

The 218th earns our thanks

Saturday, August 18, 2007

Lots of South Carolinians took trips this summer. But the long journey of the 1,800 members of the S.C. National Guard 218th Brigade Combat Team wasn't taken in the pursuit of vacation fun. It was taken in the service of our nation.

So when Gov. Mark Sanford, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and U.S. Reps. Henry Brown and Bob Inglis visited the 218th last weekend in Afghanistan, they delivered a well-earned reminder of South Carolinians' profound appreciation for that unit's continuing sacrifices. And as Gov. Sanford told our reporter Wednesday, additional messages of gratitude are in order for the Guard members who are part of what he called "basically the largest deployment we've had since World War II."

The governor made this appeal: "Whether you are for the war, against the war or ambivalent about the war, you owe it to that cousin, niece, nephew, uncle, whatever, to send them a card, send them an e-mail, send them a note, send them a thank you."

Certainly the dignitaries sent a rousing thank you of their own while dining and socializing with guard members. Yet 218th Sgt. Bryan Demery of Goose Creek sounded like the thankful one, telling The State newspaper: "It's great that they could take time out of their busy schedules to come here and visit us in a war zone."

No, Sgt. Demery, it's great that you and the rest of the 218th are making South Carolina proud.

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