

Military salutes area family

Award is one of 12 made in United States; a first for a retiree

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A Pittsford family is one of 12 in the nation selected for a military family award.

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Edward McCarthy, his wife, Karen, and their five children received the National Military Family Association's Family Award on Thursday.

The McCarthy family is the first retired military family ever selected.

NMFA's Family Award recognizes service to the military and the community. This year was the first year the award was opened

to retired military families.

The McCarthy family has demonstrated that "we have a strong force by living our daily lives as a strong family," Stephenie Palmer, an NMFA member and volunteer from Fort Drum, said in presenting the award.

The ceremony was at RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, where McCarthy, 44, is a senior program manager.

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a native of The Bronx, McCarthy was transferred from the U.S. Naval Academy to the

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EDWARD MCCARTHY

Rochester area in 2000 to serve as an active duty Marine inspector and instructor for the Marine Reserve Battalion. He retired in 2004 after 20 years of service, including work as an armor officer and electrical engineer. He supported combat operations in Iraq and the Horn of Africa and received the Meritorious Service Medal and the Naval and Marine Corps

Commendation Medal.

He is a volunteer firefighter with the Pittsford Fire Department, a Pittsford Little League coach and a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Pittsford Community Church, to which his family belongs. His wife works in the church nursery and is a volunteer in the school district.

"It's such an honor, par-

ticularly being the first family of a retiree," McCarthy said in his remarks. "You don't get a family award without the support of your family."

The McCarthy children are sons Charles, 18, a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, Ryan, 17, and Joshua, 6; and daughters, Casey, 14, and Rachel, 4.

In addition to a plaque, the family received \$500. Also, \$250 was donated to the charity of their choice: Pittsford Young Life, a non-denominational Christian youth ministry. □

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JAY CAPERS staff photographer
Retired Marine Corps Maj. Edward McCarthy of Pittsford holds daughter Rachel, 4, who holds the plaque signifying the National Military Family Association's award.