Hopi women are renowned for baking delicious food and passing on these important skills to their daughters and granddaughters. This tradition brings forth the making of cookies, which can be a delicious treat for those who receive them. One such woman, Ms. Josephine Cook, decided to show her support for military personnel stationed at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) by delivering cookies to them.

For the “Wingman Day” at Luke AFB, Ms. Cook wanted to contribute in her own way. She approached Sharon Kozak, a member of a local veterans organization, to assist her in delivering the cookies. Together, they planned to deliver over 300 cookies to various locations on the base.

"Wingman Day" is a day that brings together military members and their families for a special event, usually to discuss morale and well-being. Ms. Cook aimed to provide a touch of home for the Airmen stationed there by delivering her cookies. She delivered two boxes of bagged cookies to the collection point on base. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, they could not hand them out at this point. However, they were later delivered to the personnel at their work areas.

Ms. Cook visited the Dental Clinic, where she delivered cookies to those awaiting their appointments. She also visited the Security Forces Squadron, where she presented a challenge coin to the Airmen. The Chief Master Sergeant of the base presented her with this coin, which is a symbol of respect and recognition for the Airmen.

Additionally, Ms. Cook visited the base Fire Department, where she received a special tour of the fire department’s operations. She was shown the large fire truck, the equipment used in fighting fires, and the communication systems used in the base’s daily operations. She also received a brief history of challenge coins and what to do when “challenged.”

During her visit, Ms. Cook was able to meet and interact with various personnel on the base, including the Command Chief, who presented her with a challenge coin. She also received a special tour of the base by the Security Forces Squadron, where she visited the flight line and the main entrance to the base. She later visited the Medical Support Group building and the exchange and commissary, where she was able to see the shopping areas for military members and their dependents.

Ms. Cook expressed her gratitude to General Pleus, the commander of the 56th Wing, for allowing her to visit the base and for the warm reception she received. She also thanked Chief Master Sergeant John Mazzia, Command Chief, for providing her with the challenge coin and giving her a brief history of challenge coins and what to do when “challenged.”

Ms. Josephine Cook, together with Sharon Kozak, was able to bring a little taste of home to the Airmen stationed at Luke AFB during their “Wingman Day.” Her cookies were not only delicious but also served as a reminder of the love and support from the people back home. Her effort demonstrated how small actions can make a big difference in the lives of those serving far from home.

For more information on how to request or invite the two royalties for your events, please contact Geno Talas at (928) 613-4863.