NEWS RELEASE

Employees volunteer time and talent to honor those who serve

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Earlier this year, American had the privilege of flying 25 of America's Medal of Honor recipients and their families from John F. Kennedy International Airport to our nation's capital in honor and celebration of National Medal of Honor Day.

Among the distinguished recipients, numerous military honor guards, highly respected veterans from all branches of the military — plus a pipe and drum band — were six American Airlines team members being recognized for service of a different sort.

These team members were selected to participate in that charter flight based on their volunteerism and contributions to military and veteran initiatives in 2016. One of the selected team members was Jackie Eldrenkamp, workforce support analyst, International Reservations, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

“I began volunteering with our military and veterans when my children were young, and I quickly realized that giving back to those who give — and have given so much — was a way I could contribute,” says Jackie, whose husband, David Eldrenkamp, is a veteran of the United States Army, as well as an American Airlines aircraft mechanic in CLT, and accompanied her on the trip.

Jackie is the president of the Veteran-Military Employee Business Resource Group at International Reservations and encourages her colleagues to get involved, too. Together, they have provided support to active military and veterans for more than 10 years through a variety of efforts, including sending care packages overseas, recognizing veterans at American, providing and sharing meals with Veterans Helping Veterans residents and participating in the Marine Corps Mud Run.

The trip marked Jackie’s first Medal of Honor flight. “It was such an honor to be in the presence of true heroes,” she says, noting that she felt like the luckiest girl in the world. “I’m so thankful for this country we live in and grateful for our men and women who serve.”