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*A quarterly newsletter for  
Iowa ESGR's dedicated volunteers*

## State Chairman Rue Reports ESGR Activities, Extends Greetings

As always; to our employers, our military and our volunteers; thank you for your continued support of our important mission. It takes all three of our key "stakeholders" to achieve maximum effectiveness of our mission and all three have continued to contribute with superior performance these past few months.

During this past quarter we have seen the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Iowa National Guard, complete their departure and we have continued to support all of our other deployed units within the Army Reserve, Air National Guard, Marines and Navy. I wish to thank all of our volunteers for the tremendous effort put forth during this very active period. We are now essentially in full swing from a "home front" support perspective and our mission will revolve around first, supporting our deployed military members on employment issues through our Ombudsman efforts; second, by preparing for the return of our military members and their transition back into the work place; and third by obtaining Statements of Support and presenting awards on behalf of our deployed military members. Our highest priority will be the transition support element and focus on our employers state wide. We need to ensure that our employers are up to date on their USERRA knowledge and that they know where to find any needed support from ESGR or other agencies. Our biggest challenge and best opportunity is to create awareness of USERRA and the host of support services that stand ready to support our employers and military members. This will be accomplished through employer outreach briefings, awards and events, military unit and rear support contact.

Looking ahead, two important activities are on the horizon. First, we have received a record 50 National Freedom Award submissions. This level of activity is a clear barometer demonstrating that our volunteers have done their job by making our Iowa Guard and Reserve members aware of the program and encouraging participation throughout the state. Second, we have tentatively scheduled our ESGR Legislative awareness event to be a breakfast on March 1, 2011. If you have the opportunity to encourage your district's Senator and Representative to attend you can help to ensure maximum participation by our legislative body. Last year's Legislative day was an outstanding success and we look forward to another great event.

After a long search, Iowa ESGR has added a new Program Support Manager to our team at Joint Forces Headquarters at Camp Dodge. Please welcome Ray Rodriguez. Ray is a retired career Marine and will be a tremendous asset to our team – welcome Ray!

To our 165 volunteers throughout the state, I thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do. Iowa has continued to be viewed as an extremely strong and capable ESGR program because of your dedication and hard work – thank you.

On behalf of all ESGR volunteers, we wish our deployed soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen successful missions and safe return to their loved ones.

Happy Holidays!



*Dick Rue*

## The Latest From the Iowa ESGR Executive Director . . .

Hello Everyone,

We're almost to the end of our first quarter for Fiscal Year 2011. We've received 75% of our funding which will support a large number of upcoming events. Our total budget for the year is \$48,000.

Now that the majority of the money is here it's important to ensure that each area provide information on events they would like supported with funds. Events will be supported as a first come, first serve status. Several Areas have done a great job of sending us their requests through May, 2011, and we really appreciate your efforts to get those to us so we can ensure the budget can support as many of your areas as possible.

Our Employer Outreach programs are off to a great start with volunteers contributing 97 hours from October through November and 146 new SoS's have been signed around the state. Included in that number is the Corporate Signing for Dahl's in Des Moines and the new locations around the state for the Casey's stores. For the next quarter, Lunch and Learns have been set up for January 13<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines and January 26<sup>th</sup> in Northwood. Area 8 is planning an Awards Luncheon for the Davenport area on January 28<sup>th</sup> and a Breakfast with the Boss on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Area 10 Team members are working on an event in Pella in February and an SoS signing in Knoxville. Great work planning and gathering details for these events! Great things are also coming up in Quarter 3!

Our Military Outreach volunteers have also been working hard this quarter. Since October volunteers have reached out to more than 1,015 troops statewide and contributed more than 24 hours. I'm positive that number is going to grow tremendously as we receive volunteer hours from December. If you haven't stopped in to your units for a while, please make a point to do so in January. If possible, please try to stop in during drill once a quarter so the unit members become familiar with the name and face of their unit representative. We have become aware that some units do not know who represents them. As a reminder for those of you scheduled to brief troops in January, the National Freedom Award nomination period ends on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Troops simply need to go to [www.freedomaward.mil](http://www.freedomaward.mil) to nominate their employer. As of December 15<sup>th</sup> we have 53 nominations which is well past the 25 nominations from last year. Two years ago we had a record number of 47 nominations. Go troops!

