

## DDC Deputy Commander retires after 40-year career

*Audience of more than 170 bid farewell*

*By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office*

Phyllis C. Campbell, Senior Executive Service, deputy commander for the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Distribution Center, New Cumberland, Pa., retired after a 40-year career in civil service. Officiating the ceremony was retired Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Privratsky, DDC's first commander.

Former DLA and DDC leadership, employees, family and friends from all over the United States made up the audience of more than 170 attendees to the DDC Susquehanna Club for the dinner and ceremony.

Opening the night's event was DDC employee Cliff Flick and his wife Wendy Flick who sang "Pennsylvania My Home State" and "Wind Beneath My Wings" in tribute to Campbell. Providing the invocation was DDC employee and minister Barb McClain.

Before dinner, the audience viewed a DDC "Then and Now" presentation which outlined the evolution of DDC and its initiatives and successes during Campbell's tenure.

The program included presentations from Ed Visker, the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., deputy commander, who represented DDC's 26 deputy commanders; Dave Falvey, SES, and Jeff Charlesworth representing the DLA Information Operations community.

Making presentations representing DDC's leadership were Marian Ryan of Distribution Reengineering, Gene Surmacz of Acquisition Directorate, Frank Egan of Information Operations, Gwen Hoover of General Counsel, John Kurtz of Financial Operations, and Scott Rosbaugh of Strategic Plans.

One of the memorable presentations of the evening, representing the legacy Campbell leaves, was from the DDC workforce. Leading the group of employees, Denise Parker-Kanelos of Customer Operations, reflected, "I'm here to tonight to talk about Ms. C's legacy and what she leaves behind ... her true and lasting impact to influence the



*Retired Army Maj. Gen. Ken Privratski presents Phyllis C. Campbell with a golden plaque displaying her tribute published in the Congressional Record.*

direction of the DDC and DLA for years to come ... us.

"Ms. C. was always one to recognize the potential individuals had, even when we didn't always see that we had it," Parker-Kanelos said. "Either directly or indirectly, Ms. C. touched all of our lives and taught us how to lead by example. The tasks we were given were not easy. They were meant to stretch us, to teach us about ourselves, what we could accomplish, and the right way to accomplish it. We learned a lot under her guidance."

In a tearful tribute, Parker-Kanelos, continued, "As a way to recognize Ms. Campbell's legacy, the DDC will rename the second floor conference room the 'Campbell Room.'"

DDC employees Scott Rosbaugh and Joe Faris presented the Campbell Room plaque to Campbell and the audience.

“This plaque will hang in your honor so that we can remember your standards of excellence daily as we walk through the DDC,” said Parker-Kanelos.

Parker-Kanelos concluded, “Ms. C., you have shaped the lives of the people standing in front of you and the lives of many future leaders. We are better prepared to tackle tomorrow’s challenges because of your legacy – you are loved and admired by this group, we are grateful for your leadership.”

Campbell was also presented a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and the DDC installation by Twila Gonzales, SES, DDC’s new deputy commander.

Upon conclusion of the staff presentations, DDC Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar, presented Campbell with the Distinguished Career Service Medal.

Privratsky, who traveled to Pennsylvania from Alaska to preside over the ceremony, thanked Campbell for her efforts as deputy commander during his tenure as well as those commanders that served after him. “Commanders come and go. You need someone for consistency – Phyllis Campbell was the consistency. She kept the order,” he said.

Privratsky presented Campbell with many items as part of the retirement portion of the program to include a book of letters and documents that contained recognitions from employees, peers, executive leaders and elected officials to include a letter from President George W. Bush.

In addition, U.S. Congressman Todd Platts posted a tribute in the Congressional Record which was engraved on a gold plaque and presented.

Service and retirement plaques were presented to Campbell, wrapping up a prestigious and rewarding career.

Campbell took the stage and addressed the audience, “When I started my career, I would never have imagined ending my career with a night like this. My time in DLA feels like a Ken Burns PBS special on American life. I’m in awe of the distance I’ve traveled, but it’s been a wonderful journey.”

Campbell then thanked many individuals in the audience who helped her and DDC to include former DLA Director retired Navy Vice Adm. Keith Lippert, “Thank you for your trust and confidence

in me and the DDC. We came to you with several proposals that I know gave you pause, but you always allowed us to do what we believed needed to be done to better support the war fighter.”

*“Do what your conscience commands and your courage permits.”*

Thanking former DDC commanders she addressed Privratsky first. “Thank you for planting the seeds for what the DDC would become. You had a vision that challenged the status quo and forever changed the perception of distribution within the Department of Defense.”

Acknowledging retired Army Brig. Gen. Barbara Doornink, Campbell said, “You had so much energy and you used it to let the logistics community know that we were no longer ‘their grandfather’s depot.’ I know you continue to care.”

As Army Maj. Gen. Kathleen Gainey,

former DDC Commander and current Commander for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, looked on, Campbell acknowledged, “We had some interesting challenges venturing into the world of contingency contracted distribution centers in Bahrain and Kuwait, but it all came together.”

Campbell acknowledged the many others in the audience to include her fellow Senior Executive Service members, DDC leadership, family and friends.

In her final statement to the DDC leaders and workforce she leaves behind, Campbell said, “This change will create new opportunities for you. I challenge you to hold firm to your values and take care of the basics, otherwise your foundation will crumble.

“Do what your conscience commands and your courage permits. If you do these things, I am certain you will seize whatever opportunities come your way.

“If my legacy to you is time spent helping to build this organization, your legacy to me is one of commitment to teamwork and an enduring passion for the mission.”

The night ended with a standing ovation, some tears, and the sound of Motown music for the attendees to enjoy.



*Phyllis C. Campbell surrounded by her legacy – representatives of DDC’s staff. As a tribute to Campbell, the DDC Logistics Operations conference room was renamed the “Campbell Room.”*