from Dylan S.C. “I am sure it gave the kids something to look forward to. We were looking forward to meeting them.”

The students mingled with the Soldiers. They were inquisitive about the Soldiers’ missions overseas. Some Soldiers gave their student a unit patch to wear.

“This is great!” said Sgt. 1st Class John Mckenzie, native of Lakeview, S.C. “Last time we returned home we didn’t have anything like this, so it means a lot. Especially, to our younger Soldiers back from their first deployment.”



Palazzo

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Act legislation that will bring hundreds of millions of dollars back to Mississippi to be invested in economic and environmental restoration. The legislation was the first of its kind to designate civil penalties from the 2010 Deep-water Horizon Disaster back to the five coastal states affected.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Palazzo assisted with passage of language that elevated the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to equal status on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and shepherded amendments that would protect the rights of conscience for military chaplains through the annual defense authorization process. He was also able to restore more than \$150 million in defense funding and multi-year procurements for ships built in South Mississippi.

As chairman of the Space & Aeronautics Subcommittee, Palazzo was the lead sponsor on a crucial piece of space legislation Congress sent to the president just this week. He was also one of two Republican members of the Science, Space & Technology Committee selected to serve on the conference committee for the FAA reauthorization signed into law earlier this year.

Palazzo also serves as a Soldier in the Mississippi Army National Guard, attending weekend drills and annual training rotations with the Installation Support Unit at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

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