Since October our ombudsmen have worked/mediated seven cases involving termination, job placement, hiring discrimination and position consideration. The biggest change for our ombudsmen has been the new reporting system National began using the end of last quarter. Just so you are all familiar with referral procedure, please use the following if you are called with any employer/employee issues: Name, military service (Army Guard, Air Guard, etc.) and phone numbers of the service member, the name and title of the employer and a brief description of the complaint. All issues need to go to your local ombudsman first. If your area does not have an ombudsman, please call Tom Smock (319-240-1021) or our office with the issue. Luke Craven is our newest ombudsman for the Des Moines area. Welcome aboard, Luke.

Ramon (Ray) Rodriguez is the new addition to our office. He has been an incredible asset creating a great balance and provides a fresh perspective. Stacy and I are tremendously thankful to have such a fantastic addition in the office and we look forward to your meeting him. But please feel free to give him a call to welcome him at 800-294-6607 x4192, or email [rodriguez.ray97@yahoo.com](mailto:rodriguez.ray97@yahoo.com).

We truly appreciate everything our volunteers do out in the field. Please remember we are here to help you in any way we can. We wish you and yours a wonderful New Year and look forward to continuing to work with you, our Iowa ESGR Team.

Becky Coady



*Rebecca Coady*

## Rodriguez Becomes Program Support Manager for Iowa ESGR

Ramon H. Rodriguez, a 21-year veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps, has been appointed Program Support Manager for Iowa ESGR and began his duties in the Johnston office in late October.

He will work in coordination with the Iowa ESGR State Chair, the Regional Deputy Director (National ESGR), volunteer membership and other contractors to assist with operational activities, financial management, training, logistics, and other program management level support.

In addition, he will provide assistance in the implementation of ESGR training program and coordinate scheduling of committee members for training duties. Rodriguez also will monitor and update the ESGR website and assist with managing and supporting the Iowa ESGR Military Outreach Program.

After leaving the Marine Corps in 2009, Rodriguez served as a production manager for Hormel Foods Corporation in Osceola before taking the ESGR position.

Rodriguez is working toward a Bachelor of Science in Management degree from American Military University in West Virginia with an expected completion date in 2011.

His wife, Kathryn, is originally from Cornwall, England. Ramon met her when he was stationed there from 1989-1991 with the Marine Corps Security Forces. They were married in December 1991 after Ramon was stationed at



*Ramon Rodriguez, a retired Marine and new Program Support Manager for Iowa ESGR, is pictured here with his wife, Kathryn, and their daughter, Shannon.*

Camp Lejeune, N.C. They have a daughter, Shannon, 14, who is a freshman at Southeast Polk High School.

## State Staff Members Trained Nov. 1-5 in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Coady, Executive Director; Stacy Craven, Office Manager, and Ramon Rodriguez, Program Support Manager – the State ESGR staff – spent the week of Nov. 1-5 attending a training conference in Washington, D.C.

Stacy and Ray attended new employee orientation on Monday where they had the opportunity to meet the directors from the different National ESGR departments.

On Tuesday all staff from all 50 states and territories were in attendance. Dennis McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, and Raymond Jefferson, Assistance Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service, both spoke at the opening event on the 2nd.

Both discussed the concern of our troops who are unemployed. The majority of the conference revolved around that particular topic. On Friday morning they heard what other states have already implemented to assist unemployed military. These employment programs ranged from simply putting job listings on their website to offering an employment assistance training and job fairs.

Since returning to Iowa the State staff members have been meeting with Iowa Workforce Development and Yellow Ribbon coordinator in developing an Iowa employment assistance program. More details will be provided to volunteers as these plans begin to take shape.

## Area 4 Chair Earns State Job



Carmine Boal, Area 4 Chair (pictured at left), has been appointed to fill state boards and commissions for the new Branstad administration. In her job she will interview people, initiate background checks if necessary and prepare documents for confirmation by the Senate as required. "It will be a challenge and I look forward to it," she said.



# Boss Lift Took 45 to Observe Camp Shelby Training

A tanker flight from Sioux City took 45 employers, ESGR Volunteers and Guardsmen to Camp Shelby, Miss., Aug. 31-Sept. 1 to observe training of Iowa and Nebraska National Guard troops that have been deployed there. During their time there they established contact with more than 50 soldiers from their home communities and became familiar with military practices. Three of the participants submitted notes pointing out the high points of the trip. Accompanying photos show some of the visitors' activities during the event.

