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Secretary Gassman Salutes Trane Company as Strong Partner in Hiring Wisconsin Veterans

***State Labor Secretary Also Marks 30th Anniversary of Employment Program Serving
Disabled Veterans, Recognizes Job Service Staff for Veterans Assistance***

LA CROSSE – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today recognized The Trane Company for hiring veterans and Job Service staff for working with the company and employers throughout the state to help returning veterans, especially disabled veterans, gain employment.

“Governor Doyle and all of us in his Administration are committed to ensuring that the State of Wisconsin continues to honor its debt to each and every one of our veterans,” Secretary Gassman said. “As he has said, we can never repay the debt we owe them and their loved ones, but in Wisconsin, we can try. With the help of strong partners like The Trane Company and dedicated Job Service staff, we are succeeding in our efforts to do our best for our veterans.”

Secretary Gassman said that for at least a decade, The Trane Company has worked with the Department’s local veterans representative, providing employment opportunities for veterans. Trane has more than 290 veterans working in its La Crosse facilities. During a visit to the company today, Secretary Gassman presented the company with a commendation signed by Governor Doyle.

Coming a day after Veterans Day, Secretary Gassman’s visit also marked the 30th Anniversary of the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP). Following the Vietnam War, then President Jimmy Carter set as one of his highest priorities providing assistance to thousands of Vietnam War veterans, particularly disabled veterans, who were unemployed. As a result, Congress enacted the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program, and over the years, DVOP has focused on assisting all disabled veterans in gaining employment.

“The disabled veterans program has helped thousands of veterans, and with it and other programs, we are working hard to serve them as they have served our country,” Secretary Gassman said. “On behalf of Governor Doyle, I want to thank our staff, employers across this state, and all who help us meet the needs of our veterans and see that they get the best we have to offer.”

Wisconsin offers the best package of veterans’ benefits and services in the country, from education and employment opportunities to providing health care services not covered by the federal government. The budget just signed by Governor Doyle also keeps Wisconsin’s promise to its vets by fully funding the cost of their tuition. Besides the DVOP program, the state also serves veterans through its “Hire Vets First” program. In addition, Governor Doyle signed into law four bills Friday to support our veterans and men and women in uniform, including a bill creating a “Veteran Recognition Week” to coincide with Veterans Day.