

5 MAR 2025

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: “Major General Jeff Bannister Citizen Soldier Connection Excellence in Service Award” Process

1. **Purpose.** The Major General Jeff Bannister Citizen Soldier Connection Excellence in Service Award is designed to recognize one military veteran/active duty and one civilian from the Pikes Peak Region yearly. The nominees, through their efforts, have enhanced the quality of life for our active-duty military, or veterans, and their families through personal service and/or financial support through Citizen Soldier Connection.

a. All annual nominees will be submitted to the Executive Director by the determined deadline.

b. Nominations must be typed and submitted through the Executive Director in a Word document, detailing the qualification for the nominee.

c. Include contact information (name, phone, email) for the submitter and the nominee.

Timeline:

12 APR 2025– Deadline to submit citizen and military nominations to Executive Director.

5 MAR 2025 – Executive Director will send nominee packets out to base executive staff and distribute to other key players in Colorado Springs.

2. **Facts.**

a. The Gala will be held on 17 MAY 2025, at the Broadmoor Cheyenne Lodge. Invitations for the Gala are extended to all nominees of the Major General Jeff Bannister Citizen Soldier Connection Excellence in Service Award, including spouses.

b. The Major General Jeff Bannister Citizen Soldier Connection Excellence in Service Award recipients will be selected at least one month prior to the Gala. The award winners will be announced at the Gala. Each awardee will have their names inscribed on a name plate and attached to the trophy and permanently displayed at the garrison headquarters of the branch of service in which they are attached, supported, or previously apart of. The award recipients will receive a plaque to commemorate their accomplishment.

c. The Major General Jeff Bannister Citizen Soldier Connection Excellence in Service Award is open to nominees from the civilian sector, military veterans, and all active-duty military ranks. Nominees do not have to be junior enlisted. This award is intended to provide recognition to the persons providing the best overall support to our active duty, veterans, and their families regardless of rank or status in the community.

d. All nominees and recipients, including their spouses, of The Major General Jeff Bannister Citizen Soldier Connection Excellence in Service Award are invited to attend all future events of Citizen Soldier Connection.

d. History and Summary: This Citizen Soldier Connection tradition started in 2022 to honor Jeff Bannister (MG, Ret, USA), who in partnership with Don Addy (local businessman) developed and led Citizen Soldier Connection, founded at the urging of Robert Mixon (MG, Ret, USA) to provide support and connect soldiers to the community of Colorado Springs. In 2006, the combat deployment rotation was heavy and new units were relocated to Ft. Carson. At this time many families stationed at Ft. Carson did not have a local support network. CSC was established to fill that void by creating support networks within the local community and started by placing soldiers in the homes of host families for holiday dinners. MG Bannister established and promoted CSC with unrivaled excellence and greatly succeeded in building a network of community support for those that he led, as well as, vastly improving troop morale. Unfortunately, MG Bannister would later pass away, but only after a life well-lived serving others and a spectacular and most noteworthy career of service to his country. Citizen Soldier Connection created this award to acknowledge his leadership in pioneering CSC and giving of his time above and beyond the requirements of his established position in the Army. This seminal award is intended to go to someone who has the same giving spirit as MG Bannister. This initiative enables us to extend appreciation and recognition to local citizens and military persons who have gone above and beyond to help support our active duty, veterans, and their families.

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