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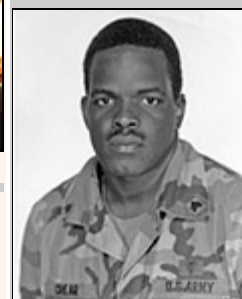
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Division 5 Service Attendant Rochelle Crear-Wilson, above, coordinates care packages for relatives in the military, including brother Tony Crear, at right.

Retired Army Sgt. Tony Crear's 24 years of service included tours in Korea, Japan, Kuwait and Afghanistan.



## Thanksgiving Season:

### Service Attendant Thankful for Safety of Relatives in Military

By RICH MORALLO

(Nov. 24, 2004) This Thanksgiving Rochelle Crear-Wilson will make a call to Killeen, Texas, and talk to her oldest brother and his family. That call will be the highlight of her holiday.

"I am so thankful that God has allowed my brother to make it home safely after so many years of military service," says Crear-Wilson, a six-year service attendant at Arthur Winston Division 5.

Her brother, retired Army Sgt. Tony Crear, served worldwide during his military career, including posts in Colorado, California, Korea and Japan.

"By 2001, my brother had spent 24 years in the Army and was about to retire when he was sent to Kuwait and Afghanistan," says Crear-Wilson. For five months he served as a medic, not only helping injured soldiers, but also treating children hurt during the war.

### Care package coordinator

Crear-Wilson, who attends Cal State Dominguez Hills, was the family's coordinator for the care packages that were mailed to Tony. "We were only allowed to mail shoe-sized care boxes overseas, so I really had to learn how to pack items efficiently into those small cases."

"We sent Tony and his fellow soldiers what they could really use in the desert - family letters and pictures, Kool-Aid, beef jerky, candy and lots of baby wipes since they couldn't take a bath," says Crear-Wilson.

During her brother's deployment, Crear-Wilson and other family members - two other brothers and a sister - banded together to make sure Tony's wife and children were taken care of.

For the past two years, Tony has been home in Killeen where he works as an Army security officer, but Crear-Wilson believes Thanksgiving is a time to continue to be grateful for the well-being and health of family members.

"Thanksgiving - I'm so grateful for another holiday when everyone in my family is safe and sound," says Crear-Wilson, who hasn't given up her job as care package coordinator. "My 22-year old cousin is in the Marines and just left for Kuwait."

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