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## Recipients of Patriot Award recognized for support of National Guard serviceman at Drayton factory

DRAYTON, N.D. – Individuals at the American Crystal Sugar Company factory in Drayton, ND were recognized for supporting the special circumstances of our country’s National Guard and Reserve members. Al Zola, Paul Eslinger, and Andy McKay were each presented the Patriot Award by the North Dakota ESGR Committee for their support of Specialist Charlie Monson with the Army National Guard, currently serving on deployment.

“Al, Paul, and Andy have always allowed me to put the military first when it comes up,” Monson shared in his nomination narrative. “They fully support all of the drill weekends, trainings, mobilizations, and currently a year long deployment. Without bosses like this, my civilian job would be much more stressful.”

Zola commented the award was “pretty cool,” adding “it’s just the right thing to do.”



Pictured from left: Paul Eslinger, Al Zola, and Andy McKay presented Patriot Award from ND ESGR Committee, August 18, 2021.

### About American Crystal Sugar Company

American Crystal Sugar Company is an agricultural cooperative owned by 2,650 shareholder-entities in the Red River Valley involved in the growing and processing of sugarbeets. American Crystal is the largest beet sugar producer in the United States. American Crystal operates sugar factories at East Grand Forks, Crookston and Moorhead, Minnesota, and Drayton and Hillsboro, North Dakota. Its corporate headquarters and technical services center are located in Moorhead.