

Pruitt brothers serve country

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

Brothers JT and Matthew Pruitt have served various roles in serving their country through their military service.

"I joined the Army December 21, 2007, two days after my 18th birthday," JT said. "I am still currently serving at this time. I have served at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and at Fort Hood, Texas (now known as Fort Cavazos), Kuwait, Iraq, Poland, and Africa."

JT said that he has also been in Germany and Ireland, but he was just passing through those countries.

Matthew, who just returned from training in California for a few weeks, said that he enlisted in the Kentucky Army National Guard in 2016.

"I was a truck driver in the 203rd Forward Support Company (FSC) in Campbells-ville," Matthew said. "In 2020 I transferred to Recruiting and Retention as a full time recruiter in Danville and Campbells-ville. In January 2023, after leaving Recruiting, I went to the 2138th

FSC in Louisville as a Training NCO for a short period before I was transferred back to the 203rd in Campbells-ville as the Training NCO."

Matthew and JT said that as children, they never talked about serving together in the military even though JT said that like most other children, the two of them played Army a lot growing up.

"JT enlisted right out of high school," Matthew said, "and it wasn't until I was 22 that I decided to enlist. I remember hearing his stories and his experiences which had a major influence on my decision to serve."

JT said that after he began his service, he sometimes thought about how cool it would be to serve with his little brother but that he never imagined it would actually happen.

Neither brother has any desire to leave the military anytime soon.

Matthew, who serves fulltime in the Kentucky National Guard as a Training NCO, plans to continue serving in that position.

"I have no thoughts of leaving anytime

soon," Matthew said.

JT also serves fulltime in the Kentucky Army National Guard in a status known as AGR or Active Guard Reserve as a supply sergeant.

"I'll continue until I hit my 20 active years," JT said. "When it's all said and done, that will be somewhere around 27 years of military service."

While both of them enjoy their chosen career, they also know that it comes with some sacrifices that are part of the job. Both of them have families, including children. JT has four children and Matthew has two.

"At times it's very difficult," JT admitted. "I miss ballgames, birthdays, and family outings. It's difficult especially around the holidays and birthdays."

Matthew knows the same feelings.

"It can definitely be strenuous at times, having to attend various trainings and to be away from weeks to months at a time," he said.

"I've been fortunate and have not had to deploy overseas for longer periods of time yet, but

it's something that's always a possibility."

JT says that he tries to keep the mindset that his family will see the work and dedication that he puts into his career and will be proud of his career.

"Luckily we have a great support system, so it does make things a little easier," JT said.

They each know that additional travel and experiences await them as they continue to serve.

"I do love traveling—its one of the perks of the job," JT said. "The places I would love to go to would be Switzerland, Iceland, Ireland, US Virgin Islands and possibly Antarctica—but I would have to think long and hard about that one because I'm not a huge fan of cold weather!"

Matthew said that he would not mind going back to Poland and Lithuania for a few weeks.

Both brothers acknowledge that they have learned valuable lessons from their time of service.

"The biggest lesson the military has taught me thus far," Matthew said, "is to be more self-



Matthew and JT Pruitt are brothers who are serving our country locally and around the world through their military service.

less and to care about those to my right and left."

JT says that his lessons are similar.

"The biggest lesson I have learned is to be open-minded and willing to learn and to listen to others' ideas," JT said, "regardless of rank or

position or title. There is always another way to accomplish something."

Veterans Day has officially been observed by our country, but we continue to be grateful for men such as JT and Matthew Pruitt for their selfless service and sacrifice.

Arts Council hosts first annual show

KAREN ROLANS
SPECIAL TO R-H

Twelve artists were showcased recently at Green County Arts Council's Annual Art Show "Home Is Where the Art Is," at the historic depot.

Scenes from not only Greensburg and Kentucky, but views from around the world were featured by artists from Green County and surrounding counties.

Many mediums were represented such as collage, oil and acrylic paints, watercolor, pastel, glass, metal, wood, and even cross-stitching. Two-D and Three-D works were displayed and sold as well.

Betty Jo Shuffett, of the Greensburg Art Club, said of one of her watercolors, "I am trying to paint looser in watercolor," meeting that challenge in her piece, "October Stream." She also submitted a stunning watercolor portrait of local hero, Dakota Meyer.

Arts Council member Linda Puckett painted a huge painting of travel memories.



The Green County Arts Council hosted an opening reception to kickoff their event.

"All these places were mystical to me," she said. They included scenes of the Great Wall of China and Machu Picchu of Peru. She also designed an interactive collage of eyes to be named by the viewer.

Viewers also marveled at the paintings of Larry Parker who seemed to paint each blade of grass in exqui-

site detail in his "Godard Bridge," and "Permaquid Lighthouse."

Attendees were bowled over by the marvelous detail of the horse in Julia Strand's, "Dawn," and the delicate cross-stitching of a Blue Willow plate designed by Janie Burress.

Local scenes easily recognized were "Mitchell Mill," by

Peggy Jones, an inscribed checkerboard with "McKinney Corner," by Maxideen Pruitt and a plain air of the "Whitlock House in Exie," by Karen Roland.

The colorful fantasy art titled "Norway" in soft pastel by Shuichi Kitajima showed Santa and his sleigh silhouetted by the northern lights as he flew across the sky.

The metal sculpture, "Le Papillion" (The Butterfly), by Tori Christgen was a picture in contrast between a delicate butterfly alight on a face and the heavy metal from which it blossomed.

Green County Arts Council member Beverly Ennis, also from the Greensburg Art Club, made colorful and fascinating works from broken glass.

Artist Sharon Brockman presented large colorful paintings of "Fall Bridge," "Mountain Lake," and



Jackie Bennett works on a jewelry piece during a workshop at the Green County Arts Council Art Show.

"Geraniums."

Arts Council member Peggy Jones had many stories of Greensburg's history of its artists, who in the past gathered in the attic of a local restaurant to paint weekly.

Greensburg can boast of the well-known talents of Pansy Wilcoxson Phillips and

Mildred Colvin.

If this show is any indication, Greensburg can be proud of its artists for years to come.

The GCAC would like to thank all the artists who participated and for all the viewers, supporters, and patrons that made our first annual show a resounding success.



Artist Karen Roland exhibited one of her oil paintings at the first annual Art Show.

Serious Damage Caused by a Deer?

WHAM!

We'll get your car looking like new again.

Call 465-6944

Affordable • Professional

Precise Paint Matching

Insurance Estimates • Frame Repair

Osborne Body Shop

Serving Central Kentucky since 1970

2420 New Columbia Hwy. - Campbellsville • 465-6944

Jerry Osborne

7-5 EDT • Monday-Friday