## Francis Clark, Area 2 Chair, Shares Thoughts About Boss Lift Experience

The boss lift to Camp Shelby brought home the fact the soldiers are both male and female and very young and not so young. The training we observed appeared focused on keeping these soldiers from being injured or killed.

This training also appeared very focused on both the culture of the inhabitants and the natural climate of Afghanistan. The equipment for Afghanistan seemed more mission orientated and designed to safeguard the soldiers better than what we have heard about in Iraq.

A training class that I attended brought home the very difficult decisions that the soldiers will face when there are casualties in the field. All of this connected back to the send off we observed for our soldiers when they said goodbye to their families before boarding the buses for Camp Shelby.

There are a lot of people back home and in the field supporting our soldiers. I think of the soldiers' families and I think of their employers who are holding their jobs for their return. We pray for their safety and quick return back to the United States.



- **Iowa ESGR Volunteers Personally**
- **Affected by the Deployments**
- Leo Klotz - Area 1 - Son deployed to Afghanistan.
- Rick Parrino - Area 4 - Son deployed to Afghanistan.
- Martin Graber - Area 7 - New son-in-law deployed to Afghanistan with the 2nd BCT, 832nd Engineer Company.
- Greg Monroe's daughter - Area 9 - recently returned with the PADD.

## ***More About Camp Shelby Boss Lift Spencer's Bob Rose Reports on Visit With Troops***

I was invited to go with a group of people from around the State on the latest "Boss Lift". Boss Lift is a program sponsored by the State ESGR organization taking employers of National Guard Service people and other interested persons on a two-day trip to visit the location of the deployed guard personnel.

Most of you know but for those of you who don't ESGR, Employer Support of Guard and Reserve, is an organization sponsored by the Federal Government the purpose of which is give support to those members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces while on temporary duty or on deployment. Tom Manley is the area representative for ESGR, having been involved with the organization for over 20 years.

This recent "Boss Lift" originated in Sioux City with a stop in Des Moines to pick up employers from central Iowa, with the final destination Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where the 34th Division, Iowa National Guard, is training prior to deployment to Afghanistan. There are over three thousand members of the 34th Division, several from the Spencer Armory, receiving training at Camp Shelby.

While at Camp Shelby we had the opportunity to observe the latest techniques in military tactics, learn about the advances in military equipment and receive a briefing on our mission in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I was privileged to be included in this trip to Camp Shelby. Spending time with our Guard members gives one a greater appreciation for the job they do and also gives one a better perspective on their mission. These young men and women are making the ultimate sacrifice in their commitment to serve their country. They deserve our gratitude, admiration and our thoughts and prayers while they are deployed.

By the way, if you ever have the opportunity to go on a "Boss Lift", don't miss it.

*(Bob Rose is executive director of the Spencer Chamber of Commerce.)*



### **Comments from Rex Hofer, Area 1**

During our recent visit to Camp Shelby we were able to tour the base, handle assault rifles and other weapons, don Kevlar vests and helmets, participate in the Humvee rollover simulator, observe simulated military scenarios, and talk candidly with our Iowa and Nebraska soldiers. I was very impressed with the transparency of the military leadership and the top notch training that I had the opportunity to observe.

I was particularly impressed with the communication and leadership skills exhibited by our soldiers. Their discipline, attention to detail and ability to follow procedure were skill sets that definitely stood out.

After my visit I felt very comfortable that our soldiers were not only getting the best training available, but also access to the most sophisticated weaponry, technology, and equipment in the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to travel and observe our IA and NE military men and women.



