

Potomac Combined Federal Campaign Receives OPM Award

By Jeron Hayes

The best of the best Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC) from across the world were honored Monday in a ceremony at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. Awards were presented to individual campaigns with the highest percentage dollar increase, as well as individuals and teams recognized as CFC Heroes, Innovators and Leaders.

Among those honored was the Potomac Combined Federal Campaign. The campaign, made up of Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, Ft. A.P. Hill and Quantico Marine Corps Base, raised a record \$1.156 million dollars in 2009, a 15% increase over the 2008 campaign. The increase earned the campaign an award as the third highest increase in campaigns over \$1 million in all of CFC.

John Berry, Director of OPM, served as keynote speaker and with a smile a mile wide, thanked each and every attendee for their dedication to CFC. "I am overwhelmed," said Berry, "watching the incredible job you've all done, helping build a better life for others." "Combined Federal Campaign has raised \$2.6 billion since its inception," said Berry. "It's because of people like you, and we're here today to celebrate you and your efforts," said Berry.

Berry noted that the 2009 campaign raised a total of \$282 million. "In 2008, we set a record despite the economy. We knew that federal employees were affected, with many spouses losing jobs." Berry said that federal employees broke through those issues and said "charity must go on."

Berry told a story from a biography he'd read on President U.S. Grant. "Grant was the first president to travel around the world," said Berry. In Germany to deliver a speech to more than 10,000 people, Grant was introduced as "the man that saved the union." As Grant took the podium, he eyed the tall stack of prepared words he'd brought and then pushed them to the side and thought for a minute. "Grant said, if all the generals in the Civil War had fallen, the ten thousand behind them would have taken up the fight," said Berry. For CFC, "it's all of you that take up this campaign. One person matters. One person can make a difference. You have made life richer and more abundant for so many," said Berry.

"It's just amazing because I thought we'd have too steep a hill to climb this year," said Berry, "but you broke all the old records and had the highest campaign total ever. You have helped our neighbors all around the country and all around the world. You have given a lifeline to so many," said Berry.

The CFC Hero award was designed to recognize CFC participants that go above and beyond in their effort to benefit the campaign. Among those honored were a Navy chief from the USS Cape St. George in San Diego whose efforts resulted in 99% participation on his ship and a soldier who, while home recovering from injuries, headed up the

campaign for his command and set an all-time donation record. The National Capital Area team in Washington, D.C. was recognized for their efforts to streamline the process to collect online donations.

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. The Director of OPM has designated to the Office of CFC Operations responsibility for day-to-day management of the CFC.