

Veteran of the Month May 2010

Congratulations to Robert Cannizzaro!



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the May 2010 Veteran of the Month Recognition to Robert Cannizzaro.

Robert Cannizzaro served a long and rewarding career in the service of his country, devoting many hours in the Air Traffic Control field. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1975. After basic training, he was assigned to Keesler Air Force Base to train as an Air Traffic Controller. He was subsequently assigned to various bases throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom, eventually ending up at Ellsworth Air Force Base where he was dual rated as an Air Traffic Controller and a Radar Approach Controller Watch Supervisor.

Mr. Cannizzaro received many awards and decorations, including Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon – Short Tour, Air Force Overseas Ribbon – Long Tour with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Longevity award with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and Air Force Training Ribbon. He also received the ATC Mater Badge with Wreath. His most memorable moments were his actions involving a fire on a C-5 aircraft, for which he received the Lieutenant General Gordon Black Aircraft Save Award, and his support of Desert Shield from 1990 to 1996. He retired as a Master Sergeant (E7) on a Friday in 1996 and started working as a civilian Air Traffic Controller at Rapid City Regional Airport on the following Monday.

Born in Warrington, England to military parents, Mr. Cannizzaro was educated in the United Kingdom and the United States. He married Rebecca Elliot in 1976, and they have one daughter, married to Maurice Miller, and one grandson, Michael.

Mr. Cannizzaro enthusiastically participates in his community. He is actively involved as a Life Member of The Retired Enlisted Association, contributes baked goods to the senior citizens homes and supports the Corner Stone Mission Young Life. He is rightly proud of his military record, his country, his state, his city and his family.