

CITATION

Mr. David Downing Jr.

is presented the

Commander's Award for Public Service

For unselfish and dedicated service to service members, retirees and widows in the United States Forces Korea. Throughout the past twenty years, Mr. Downing has donated his own time and resources to assist individuals in obtaining benefits to which they were entitled. He has also served as a tireless advisor to the Yongsan Retiree Council and as mentor to many personnel who assist separating service personnel and their family members. His dedication to duty has served as a standard for others to emulate and has brought great credit to him, this command and the United States Army.

DESCRIPTION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Mr. David Downing Jr. retired from the United States Army in 1977 and has lived in Korea since his retirement. Throughout the intervening years, he has assisted soldiers, retirees and widows. He has helped these individuals obtain benefits to which they were entitled, but were denied because of bureaucratic oversight or lack of individual awareness of proper procedures.

For eight months in 1989, Mr. Downing served as a Retirement Services Officer (GS-7), until that position was abolished. Since then, he has operated a "Retiree Hotline" to assist retirees. The telephone recording machine and facsimile machine to support this program were purchased at his own expense. He has also continued to help widows and has served as one of the prime movers of the Yongsan Retiree Council.

The assistance he has provided to widows is legendary. In one case, he was able to assist the widow of a retiree receive \$39,000 in benefits to which she was entitled. No one really knows how many widows Mr. Downing has assisted, but some of his associates estimate he has helped over 1,500 individuals since he began. Currently, he is working with federal agencies to ensure that widows in Korea continue to receive pension checks, despite changes in federal regulations which will require the electronic deposit of funds in the future.

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) was established in Korea in the 1991-1992 time frame. Mr. Downing served as a service provider to the ACAP to assist retirees and he has also mentored many of the ACAP personnel that have served in Korea. His unselfish sharing of knowledge has enriched the ACAP.