## **Camp Shelby Boss Lift Participants**

### **Iowa Attendees**

Kathy Achenbach, Grapevine Staffing, Recruiting Manager  
Roger Baysden, Iowa Prison Industries, Director  
Carol Bodensteiner, ESGR Volunteer, ESGR Executive Team  
Jeff Bortell, Hy-Vee, Store Director  
Patricia Bott, University of Iowa Hospitals, Nurse Manager - Emergency Services  
Roger Brown, Precision Pulley & Idler, Chief Operating Officer  
Buck Clark, City of Waterloo, Mayor  
Francis Clark, ESGR Volunteer, Area 2 Chair  
CW4 Jeff Craven  
Paula Dierenfeld, City of Johnston, Mayor  
Jennifer Erickson, University of Iowa Hospitals, Administrator and HR Rep for Emergency Services  
Carolyn Feml, Precision Pulley & Idler, HR Manager  
Fred Greiner, Fareway, CEO/Owner  
Tom Hanifan, City of Council Bluffs, Mayor  
LTC Greg Hapgood  
Mike Hobart, City of Sioux City, Mayor  
Rex Hofer, Tyson/SHRM/ESGR, HR Manager, SHRM/Employer Outreach  
Terry Hogan, UNI, VP Student Affairs  
Laura Hollingsworth, President/CEO, Center of Influence  
Kathy Joseph, Principal, Assistant Manager  
Allan Knudsen, Iowa State Bank, VP, Trust Officer  
Robert Kubacki, Pella Corp., VP National Account Sales - Corporate Officer  
Diane Lamb, University of Iowa Hospitals, Nurse Manager - Air Care Operations  
Terry Little, Securitas Security, Branch Manager  
Steve Looney, Iowa Bankers Association, VP Strategic Technologies  
Tom Manley, ESGR Volunteer, ESGR Area Chair Leadership Team  
Terry Mapes, Newton Correctional Facility, Warden  
Dan McGowan, Army Advisor  
Gene Meyer, State Public Safety, Commissioner  
Jason Nelson, McNeilus Companies, Inspection Supervisor  
Amy Reed, Wellman/Fansteel, HR Director  
Daryn Richardson, Vodec, Services Development Director  
Karen Rieck, Iowa Bankers Association, VP Human Resources  
Bob Rose, Spencer Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director  
Richard Rue, ESGR Volunteer, State Chair  
Elliott Smith, Iowa Business Council, Executive Director  
Dan Varnum, Mercy Medical Center, Vice President  
Tom Zacharius, Farley and Sathers Candy Co., Business Systems Manager

**Nebraska Attendees** Tom Crisman, Mayor                      LTC (ret) Steve Tellatin, ESGR Volunteer  
Col. Kevin Newmann    Keith Brown, ESGR Volunteer    BG (ret) James Murphy  
CSMEli Valenzuela      CW5 Steve Weber

## NBC News Features Area 10 Chair Dan Augustine

The NBC Nightly News Sept. 1 featured Area 10 Chair Dan Augustine in its “Making a Difference” segment. In it Stephanie Himango wrote:

“Last autumn, members of the Iowa Army National Guard received word that the year 2010 would bring a large-scale deployment to Afghanistan.

“As seasons changed from winter to spring to summer, soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division (2/34 BCT) and their families prepared for deployment — the largest for the state since World War II. ‘It’s almost painful, knowing so far in advance,’ said Lieutenant William Speicher, A Troop, 1-113th Cavalry, who is deploying for the fourth time. ‘I’d rather know a week before we go.’

“But for the married father of two, he agrees that the long notice does have its advantages. ‘For the families, the longer notice is better. It gives them more time to prepare and get things in order for us to leave,’ he said.

“And along with families, Iowa community members and employers have also geared up for one year of life without some of their citizens and employees. Together, they plan to help families whose soldiers are away by lending a hand. That is manifest in many forms — from mowing the lawn, to transporting children to and from

after-school activities, to shoveling the driveway.

“Sergeant Major Matt Strasser knows the value of an employer who cares. This will be his third time to deploy, and all the while he has worked at Augustine and Sons Farm in rural Iowa. Matt and his wife Jessica have two young boys, and the help the Augustine’s are able to provide is something the Strasser’s appreciate. But for employer Dan Augustine, (pictured at right), he says it’s the least he can do. ‘He’s actually making a sacrifice to serve his country,’ said Augustine. ‘How that affects us is almost irrelevant to how it affects his family.’



“The 2/34 BCT is comprised of about 2,800 soldiers from Iowa, 350 from Nebraska, and about 100 from other states. While sendoff ceremonies for the soldiers took place last month in Iowa, they are still on U.S. soil, currently training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi until they leave for the National Training Center in California later this month. By Thanksgiving, all of the soldiers in the brigade will be in Afghanistan for their year-long deployment.”

