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**For Immediate Release**

## SRNS and Centerra honor veterans at celebration



*Army Staff Sgt. and Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan M. Pitts spoke to nearly 200 veteran employees during the SRNS Centerra Veterans Day recognition held at the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center.*

**AIKEN, S.C.** – (November 22, 2024) – During a Veterans Day recognition event, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) and Centerra at the Savannah River Site (SRS) paid tribute to their brave employees who have served or currently serve in the military.

SRNS Executive Vice President and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Chief Operations Officer and retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jim Dawkins opened the ceremony with words of gratitude and respect. The event continued with the singing of

the national anthem by Centerra – SRS Special Response Team member Jamie Johnson followed by an Armed Forces Salute to honor each branch of the military.

During the event, Army Staff Sgt. and Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan M. Pitts recalled his remarkable story of courage and sacrifice that led him to receiving the highest award that the government can bestow upon a member of the U.S. Armed Forces for valor in combat.

During his second deployment to Afghanistan, his unit of 48 service members came under attack by 200 anti-Afghan forces in Kunar Province. Pitts received grenade shrapnel in his left arm and both legs but--while severely injured--returned to his position to defend his unit from enemy fire and encroachment. For his heroism, Pitts received the Medal of Honor on July 21, 2014. He departed active duty in 2009.



*SRNS Executive Vice President and NNSA Chief Operations Officer Jim Dawkins (left), Army Staff Sgt. and Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan M. Pitts and SRNS President and CEO Dennis Carr attended the SRS and Centerra Veterans Day recognition.*

Pitts expressed his deep admiration for SRS, in that veterans are continuing their service by ensuring future national security.

“I appreciated the opportunity to recognize the military service of the SRS veterans who continue to ensure our national security,” said Pitts.



*SRS Special Response Team member Jamie Johnson performed the national anthem during the SRNS and Centerra Veterans Day Recognition.*

Both SRNS and Centerra place tremendous value on recruiting and hiring veterans; and they actively support veteran-related programs.

SRNS participates in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce foundation's Hiring our Heroes program that helps companies hire active-duty members of the U.S. military who are transitioning out of service.

In addition, SRNS recently implemented the Disabled Veteran Enhanced Opportunities initiative that gives

individuals who identify as a disabled veterans and who meet the basic job qualifications a greater chance at an interview selection.

"Today, we honor and celebrate the incredible contributions of our veteran employees," said SRNS President and CEO Dennis Carr. "We take great pride in hiring veterans, knowing that their skills, discipline and leadership qualities are invaluable assets to our team. We thank them for their service and for continuing to make a difference at SRNS."

Centerra has a long history of supporting veterans. They work closely with military transition offices at multiple military bases. Their recruiting efforts have been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for their strong commitment to hiring veterans.

"Within Centerra, over half of our employees are military veterans and they do an excellent job protecting SRS," said Centerra-SRS General Manager Mark Bolton. "I thank all veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice."



*The Centerra–SRS security officers joined other SRS employees for the SRNS/Centerra Veterans Day recognition on Nov. 11.*

*Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad*

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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