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COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
201 W. FRONT STREET
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

610-891-4931
FAX NUMBER 610-891-8055
E-MAIL: delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us

Department of Public Relations
Contact: Trish Coffell
Communications Officer
610-891-4943

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Lauren Contino
Communications Assistant
610-891-4567

COUNTY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES ARMY SGT. MANZI

Soldier who adopted Afghan pup is added to Tribute Board before returning to Afghanistan

Delaware County Council honored Army Sgt. 1st Class Jim Manzi, placing his photo on the County's Armed Services Tribute Board displayed in the lobby of the Government Center in Media. Sgt. Manzi is home on a brief break from a year-long tour in Afghanistan, where he serves on a 10-member team that mentors members of the Afghanistan National Army.

County Council Chairman Jack Whelan thanked Sgt. Manzi for his dedication and sacrifice on behalf of America. Chairman Whelan was joined by Councilmen Mario J. Civera and Andy Lewis in recognizing Sgt. Manzi's military career, in addition to his humane act of rescuing an Afghan pup, Sgt. Sneezy, and bringing him to the United States for veterinary care and eventually a new home with Sgt. Manzi.

Sgt. Manzi is a 1998 graduate of Ridley High School who has served in the U.S. Army for 13 years, serving in Bosnia, Germany, Iraq, Korea and now Afghanistan. He expects to return to the United States in June.

Sgt. Manzi visited the Delaware County Government Center with his sister, Lisa Hann of Aston. While in Media, he enjoyed a surprise reunion with his cousin, Robert Manzi, who is an Assistant District Attorney.

"This Tribute Board is great. These things make a big difference to people who are serving," Sgt. Manzi said. He added that his time in Afghanistan has made him "even more grateful for everything we have in America."

Council presented Sgt. Manzi with a Delaware County tote bag that contains toiletries, phone cards and other items that can be useful overseas.

Sgt. Manzi had just returned from a trip to Maine where Sgt. Sneezy is recuperating from health issues he had while living as one of many strays in Afghanistan.

(more)

(Sgt. Manzi continued)

“He has done a 180 turnaround with his health,” Sgt. Manzi said of Sgt. Sneezy. “He still needs treatment, but he’s much better. He even has his own Facebook page now.”

The Delaware County Armed Services Tribute Board features photographs of Delaware County men and women who are on active duty in the military. The Pictorial Tribute is arranged by the Department of Public Relations and the Department of Veterans Affairs to salute local members of the military, and to encourage Delaware County residents to support their efforts.

People who have a friend or family member in the military currently stationed overseas can submit their photo and information to Communications Assistant Lauren Contino for inclusion on the Tribute Board. She can be reached at 610-891-4567 or continol@co.delaware.pa.us.

Members of the public are encouraged to send letters, phone cards and care packages to the men and women posted on the Tribute Board. Their overseas addresses are available through Delaware County Public Relations.



Sgt. James Manzi honored by County Council

Caption: U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class James Manzi, center, was honored by Delaware County Council Thursday and his military photo was placed on the Delaware County Armed Services Tribute Board in the Government Center lobby. County Council recognized Sgt. Manzi at a brief ceremony attended by, from left, Assistant District Attorney Robert Manzi (Sgt. Manzi's cousin), Councilman Mario J. Civera Jr., Sgt. Manzi, Lisa Hann (Sgt. Manzi's sister), Council Chairman Jack Whelan and Councilman Andy Lewis. Sgt. Manzi returns to Afghanistan next week and hopes to be back in the United States in late June