

AROUND THE BAY

Even in trying times, good deeds abound

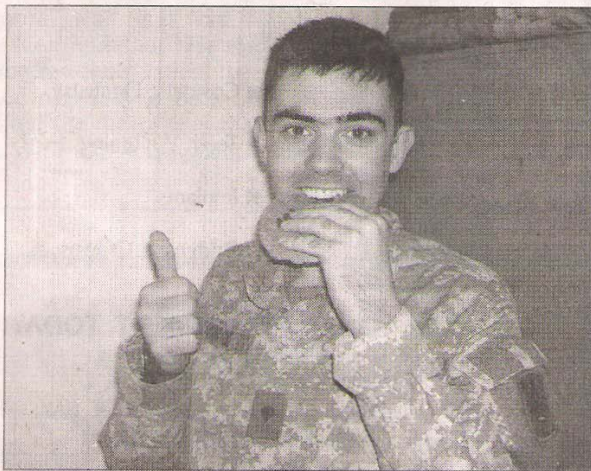
You guys might remember a story we ran last October about Marlene "George" Summers, cookie entrepreneur and daughter to HSB resident Mary Nelle Parsons. Summers is on a mission to send as many chocolate chip cookies as possible to our troops overseas. She just passed the 40,000 mark and she is aiming for a million!

Summers is a golfer and has received much support from the golfing community. The Bentwater Ladies Golf Association has donated to the project, and when she played in a state amateur tournament, the women participating made a contribution as well.

She was eventually contacted by the Women's Golf Charities of Houston, who wanted to let her know that they have voted to provide funds for some of her cookies. "Golfers are some of the most generous people around," said Summers.

Summers, a former teacher, originally opened a company called Blooming Delights, with a friend, but they ended up selling the business because they were too busy. Her current company, Cookies by George, followed later. While Cookies by George serves primarily corporate clients, its subsidiary, Hugs from Grammy by George, serves the men and women who fight for our country overseas. For every gourmet cookie purchased, Summers sends a matching one to a service member. She also accepts cash donations. Each dollar donated buys two giant cookies for our soldiers.

One challenge Summers has faced is how to get the cookies overseas. The army will gladly fly them over...if you can get them to Kentucky! Fortunately an anonymous donor has stepped forward and offered to transport the tasty treats.



Today 04Feb06 we received the other 5 boxes of cookies. I cannot send this email today because we are having a "cammo blackout." We have "cammo blackouts" when unexpected things happen, it is the military's way of keeping things quiet. All the boxes were in good condition and the cookies still soft, absolutely amazing. Everyone is very grateful for what you have done, it makes a difference. It's nice to feel appreciated for what we go through. Most people don't understand what it is like to be cut off from the outside world and be thousands of miles away from friends and family."

SPC Kraig Foyteck