



Coalition and Valued Associates Advocacy and Actions...

Veterans and military family advocates from The American Legion, Jewish War Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, National Military Family Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars attended the Joining Forces ceremony last week honoring ALA member companies for hiring 25,375 Veterans and military spouses.

“Gainful employment is the cornerstone to sustainable financial independence and quality of life, both of which our nation’s veterans and their families have earned and deserve,” said Denise Rohan, Chairman, National Veterans Employment & Education Commission, The American Legion. “Veterans and their spouses are perfect candidates for companies to hire and retain. The American Legion is grateful that the American Logistics Association's member companies realize the benefit of hiring veterans and their spouses and applaud ALA's efforts through the Joining Forces hiring initiative,” added Rohan.

“Military spouses want careers in which they can grow professionally and move with them as they follow their service member from one assignment to another,” said Joyce Raezer, Executive Director, National Military Family Association. “We appreciate that the Defense Commissary Agency, the military exchanges, and their industry partners have long recognized that military spouses are motivated, highly-skilled, and loyal to employers who understand their talents and the challenges they face. Through the American Logistics Association’s partnership with the Joining Forces Initiative, military families, communities, and employers benefit,” said Raezer.

During the ceremony, Veteran Dwayne Brooks shared his hiring experience with MDV-SpartanNash, an ALA company where his military experience was a critical factor in getting hired. Dwayne said he told his interviewer of his military experience and interviewer said ‘Stop right there’: you are hired as long as you pass the background and driving test. “Every day I take pride in my military service and that day made it even more special.”

“There are many roadblocks and challenges that military spouses face when trying to find a job,” said Jennifer Shoffitt, an active duty military spouse who spoke at the ceremony and was hired by Unilever Corporation. “The most obvious is the frequent moves. Employers see your resume and think you’re a job hopper.” “Unilever believed that I would be able to provide insights into military consumers,” said Shoffitt. “This was the first time the fact that I was a military spouse worked in my favor.”

The ALA, Coalition and its valued associate members continue to stress the importance and value of hiring Veterans and military spouses, and recognize the Commissary and Exchange, and its industry partners, as long time exemplary leaders in this effort.