



2017 State of the State *Speech Mention Bios*

First Lieutenant Paige Campbell – 127th Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year

First Lieutenant Paige Campbell is a 127th Wing Intelligence Officer at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan. As an Intel officer, she communicates directly with leaders at every level regarding issues impacting the intelligence community. Lt. Campbell is a 2011 graduate of the Michigan State University Criminal Justice program and joined the Michigan Air National Guard in 2012. Since receiving her commission, Lt. Campbell has deployed to Kuwait as an intelligence officer for six months in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. She has also served as the intelligence liaison for Exercise Northern Strike 2016 and a key contributor to the coordination of Selfridge Air National Guard Base's centennial anniversary air show in 2017.

Senior Master Sergeant Eric Bates - 127th Wing Enlisted Soldier

SMSGT Eric Bates has served in the United States Air Force for nearly 22 years. During his service, SMSGT Bates spent four years of active duty time stationed at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska and seventeen years in the Michigan Air National Guard at Selfridge ANGB in Michigan. SMSGT Bates has been on over 30 deployments, including five trips to the Middle East serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been honored with two Air Force Meritorious Service and Commendation Medals in addition to earning twenty-four decorations.

Sergeant Nicholas Mitchell – Winner of the 2016 International Sniper Competition

Sgt. Nicholas Mitchell has served the Michigan National Guard for six years and is a team leader in the HHC 3-126 INF Sniper section. Sgt. Mitchell completed basic training and Infantry school in 2010 at Fort Benning, Georgia and was awarded a slot in Airborne school immediately following. He joined his unit Charlie Troop 3-126 Infantry just after graduating Airborne school in late 2011, and deployed one month later to Afghanistan in 2012. After returning from overseas, Sgt. Mitchell was selected as a candidate for the National Guard Sniper School at Camp Robinson, Arkansas and graduated in June 2013. In 2015 he coached the first competitive Sniper team that the Michigan National Guard has ever sent to compete. During the 2016 competition, Sgt. Mitchell stepped in to replace a competitor who was unable to compete and helped the team place first in the 2016 Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championship. He and his teammates competed and placed first in the 2016 International Sniper Competition at Fort Benning, Georgia and received third place in the 2017 Mammoth Sniper Challenge.

Sergeant Saykham Keophalychanh – Winner of the 2016 International Sniper Competition

Sgt. Keophalychanh, of Laotian decent, moved to the U.S. in 1985, eventually settling in Holland, MI in 1999. He joined the Michigan Army National Guard in 2005 and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2008. Sgt. Keophalychanh completed sniper school in 2009 and volunteered for his second deployment in 2009. His sniper competition awards include his team placing first in the 2016 Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championship, where he also received "Top Sniper" honors. Additionally, his team placed first in the 2016 U.S. Army International Sniper Competition and third in the 2017 Mammoth Sniper Challenge - Regular Division.

CPT Anthony Chrisopoulos – Enlisted Soldier of the Year

CPT Anthony Chrisopoulos is a native of Detroit and a 1999 graduate of the Oakland University Political Science program. He also holds a degree in General Engineering from Michigan Technological Institute and joined the Michigan Army National Guard in 2006. CPT Chrisopoulos is the assistant operations officer at Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC), 507th Engineer Battalion in Kalamazoo and is the 2016 recipient of the Michigan Company Grade Officer of the Year award. Since his commission in 2008, he has deployed to Afghanistan twice, most recently as the Counter IED Officer for the 507th Engineer Battalion. He has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal and the Senior EOD Badge.

Steve Cooper – Continental Dairy Facilities, Inc.

Steve currently serves as the COO/ General Manager of Continental Dairy Facilities, LLC, where he was involved in the business development and design of a new powder processing plant in Coopersville, MI. Continental Dairy is a dairy processing plant in partnership with Select Milk Producers, the fifth largest dairy co-op in the United States, made up of more than 92 dairy farmers from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Texas and New Mexico. Continental Dairy produces over 300,000 pounds of dry, non-fat milk per day for use as the base ingredient for a wide variety of consumer products including ice cream, cheese, yogurt, whipped cream, pasta sauce and more. Steve brings 40 years of experience and vast amounts of knowledge of the dairy industry to his role at Continental Dairy. During his career in dairy, Steve has been responsible for plant operations, marketing and logistics as well as the startup of numerous dryers, evaporators, ultrafiltration and butter operations.

Earnie Meily – Clemens Food Group

Earnie Meily is the vice president of community development at Clemens Food Group. Clemens is a sixth-generation, family-owned integrated pork production operation including farming, processing, transportation and logistics. Based in Hatfield, PA, the company recently announced a major expansion project in Coldwater, MI with the construction of a new fresh pork processing plant. The pork processing facility is expected to generate up to \$255.7 million in private investment and is projected to create more than 800 jobs. The plant is on schedule for operations to begin in late 2017.

Students for Females in STEM

Samantha White, Taylor Murray, Sophie Steiner and Katie Knox are co-developers of a new afterschool club at East Lansing High School called, “Students for Females in STEM.” This program brought Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) professionals into the high school to provide information and raise awareness on why it’s so important for women to pursue careers in STEM-related fields. The “Students for Females in STEM” have successfully implemented innovative and community-wide coding programs. STEM education is a key part in making Michigan a world leader in talent development, and Gov. Snyder has made investing in STEM education a top priority in his administration.

2nd Chance Wood

This small, family owned and operated furniture maker in Durand is growing extremely fast. The state is helping them with a new facility that will employ 60 people in jobs that require the unique skill of custom furniture manufacturing. The company uses reclaimed lumber from sources such as downed trees, old barns, and demolition sites. Michigan beat out Texas and Wisconsin for the new facility.

Project Rising Tide – Charlotte, River Rouge, Ewart & Harrison

Project Rising Tide is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development and provides communities with the tools they need to design and build a solid planning, zoning and economic development foundation to attract new businesses and help existing employers to grow. Ten communities across Michigan participated in the pilot program to work with local leaders as they develop new strategies for economic prosperity. Communities were chosen based on a series of economic factors including unemployment rates, poverty levels and labor participation rates. One community in each of the state’s 10 prosperity regions was selected for the program. Gov. Snyder visited all ten communities in 2016, which are River Rouge, Newberry, Central Lake, Grayling, Ewart, Harrison, Sandusky, Charlotte, Paw Paw and Hillsdale. The governor plans to re-visit each community to evaluate progress being made and also facilitate each community mentor neighboring communities selected to begin the program.