



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 1, 2004

CAT'S MEOW EMPLOYEE RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WOOSTER, OH – What do Operation Iraqi Freedom and The Cat's Meow® Village have in common? Both are goodwill ambassadors! U.S. Air Force Sr. Master Sergeant Skip Igo recently made a surprise visit to The Cat's Meow® Village. The purpose of his mission was to present a U.S. Air Force proclamation and a U.S. flag that had been flown over Baghdad, Iraq to valued Cat's Meow employee, Ruth Evans.

What prompted this amazing honor? Skip and his family had attended The Cat's Meow® VillageFest 20 celebration last August. He was impressed and moved by the customer service and kindness that was extended to him while he was here. He was also touched by the patriotism and loyalty displayed by all the Cat's Meow employees, both to Cat's Meow and the United States. After visiting Charity Grove, he approached Ruth to find out how he could purchase the retired 2002 Special Event Unity Tree. He explained to her that this specific tree was important to him because of its direct tie to the September 11th tragedy, and that he was soon to be deployed to Iraq to fight the war on terrorism. Compelled to find this piece for him, Ruth took his name and address and said she would try her best to locate the tree. Skip left VillageFest 20 thinking he would probably never hear from Ruth.

Ruth Evans is the Village Shipping and Web Order Coordinator and has been a dedicated employee for nine years. When the dust from VillageFest 20 had settled, Ruth went on a mission of her own to locate the piece, and she sent it to Skip along with a note of appreciation thanking him for his willingness to serve our country in the armed forces.

While living out of what Skip called a potato chip bag in Iraq, a tent lined with a foil material on the inside to keep the heat out, he thought about all of the little things often taken for granted and everything he had done with his family before his deployment. He decided when he returned to the U.S. he wanted to do something special for Ruth because of her willingness to go above and beyond for a total stranger. On January 5, 2004, Skip secretly surprised Ruth by presenting her the proclamation and U.S. flag. It was a humbling, memorable moment.

About Cat's Meow

The Cat's Meow® Village has been building memories with its miniature, wooden, handcrafted buildings and accessories for over 20 years. Many pieces commemorate historic structures and points of interest. "Casper," the trademark black cat, signifies the authenticity of Village products and can be found on each piece, along with the signature of Faline Fry Jones, creator of The Cat's Meow® Village.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.catsmeow.com, email cmv@fjdesign.com or call toll-free 1-888-353-3744.