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You asked about what makes me proud to be an Army Medical Dept civilian. Well, there are several things.

First I want to say that I love being a pharmacist. Every day is different and brings new challenges. There is always more to learn and ways to grow in this career. Most of the drugs I dispense today were not even available when I started over 35 years ago. I find working with and educating patients and staff to be rewarding, even if it's not always easy. I have worked in a variety of areas - retail, hospital and clinics - since beginning my career. Working at BACH (Ft Campbell, KY) combines aspects of all of these and more.

When I think about my inspirations for the work I do, I always come back to two special people who touched my life.

Tim Maude was my husband's commander during his last assignment at EuCom in Stuttgart Germany. He was an Army leader in every sense of the word. He mentored and cared for the men and women under his command. He took a personal interest in those he led. He was a personnel officer who always kept in mind what his primary mission was - the soldier. He enlisted in the Army, went to OCS and rose to the rank of Lt General. His life was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was the deputy chief of staff for personnel working at the Pentagon on a beautiful Tuesday morning when American flight 77 crashed on 9/11. Tim was the highest ranking officer killed in the terrorist attack and is buried at Arlington. The inscription on his headstone reads "He took care of soldiers". I strive every day to remember those who perished in 9/11 and to serve the men and women here at Ft Campbell who continue to fight for our freedom. These soldiers deserve the best care I can give.

My second inspiration was my younger daughter, Catie. Catie was 12 when a BACH physician found a rare bone cancer in both of her arms and one leg. She spent the next 3 and ½ years in and out of hospitals - undergoing 5 major and 6 minor surgeries, numerous tests and rounds of chemotherapy. The cancer spread to her lungs and spine, eventually paralyzing her from the waist down. Through it all, she maintained a straight A average in school and tried to live her life as normally as possible for a bald teenager. She kept her spirits high and faced everything that was thrown at her with humor and courage. She died in December 2007 at the age of 16. Catie reminds me that not all the battles are fought by our soldiers - courage comes in many forms and sometimes the hardest battles are faced by the family. Our families and retirees have their own battles and hardships and deserve reliable care when they turn to me.

And so this leads me to working here at BACH. Over the past ten years as I have worked here, we have deployed and redeployed troops to both Iraq and Afghanistan. The pharmacy has installed new technologies to improve patient safety and have expanded our facilities to better serve our beneficiaries.

We have faced budget uncertainties, cutbacks, and now furloughs. Yet at the heart of all of this is people - our soldiers, their families and our retired community. I am proud to serve them.

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