

APG News

143rd Ordnance Battalion Soldiers support 5K run

Story and photo by

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Soldiers from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion's 63 Bravo Light Wheel Mechanic class participated in the Greater Edgewood Education Foundation's first Franklin L. Tull 5K Run and Fun for Student Success April 14 on the grounds of Edgewood High School. Some of the Soldiers competed in the run while others served as mile markers and helped with other tasks. Edgewood High School has had a partnership with the battalion since the early 1990s through the Adopta-School program.

"[School faculty and Greater Edgewood Education Foundation members] were very excited to have the Soldiers support the community and education," said Deb Merlock, president of the GEEF and 5K run organizer.

The run was named for the William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School principal Franklin L. Tull, who died last year.

"Frank was very wonderful and an inspiration to the community," Merlock said. "We wanted to do something special to honor him."

Tull was the elementary school principal since 1997 and worked in the Harford County Public School system for 31 years.

He was responsible for initiating many programs for the school such as Boyz 2 Men, a mentoring program for elementary and middle school students.

"It was his goal to achieve high academic standards for all children," said Gail Dunlap, current principal of William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School. "He was extremely compassionate for all of the children."

Members of the battalion were happy to participate in the event.

"It's a nice day for the run and everyone seems to be enjoying it," said Pvt. Dana Dickinson.

"It felt good to represent the Army and show that the Army is willing to help civilians," said Pvt. Geoffrey Hillberg.

"It's been really fun," said Pvt. Eddie Small. "I've

been in training for so long so seeing civilians made me feel good.”

Small won a trophy for the 22 to 26 age bracket. He finished the run in 21 minutes and 17 seconds. He said he wasn’t expecting to win anything and gave advice to other athletes.

“Keep your head up,” Small said. “Go for what you want.”

The company’s drill sergeant, Sfc. Darrick Madison, accompanied the Soldiers to the run.

“It was a great day over all,” Madison said. “It was a chance for the Soldiers to support the community. The run gave motivation to the Soldiers because they could see the community supports them too.”

The proceeds of the run will be donated to GEEF’s College Pathways program, a program designed to give children the tools they need to attend postsecondary education, Merlock said.

GEEF

The Greater Edgewood Education Foundation, Inc. is made of community members whose mission is to promote support for Edgewood area schools and improve educational opportunities for its students.

For events or more information on GEEF, visit

www.geefinc.com.



Pfc. Shelea Newson, far right, directs Pvt. Rodney Rea, left, and Navy recruit Kenneth Shiflett during the Greater Edgewood Education Foundation’s Franklin L. Tull 5K Run for Fun for Student Success April 14.