## 4 Generations of McLain Males



Four generations of McLains were photographed during the send-off in Marshalltown Aug. 6. Pictured are Bill McClain, ESGR volunteer (center) with great-grandson, Landon; his son, Scott (left); and grandson, Zack. .

## Area 4 Stages Quarterly Meeting



Carmine Boal, Iowa ESGR’s Area 4 Chair, convened a quarterly meeting Nov. 18 in West Des Moines. In addition to two State Office staffers, eight Area Volunteers attended. Reports and updates were considered. Pictured after the meeting were: front row, left to right: Stacy Liebsch, Indianola; Carmine Boal; and Ray Rodriguez and Rebecca Coady of the State ESGR office. In the second row, left to right, are Brett McLain, Ames; Brian Chung, Ankeny; Ted Hall, New Virginia, and Jeremiah Beamer, Urbandale. Also present but not pictured were Luke Craven of Johnston and Wayne P. Davis of Ames.

## **Gov. Culver Presents 2010 Iowa Freedom Awards, Signs Proclamation Designating Iowa ESGR Week**

Gov. Chet Culver presented the Iowa Freedom Award to four Iowa employers in a ceremony at the State Capitol Sept. 7. The Iowa Freedom Awards recognize the exemplary ways Iowa employers support their National Guard and Reserve employees.

“Guard members and reservists truly are hometown heroes, serving on missions here and overseas,” Culver said. “Support from family and community is important. But another partner in service too often overlooked is the employer who allows time off and holds a job open for a service member. Today, we’re here to offer our thanks to four Iowa employers who have gone out of their way to support our troops and their families.”

The Iowa Freedom Awards are presented to employers in three categories: large employer, small employer and the public sector. Recipients of the 2010 Iowa Freedom Awards are:

- \* Large Employer: John Deere Des Moines Works – Ankeny

- \* Large Employer: Bridgestone Bandag Tire Solutions – Muscatine

- \* Small Employer: Salzman International – Davenport

- \* Public Sector: Iowa State University – Ames

In addition to presenting the Iowa Freedom Awards, Gov. Culver signed a proclamation designating Sept. 19-25 as Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

Rob Kelly, vice-chairman of the Iowa Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and other ESGR officials joined in the ceremony.

“We are proud of our National Guard and Reserve military members and stand in awe of the sacrifice they make for all of us,” Kelly said. “At the same time we recognize that employers are making sacrifices as well. This year’s Iowa Freedom Award recipients also received the Pro Patria award, the highest recognition given in Iowa by ESGR to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. We thank Governor Culver for signing a proclamation designating Iowa ESGR week because it is important that the support of all Iowa employers of Guard and Reserve members be recognized.”

Nominations for ESGR awards come from a Guard or Reserve member who is employed by the organization he or she is nominating, or from a family member. ESGR is a Department of Defense agency tasked with gaining and maintaining employer support for those who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR achieves this mission by providing educational, consulting and mediation services to current and potential employers of Guard and Reserve members.



*Culver posed with honorees at the event. In the front row, left to right, are John Teeple (John Deere); Harry Cockrell (Salzman International); Culver; Dr. Hira Tahira (Iowa State University), and Lynne Spengler (Bridgestone Bandag Tire). In the back row, left to right, are Derek Cockrell (Salzman International); Aadne Stokka (nominator for John Deere), and Rob Kelly (ESGR Vice Chair).*



*Gov. Culver signs proclamation at Rob Kelly looks on.*

## ESGR Presents Many Awards Around the State . . .



A Patriotic Employer award was made Aug. 30 to Hy-Vee Weitz Construction LLC. Pictured from left to right are Ms. Catherine Kaiser, ESGR Volunteer; Michael Penningroth, Business Project Manager; John Volk, Nominator; John Kaiser, ESGR Volunteer, and Brad Strehlow, President of Hy-Vee Weitz Construction LLC.



A Patriotic Employer Award was presented Sept. 1 to David Reese, right, of the National Weather Service in Des Moines. He had been nominated by Christopher Southerlin, left. The award and a Patriot Pin were presented by John Kaiser, center, an ESGR volunteer.



