



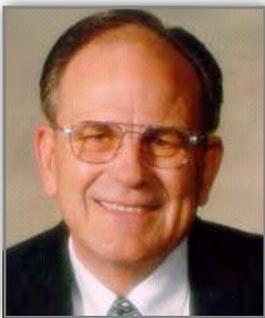
Spring
2009

Utah



Message from the Chairman

To Utah Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen,
Marines, Service Families, and Employers:



Bart Davis

Theodore Roosevelt said that the first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that each is able to pull his or her weight. By that definition, everyone receiving this newsletter is a good citizen.

To some degree you are all contributing to the nation and its security. Those who stay home serve. Those who adjust work schedules, pull double shifts, or simply keep watch on Service families are all fulfilling the duties of a citizen during this crucial time.

As the Utah ESGR chairman I look forward to the day when we are no longer needed; in the meantime we are here, ready, and willing to assist in easing the challenges and concerns encountered in fulfilling your duties as citizens.

Our small part in supporting our Warriors, their families, and employers is a privilege for those on the Utah ESGR Committee. Please do not hesitate to let one of our 60+ patriot-volunteers assist you in supporting your neighbors and friends before, during, or after mobilization.

New ESGR Committee Members

- Kay Hargis, Norm Nelson, Jim Kopecky - Region I
- Ran McDonald, Lou Schoen - Region II
- Al Yardley, John-Michael Zimmerle - Region III
- Earl Slack, Brent Blackner, Stan Poulson - Region IV

Key ESGR Utah Staff

- Bart Davis, State Chairman, (801) 432-4937
- Kim Watts, Executive Director, (801) 432-4492
- Bill Rappleye, Employer Outreach, (801) 550-9578
- Dennis Johnson, Military Outreach, (801) 432-4300

Calendar of Events

- May 16 - 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion Yellow Ribbon Ceremony
- May 16 - Utah Army Guard RSP Shippers Meeting
- June 4 - Employer Advisory Council Meeting
- June 9 - Military Advisory Council Meeting
- June 17 - Executive Committee Meeting



ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

Cache County School District and Associated Foods Receive Utah ESGR's 'Pro Patria' Award

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee presented the 'Pro Patria' award March 27 to officials from Associated Foods, Inc., based in Salt Lake City, and Cache County School District, of North Logan, for their support of employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The 'Pro Patria' (For One's Country) award is the highest honor that a field committee, such as Utah ESGR, can bestow upon an employer. Richard Parkinson, CEO of Associated Foods; Kirk McRae, Cache County School District human resources director; and Richard Knight, a member of the Cache County School Board, accepted the award from Dr. L. Gordon Sumner, Jr., executive director of the National ESGR organization.

Associated Foods is a cooperatively owned wholesale distributor to nearly 600 independently owned supermarkets in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona. Founded in 1940, the company employs more than 1,400 people and ships more than 750 truckloads of groceries each week.

Based in Cache Valley, the Cache County School District supports 15,000 students in 23 elementary, middle, junior high and high schools. The District employs 775 education professionals and serves all of Cache County except for Logan City and focuses on academic rigor, professional development and student achievement.



Photo courtesy of Utah ESGR

Senior Master Sgt. Chad Christensen, Richard Parkinson and Dianne Porter of Associated Foods receive the 'Pro Patria' award from Bart Davis and Dr. L. Gordon Sumner March 27.

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Photo courtesy of Utah ESGR

Kirk McRae, BG Michael Liechty, and Richard Knight, of Cache County School District, receive the 'Pro Patria' award for their great support of their Guard and Reserve employees.

Richfield Employers Recognized for their support of Triple Deuce and 116th SECFOR Soldiers

RICHFIELD — Several area employers were recognized in March for their support of National Guard troops who have had to put their civilian careers on hold during military deployments.

"It's so important for employers to support these guys," said Stan Poulson, area volunteer coordinator for Utah ESGR.

Cody Workman nominated the Richfield Residential Hall for its support of him while he was deployed with the 222nd Field Artillery. Travis Bringhurst, also a member of the 222nd, nominated the Central Utah Youth Center for the award, which was accepted by Lonnie Thomas.

Dustin Jensen, also of the 222nd, nominated Western Land Services for the award, which was accepted by Shawn Burd.

Jim Brown, a member of the Utah National Guard's 116th Combat Support Engineers, nominated Richfield City for the award.

The awards are given to employers who pledge to obey the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and provide resources for managing positions while Guard members and Reservists are deployed.

"There are more of these [awards] that will be coming through the year," Poulson said.

— David Anderson, Richfield Reaper

Out and About

In First Quarter 2009, ESGR Utah continued its active involvement in the community, educating employers and Servicemembers, identifying and resolving conflicts and recognizing outstanding support. Here are a few examples:



Master Sgt. Nathan Jolley, Utah Air National Guard, a reservations crewmember for JetBlue, presents the Patriot Award Feb. 13 to Frankie Littleford, JetBlue's vice president of reservations.



Bart Davis, ESGR Utah chairman, presents a Statement of Support certificate to Nathan Wheatley of Snell and Willmer law firm for their support of employee Stewart Peay while he was deployed with the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion of the Utah National Guard.



Scott McDonald and Tracy Schmidt receive a Patriot Award Feb. 18. The two were nominated by Utah Guard member Justin Peterson, employed by Intermountain Donor Services.



ESGR Utah's Byron Lemmon, presents a flag to Army Reserve LTC Robert Hughes of the 328th Hospital Unit at Fort Douglas April 2.



Claude McKinney conducts training for new volunteer members of the committee at the Utah National Guard's Draper headquarters Feb. 25.



Annual Training, and Awards Conference

Awards

Utah ESGR held its annual planning, training, and awards conference on Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, at the Embassy Suites hotel in Salt Lake City. Dr. L. Gordon Sumner, national ESGR chairman, keynoted the awards banquet Friday evening and presented the following awards to employers, supporters, and ESGR committee volunteers:



- **'Pro Patria' Award** - For outstanding service to national defense through support of the Guard and Reserve
 - Associated Foods, Inc.
 - Cache County School District
- **Seven Seals Award** - For meritorious leadership and initiative in support of the Guard and Reserve
 - MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard
 - Col Kelvin Findlay, Utah Air National Guard
 - Wesley Peterson, Utah ESGR District Chair
 - 1st Sgt Dennis Downing, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment



- **Golden Spike Award** - In appreciation for dedicated service to ESGR
 - Dr. L. Gordon Sumner, Jr., National ESGR Chair
 - Linda Higgins, Utah ESGR Region III Chair
 - Morty Jenkins, Utah ESGR Region I Volunteer
 - Tom Lund, Utah ESGR Region IV Volunteer

Training

As important as awards and distinguished visitors are to any organization, the most important aspect of the ESGR Utah annual conference was the chance to receive training in the various components of ESGR.

In an all-day session on Saturday, volunteers met together under the direction of executive director Kim Watts to hear from the experts about how to better serve Servicemembers and employers during these difficult economic times.

Joining in on the training sessions was Dr. Sumner, who stayed from beginning to end, sharing his insights from his days as a local ESGR volunteer in his home state.

"We must maintain our focus on what this organization is all about," said Sumner, "to ensure that America understands and appreciates the service and sacrifice of our military Servicemembers."



Contact Us

Your feedback is welcome on our Utah ESGR newsletter. Please contact LTC Hank McIntire at (801) 432-4407, or hank.mcintire@us.army.mil.

