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PRESS RELEASE

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Charlene Austin Recipient of First Annual Partnership for Children Military Child and Family Leadership Award

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Mrs. Charlene Austin, wife of Lt. General Lloyd Austin, was honored for her dedication to military children and families as the recipient of the first annual Military and Family Leadership Award. Mrs. Austin was announced as the winner at PFC’s annual Board of Directors meeting in July in front of an audience of PFC Board Directors and committee volunteers and community leaders. Sgt. Ralph Denton, his wife Sarah, and their three daughters received the award in Mrs. Austin’s honor. Sarah Denton is an Early Childhood Consultant with the Partnership for Children.

Mrs. Austin was later presented with the award by Donna Mansfield, Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. (PFC) Board Chair, in front of PFC staff, volunteers, and community members who have worked closely with Mrs. Austin on issues related to military families over the past year.

The Partnership for Children developed this award to honor a military spouse or dependent who demonstrates qualities of leadership, resilience, and selfless service impacting the lives of military children and families in our community. Mrs. Austin used her time at Ft. Bragg to build lasting relationships between individuals and organizations who serve military children off–post with those who serve children on-post.

“Charlene Austin has met the challenges of living the life of a military spouse head on with a determination to turn any adversity into opportunity to truly celebrate and nurture the wonderful characteristics of our military families and children,” said Donna Mansfield. “She leads by example and has demonstrated a tireless dedication to leave no stone unturned in her quest to answer the question ‘What are we doing for the children?’”

To honor Mrs. Austin's spirit of giving, PFC gave a \$1,000 donation to the Military Child Education Coalition in Mrs. Austin's name. The Military Child Education Coalition is a worldwide nonprofit organization whose purpose is to share information with communities and school systems to develop programs and processes to resolve transition issues for military students. To learn more about the Military Child Education Coalition, visit www.militarychild.org.

The Partnership for Children is the nonprofit organization that supports early care and education professionals and parents with resources to prepare children for success in school and nurture responsible, productive citizens who will make a positive contribution to the prosperity of our community. PFC achieves its mission through administration of the Smart Start school readiness initiative and More at Four Public Pre-kindergarten program in Cumberland County as well as several other grants. To learn more about the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County call (910) 867-9700 or visit www.ccpfc.org.

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Pictured with Mrs. Charlene Austin (center) are Donna Mansfield, PFC Board Chair (left) and Sarah Denton, PFC Early Childhood Consultant and military spouse (right)



Sgt. Denton and his family receive the first annual Military Child and Family Leadership Award in Mrs. Austin's honor from Donna Mansfield, PFC Board Chair.