

# FAMILY of the YEAR

by Army Lt. Col. William A. Sanders, DCMA St. Petersburg,  
and Ms. Melanie Kordana, DCMA St. Petersburg

**M**r. William Eddleman, deputy commander, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) St. Petersburg, and his family were recently honored with the 2006 Florida State Kathy Graybeal Family of the Year award. This highly prestigious statewide annual award recognizes families who make unique and lasting contributions to individuals with intellectual disabilities through involvement with the Special Olympics.

Mr. Eddleman and his wife, Debbie, have supported the Special Olympics for more than 10 years. With this award they were specifically recognized for their major support of the organization's activities, their son Chris and other children by coaching bowling, cycling, sailing and golf. A special note honoring their contributions was read at the award ceremony, noting that "to see the pride on William and Debbie's faces when Chris, or any athlete, succeeds is to realize that the line between the Eddleman family and the Special Olympics family is nonexistent."

Special Olympics Florida provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with intellectual disabilities. Participation provides an opportunity to develop physical fitness and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. It also increases the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.



Mr. Eddleman's 27 years of service to DCMA began with his work as an administrative contracting officer (ACO) in 1979 at DCMA Puerto Rico. He has served as an industrial specialist, procurement technician, systems ACO and technical assistance group leader. He has trained and mentored the likes of Army Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, Army Col. Jake Hansen and Army Col. Jesse Stone, all former commanders of DCMA St. Petersburg. As deputy commander, DCMA St. Petersburg, Mr. Eddleman oversees more than 262 active contracts and \$7 billion in obligations.

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**(Above)** Mr. Bill Eddleman (right), DCMA St. Petersburg deputy commander, with his wife, Debbie, and son, Chris