

Tillamook County Creamery Association. The Tillamook Creamery Association and its world famous cheese factory is an institution in Tillamook County, Oregon, and now, for 100 years, has been one of the oldest farmer cooperatives in my state.

The roots of the Tillamook County Creamery Association date back to those pioneers who ventured out West on the Oregon Trail. When they arrived in Oregon, many established farms after seeing that the fertile lands and cool ocean breeze of Tillamook County were appealing for dairy production. In 1894, an entrepreneur named T.S. Townsend took 30 cows from local Tillamook farmers and created the first commercial cheese plant in Tillamook County. His cheese, and specifically his cheddar cheese recipe, gained fame across the west and Townsend eventually became known as the "Cheese King of the Coast."

As more local dairy owners followed Townsend's lead and founded their own cheese plants, 10 came together in 1909 to form the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA). The goal of the association was to promote their community by marketing all of the cheese from Tillamook as being from the county, instead of from individual farmers. That cooperative ensured that all profits from the sale of dairy products from Tillamook would go back to the farmers and everyone else who ensured its production.

By the late 1940s several of the larger independent cheese production plants merged and by 1968, all of the small cheese plants had combined and together built a centralized cooperative plant in Tillamook known as the Tillamook Cheese Factory. As the factory and its delicious cheese became known across the country, the owners built a visitors center where tourists could watch the cheese making process, taste homemade fudge and ice cream and of course, sample the cheese. The factory eventually became the largest attractor of tourism in Tillamook County, with now close to 1 million people visiting annually.

Even today, Tillamook cheese is still being internationally recognized. It won six awards in cheddar cheese at the 2008 National Milk Producers Federation cheese contest and five at the 2009 Oregon Dairy Industries. In 2009, for the third year in the row the factory was ranked by the Portland Business Journal as one of the Most Admired Companies in Oregon for forestry or agriculture products. It's owned, of course, by 110 local Tillamook dairy families.

While 100 years have now passed since the establishment of the association, the guiding principles that the founders promoted remain the same. In the association, it's called "The Tillamook Tradition." That "tradition" always ensures a commitment to quality, cooperation, integrity, stewardship, responsiveness, and a dedication to their local community dairy industries. The association also supports that tradition by annually donating to more than 200 organizations across the state of Oregon. I know, that those original pioneers would be proud to see that even after 100 years, two things have stayed constant: the notion of community first, and of course, the cheese.

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CHANGE OF COMMAND

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service and contributions of Colonel Paul Grosskruger of the United States Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District as he passes Command to Colonel Pantano and prepares to retire from military service. He has had a long and admirable career, worthy of distinction and worthy of our gratitude.

Colonel Grosskruger assumed command of the Jacksonville District on July 25, 2006 and it has been my distinct pleasure to work closely with him for these past several years. Most notably, I have worked with Colonel Grosskruger on the Merrill-Stevens Expansion Project and was also fortunate to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they completed the restoration of Virginia Key Beach. Each time, Colonel Grosskruger impressed us with his clarity, candor and fairness. Colonel Al Pantano has large new responsibilities to fill, but from reading his resume and noting his experiences, I am confident that he will be more than up to the task.

Below is a brief biographical sketch of Colonel Grosskruger's long and distinguished career. We have come to expect nothing less than great things of this career officer and we look forward to hearing from Colonel Grosskruger again, though as a private citizen. I know that many members of Florida's delegation join me in wishing him the best as he enters this new stage of life and we have every confidence that Colonel Pantano will continue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Jacksonville District's fine tradition.

Born and raised in eastern Iowa, Colonel Grosskruger was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1983. Colonel Grosskruger is a graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Basic and Advance Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering mechanics from the United States Military Academy and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. He is a registered professional engineer in the both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Florida.

His assignments include platoon leader, battalion S2 officer and company executive officer in the 317th Engineer Battalion, Eschborn, Germany; company commander and battalion S4 officer in the 82d Engineer Battalion, Bamberg, Germany; company commander of the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment), Grafenwoehr, Germany; project officer and deputy resident engineer in the Omaha Engineer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Springs, Colorado; battalion executive officer, 317th Engineer Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia; group operations officer, 36th Engineer Group, Fort Benning, Georgia; Instructor, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Chief of Engineer Operations

and Assistant Corps Engineer, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; Commander of the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, Vilseck, Germany, where he planned and conducted operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His prior assignment was as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Colonel Grosskruger's awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (seventh award); the Army Commendation Medal (three awards and the "V" device); the Joint Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal (fifth award); the NATO Medal; the Joint Meritorious Unit award; and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He has earned medals from Nicaragua and Poland. He has the U.S. and German parachutist badge and the air assault badge. His battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation for service with the 3d Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I would be remiss if I did not also take this opportunity to thank Colonel Grosskruger's wife and family for their support and dedication. It is a well known fact that the hardest job in the military is that of the military spouse; our service men and women would not be able to do what our country asks of them without the backbone of a loving family. Claudia Grosskruger is to be commended as much as Colonel Grosskruger for their work in service to this country and for their efforts in raising Jerry, 20 and Jennifer, 18.

HONORING SSGT JUAN ROLDAN

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. PASCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American hero, SSGT Juan Roldan of the United States Army. On December 29, 2006, SSGT Roldan of Paterson, New Jersey, lost both of his legs in an EFP explosion. SSGT Roldan is now fighting his next war as he must learn to walk again. Like so many other soldiers who come home from war, SSGT Roldan relies on his loved ones to help him win this and his precious daughter Rian, who just turned two years old, is now the driving force behind his recovery. SSGT Roldan is not only an inspiration to his daughter, but his experience teaches all of us courage in the face of great adversity. The following poem, written by Albert Carey Caswell, is a tribute to SSGT Roldan.

FOR MY DAUGHTER!

I went off to war, all for her future to so ensure . . .
 And all for God and Country Tis of Thee, as were my burdens, my burdens bore . . .
 And for all of those daughters, whose fine daddies won't be coming home no more . . .
 And oh yes, I have lost my two fine strong legs . . . but I won't moan, and I won't beg . . .
 For I have something to so live for . . . for My Daughter, I will win this battle, this war . . .
 For I have one of the greatest gifts from above, Rian, which came from such seeds of love . . .
 For I must teach her, for I must reach her . . . to show her all that it is she so needs each year . . .