Four Patriot Award presentations were made Sept. 9 to four supervisors of the Ralph N. Smith Company in Des Moines. Jerimiah Beamer, an Area 4 ESGR Volunteer, pictured at center above, was the presenter. The supervisors holding the awards are, from left to right, Gary Maxwell, Bill Olson, Rick Harper and Scott Durham.

Becky Coady, right, presented a patriot award for First Resources Mental Health in Ottumwa (Area 7) Sept. 13. Recipient of the award was Tim Bedford; Esther Sackman nominated him and is pictured. Her husband was deployed with the Brigade and was in Mississippi at that time.



David Wilson, right, Executive Director of First Resources Corporation, signed a Statement of Support after the award presentation.



ESGR recognized The Spencer Daily Reporter, Paula Buenger, Publisher, (left) and Randy Cauthron, Managing Editor, (right) with the "State Chairman Award" for the great coverage of military information and training troops need. ESGR area committee members present were Steve Waller (second from left), and Tom Manley (second from right).



## Patriotic Employer Awards Cover the State



*Carl Roberts of Central Cooperative in Ralston was presented a Patriotic Employer Award by Bob Anderson, ESGR Volunteer.*



*ESGR Volunteer John Kaiser, left, presented a Patriotic Employer Award to Chief Jerry Holt of the Urbandale Fire Department Oct. 15. Holt was nominated by a lieutenant in the department, Mike Gentosi, who is on active duty with the Second Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st of the 168th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.*



*A.J. Spiegel, owner of Mi-T-M in Dubuque, was honored Sept. 30 with a Patriot Award in recognition of extraordinary support of its employees who serve in the Iowa National Guard and Reserve. The award was presented to Sam Humphrey, company president. Glen Gassman, left, was the volunteer pictured. SPC Matthew Hermsen, HHC 334 BSB, made the nomination, stating that "Mi-T-M has done a great job with working with me and the Iowa National Guard in this time of deployment. They have been very easy to work with to get time off for training events in support of our upcoming deployment."*



*Russ Franklin, System Protection Manager of Alliant Energy in Dubuque, was honored with a Patriot Award in recognition of extraordinary support of its employees who serve in the Iowa National Guard and Reserve. Pictured here from left to right are Franklin; Glen Gassman, ESGR Volunteer, and Pete Regez, System Protection Supervisor.*

## Wells Fargo Team, Manager, Earn ESGR Awards

Shawn Franklin, a senior audit manager with Wells Fargo's Card Services and Consumer Lending (CSCL) group, and the audit team that Franklin leads was honored Nov. 1 with a Patriotic Employer Award from ESGR.

Franklin and his team were nominated for the recognition by Kevin Taylor, a fellow team member, and a Staff Sergeant with the Air National Guard. Taylor will become a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Air National Guard when he completes officer training in the near future.

Franklin was also honored with an ESGR Seven Seals Award. The Seven Seals award depicts the heraldry seals of the seven military services. This award is given at the discretion of the Iowa ESGR chairman to recognize the efforts by a citizen, business, or organization, whose supportive actions have benefited all of the Reserve Components in a significant manner.

"Shawn has shown exemplary support for Kevin's work as an ESGR volunteer as well as for his military involvement," said Iowa ESGR Chairman Dick Rue in presenting the award. "Kevin's consistent dedication to his volunteer work for ESGR resulted in his being named Iowa ESGR Volunteer of the Year. He could not have earned this award without Shawn's support."



*Shawn Franklin of Wells Fargo (center) and the Audit team he leads received a Patriotic Employer award from Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Franklin also received a Seven Seals Award. Franklin was nominated by Kevin Taylor (right), a Wells Fargo Card Services team member and a Staff Sergeant with the Air National Guard, for Wells Fargo's support of employees who are members of the military. Dick Rue, Iowa ESGR Chairman (left) presented the awards.*



*Audit Team members pictured above in the front row, left to right, are Adriane Jackson, Kevin Taylor, Shawn Franklin, Shirley Weuve, Carey Verschuere and Lesley Peebles. In the back row, left to right, are Jim Peters, Dick Rue (ESGR), Ben Koenig, Mark Kerber and Travis Davis.*

## Recognitions Continue Among Iowa Employers



A presentation of the Patriotic Employer Award was made to the Geek Squad at the Mason City Best Buy Nov. 7. There were about 40-45 people in attendance. The squad has a soldier who is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the 194th FA. Picture are, from left, ESGR's Mike Flatness; Scott Hendrickson, recipient of the award, and Serena Golwitzer, the representative from Winnebago, Hancock counties. Joseph Johnson is the soldier who made the nomination.



