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8 SEPTEMBER 2011

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Delaware ESGR awards Local Employers for Extraordinary Support of Employees who Serve in the National Guard and Reserve

8 SEP 2011 (Smyrna, DE) – Delaware Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (DE-ESGR) held its 2011 Employer Recognition Banquet on Thursday, September 8, 2011, in Dover, Delaware to recognize employers who provide extraordinary support to employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. The state's top honor, the Pro Patria Award, was presented to Kent County Levy Court. County Commissioner President P. Brooks Banta, and County Administrator Michael Petit de Mange, attended and accepted the award on the organization's behalf.

The Pro Patria award is presented annually and is the highest state-level award given to a civilian employer. Each year, one employer is honored at the highest state level for its support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Kent County was recognized for providing the most exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support their employees who serve in our armed forces. The organization was recognized for their personal support offered to service members and their families, as well as their strong initiatives to recruit military employees. Kent County employee benefits program includes paid military leave, as well as military employees retain full benefits, and continue to accrue vacation, while mobilized. The employer commits to ensure all managers are given information on USERRA, and frequently provided with email reminders. The employer utilizes ESGR as a resource, while they outreach to frontline supervisors of Guard and Reserve employees on guidelines regarding the handling of military members, as outlined under USERRA law. The agency has erected a military monument on their property and hosted an annual ceremony on Veterans Day. Frequently, department co-workers come together to send care packages to deployed members. The employer contributes to the USO to send care packages to all armed forces. The employer actively maintains contact with the families of deployed Guard and Reserve employees. The military-friendly relationship to its employees is consistently recognized by ESGR Patriot Award nominations of its supervisors. The employer was also named a *Finalist* in the 2011 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award. This notable and prestigious honor was bestowed on only thirty (30) employers nationwide, out of 4,049 nominations received.

Already recognized as a Patriotic Employer by DE ESGR, Kent County Levy Court was one of many recipients at the event to be honored with an ESGR award.

SEVEN SEALS AWARDS presented to:

- Mr. Dominick Pulieri, Grotto Pizza
- Ms. Coron Thompson, Rehoboth Bay Community
- Mr. David Vaughn, Capital School District
- CMSgt Holly Morris, Delaware Air National Guard (Ret)



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS presented to:

- Brandywine Trust Company
- Compassionate Care Hospice
- Delaware Department of Correction
- Delaware State Univ., Public Safety
- Dupont Aviation
- Eastern Lift Truck
- JP Morgan Chase & Company
- JR Gettier & Associates
- Kent County Levy Court
- Mountaire Farms
- Nason Construction, Inc.
- New Castle County Police Dept.
- Town of Bridgeville
- Walmart Distribution Center
- Warren Truss Co, Inc.
- Woodbridge School District

PATRIOT AWARDS presented to:

- Mr. Mike Fuller, Building Systems & Services
- Mr. Brian Douty, Delaware Dept. of Correction's Probation and Parole

Delaware ESGR also recognized this year's 2011 Freedom Award nominees from our State. This award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. This year, 4,049 nominations were received nationwide from Guard and Reserve members.

- Kent County Levy Court (***nationwide Finalist***)
- Bayhealth Medical Center (***nationwide Semi-Finalist***)
- Nason Construction, Inc. (***nationwide Semi-Finalist***)
- Amazon.com
- AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
- Baltimore Aircoil Company
- Bank of America
- Beebe Medical Center
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Del Claims Processing Facility
- DE Dept. of Transportation
- Delaware State Police
- Delaware State University
- Dept of Veteran Affairs, DE
- Evraz Claymont Steel
- Hometown America
- Lake Forest School District
- Local Union 313 IBEW/NECA
- Norfolk Southern/ Delmarva
- Rehoboth Bay Community
- R.S. Widdoes & Son, Inc.
- Tidewater Utilities
- Town of Bridgeville
- United Parcel Service
- United Rentals

As the 1.3 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions on the part of everyday citizens, ESGR will continue to be the informational agency for the employers of citizen warriors.

About ESGR

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency and no-cost resource that recognizes supportive employers, informs service members and employers about USERRA, and provides conflict mediation services. All Delaware employers are encouraged to sign their "Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve." For more information on this, volunteering with DE ESGR, or to schedule a free employer education seminar at your worksite, please contact Christine Kubik, at the Delaware ESGR office, at (302) 326-7582.