



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER ASSISTANT MANAGER  
SUSAN EATON AND STAFF RECOGNIZED BY MILITARY**

Knoxville Convention Center (KCC) Assistant Manager Susan Eaton received the Seven Seal Award at the "Salute Tennessee's Employers" luncheon last month for the convention center's outstanding efforts to support the 844<sup>th</sup> Engineer Army Battalion.

Eaton and her staff raised more than \$9,500 in cash and in-kind services for a mobilization ceremony held at the convention center last September to pay tribute to more than 200 soldiers prior to their deployment to Kuwait as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The mobilization ceremony attracted more than 700 family members and friends of the soldiers.

The Seven Seal Award was presented to Eaton by Colonel Joe Thomas, chairman of the Tennessee Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a division of the Tennessee Military Department that provides support for employees who are mobilized to defend the nation.

"Tennessee employers like the Knoxville Convention Center are stepping up to provide pay, benefits and family support to those who serve our communities and protect our country," Thomas said.

The new Knoxville Convention Center, which opened in July 2002, is located in downtown Knoxville, adjacent to the Sunsphere, the signature structure of the 1982 World's Fair.

The center is a half million square feet of total space that reflects the alluring environment of the area. The center boasts a 119,922-square-foot exhibit hall and a 27,300-square-foot divisible ballroom, which can accommodate up to 1,850 people for a formal banquet or 2,600 for a meeting.

Additionally, 14 functional meeting rooms seat 100 to 460 attendees in theater style. A 461-seat lecture hall and three luxury conference rooms are ideal choices for meetings as well.

Knoxville offers a variety of places to stay, from top-name brands to historic bed and breakfast accommodations. The county boasts more than 7,500 hotel rooms, 1,200 of which are in the downtown/convention center area.

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