

Killeen ISD COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

AUSTIN, Texas, February 7, 2005 - Major General Peter W. Chiarelli (pronounced Karelli), commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division at Ft. Hood Texas, will receive the President's Award from the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) for his leadership in the "live" television broadcast and video teleconferencing last May of 8 high school graduations into Iraq.

Chiarelli's wife, Beth, will be receiving the award on the general's behalf during an awards presentation, Monday, February 14, starting about 8:30 a.m., at the first general session of the annual TSPRA Conference being held this year at the Marriott Hotel at the Capitol on 11th Street in downtown Austin.

Chiarelli was at the forefront of the idea of providing the service to soldiers whose children were graduating from several Central Texas high schools. Fort Hood and the Killeen Independent School District worked together to bring commencement ceremonies for Killeen High, Ellison High, Harker Heights High, Shoemaker High, Cooperas Cove High, Belton High, Temple High and Salado High. The graduations were also available live by web cast.



Major General Peter W. Chiarelli

TSPRA President Pascual Gonzalez of Northside ISD in San Antonio will preside over the ceremony. Gonzalez explains that this is the one of the few times that TSPRA has presented a President's Award. It is discretionary and completely up to the current TSPRA president to decide who is selected for the honor. He said, "This is especially exciting because of the amazing story behind it!"

Gonzalez will introduce the award and briefly explain Chiarelli's accomplishment. A 2 minute 42 second videotape recorded in Iraq featuring Chiarelli and his team who worked on the project from the Iraq side will be played. Mrs. Chiarelli then will make a few comments to conference attendees. Several representatives from Killeen ISD and others who also worked on the project will be in attendance. They will be introduced but will not speak.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Mrs. Chiarelli has agreed to visit briefly with the media following the presentation outside the ballroom entrance at the hotel. If you're interested in an interview with Mrs. Chiarelli at the conference, contact MAJ Diane M. Ryan, Deputy Chief of Staff, 1st Cavalry Division Rear Det. (254)553-1361; Cell – 254-702-0621; e-mail – Diane.Ryan@hood.army.mil. For interviews with Killeen ISD representatives contact bob.massey@killeenisd.org.