

Department of Workforce Development  
Secretary's Office  
201 East Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 7946  
Madison, WI 53707-7946  
Telephone: (608) 266-3131  
Fax: (608) 266-1784  
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov



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CONTACT: John Dipko, Communications Director, 608-266-6753

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **Secretary Gassman Encourages Wisconsin Employers to Hire Veterans**

### ***Governor Doyle Proclaims November 7-13 as 'Hire a Veteran' Week in Wisconsin***

MADISON – As part of Wisconsin “Hire a Veteran Week,” Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today urged Wisconsin employers to hire veterans in appreciation for their sacrifices.

“Wisconsin will always be grateful to the men and women in the military who have given so much to our nation and our state,” Secretary Gassman said. “Under Governor Doyle’s leadership, Wisconsin has increased benefits, expanded services and taken other actions to support our veterans. I urge employers to join in showing their appreciation, not only during ‘Hire a Veteran Week,’ but also throughout the year.”

Secretary Gassman noted that Governor Doyle signed legislation shortly after taking office to expand the number of Wisconsin residents eligible for veteran benefits, such as education, tax credits and health care benefits. The 2007-09 budget signed by Governor Doyle included changes that allow veterans to attend University of Wisconsin campuses and Wisconsin technical colleges tuition-free. Governor Doyle also signed legislation to prohibit employment discrimination based on military service obligations and expand the number of Wisconsin residents eligible for veteran benefits, including education, tax credits and health care benefits.

As part of Governor Doyle’s administration, DWD has significantly increased the number of veterans employed by the agency, earning a national award this year from the American Legion. The Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons recognizes organizations for their efforts to provide services and improve the quality of life for disabled persons. DWD was recognized for its employment of disabled veterans at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee.

Since March 2009, DWD has hired 122 veterans, including 112 disabled veterans, to help provide employment and training services to other veterans. Last year alone, DWD provided 8,000 veterans with those important work-related services. The agency achieved a 60 percent job placement rate for veterans in search of employment.

This year, DWD held 21 Veteran Job Fairs in collaboration with the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Over 500 employers took part, and more than 2,800 veterans attended the job fairs.

“Hire a Veteran Week” runs from November 7-13. Veterans Day is November 11.