Ted Gutman, center, of the 8th Judicial District Department of Correctional Services in Burlington, received a Patriotic Employer Award Nov. 9 from Martin Graber, left, the ESGR Area 7 Chair. TSgt. Benjamin Toal, right, made the nomination. Toal is in the 182nd Air Wing of the Illinois National Guard.



Marion Mouw, owner/president of Mouw Motors in Sioux Center, received ESGR's Patriotic Employer Award Nov. 29. He had been nominated by an employee, Michael Gaul, who serves with the National Guard and is now deployed to Afghanistan. The presentation was made by Gaul's wife, Leann. In his nomination, Gaul said Mouw and his company "have been very supportive of my military service, always allowing me time off for training without complaining . . . And now since my deployment they have been very good to my family as well. They always make sure that they take care of my wife's vehicle for her."



Brooke Barnes, left, of the Granite City Food and Brewery in Clive, was honored with a Patriotic Employer Award Nov. 29 after having been nominated by Christine Watrous who is pictured with her. Christine's husband serves in the Army Reserve and her nomination pointed out that her employer had "definitely gone above and beyond for our family and all other military member/families . . . I really appreciate everything they do for my husband and my family."

## National Animal Disease Center in Ames Demonstrates Support

An ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) Patriotic Employer Award was presented and a Statement of Support was signed during a Veterans Day program at the National Animal Disease Center in Ames Nov. 10. Almost 150 employees of the facility were present for the award presentation and program.

The award went to Terry Whetstone, Lab Maintenance Supervisor, who had been nominated by Shawn Murphy, a facility electrician and a member of the Nebraska National Guard. Brett McLain, Story County ESGR Volunteer, made the presentation.

McLain also arranged for the signing of a Statement of Support by Kurt A Zuelke, DVM, Ph.D., Director of the Center.

Speaker for the occasion was Dr. James E. Bowman, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Des Moines, who told about his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman during World War II.



*Pictured here during the award presentation are, from left, Terry Whetstone, recipient; Brett McLain, ESGR Volunteer. and Shawn Murphy, nominator.*

## Spouse Makes Patriot Award Nomination



*First spouse to make a nomination for the Patriotic Employer Award in Iowa was Teresa Johnson, right, an employee of the Goldenrod Manor in Clarinda, whose boss has been very supportive since Johnson's husband was deployed. ESGR Volunteer Jerry Hansen, left, made the presentation to Linda Wymore, the Goldenrod manager (center), Oct. 13. (Photo by Herald-Journal)*



*Kurt A. Zuelke, Director, left, signed a State of Support for ESGR, arranged for by Brett McLain, ESGR Volunteer.*

## Note to Newsletter Contributors . . .

When submitting photographs for the Iowa ESGR Newsletter, please use the News Worksheet form prepared by Carol Bodensteiner, Public Affairs Officer for the state office.

It asks the full company name, who is receiving the award, why is the event being held, when was the presentation (day and date), where was the presentation held, name of a contact person for more information. and a photo identification listing each person in the photo from left to right by name and title.

*Another Award Presentation . . .*



*A Patriotic Employer Award was made Dec. 9 to Rob Candau (center) of IBM in Dubuque. Eric Branson (left), Area 8 ESGR volunteer, made the presentation. Robert Waight (right) was the nominator.*

**Jahn Takes Over Newsletter**

Kendra Jahn, who serves as Area 7 Public Affairs Contact in southeast Iowa, will become Iowa ESGR newsletter editor in 2011. She was publisher and editor of the weekly *Mediapolis News* for 13 years, prior to selling it in 2008 to spend more time with her husband and two children in Sperry.



Kendra is pictured at right during a Boss Lift to Ft. McCoy, Wisc., in April 2010. She has been active in ESGR since the fall of 2009.

She will succeed Wayne P. Davis of Ames as newsletter editor. Davis plans to continue as an Iowa ESGR volunteer.

*To All of You . . .*



*. . . from*

