

# City, county proclaim Sept. 13-19 ESGR Week

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The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has a little known, yet important, job: To gain and maintain employer support for the National Guard and Reserve by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.

To bring awareness to the ESGR, both Mayor Tom Hanafan and Board of Supervisors Chairman Roger Williams recently signed proclamations designating the week of Sept. 13-19 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week in Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 that seeks to promote a culture in which all employers support and value the military service of their employees.

“We are proud of our National Guard and Reserve military members and humbled by the sacrifice they make for all of us,” said Council Bluffs businessman Francis Clark, Iowa ESGR Area 2 chairman.

“At the same time we recognize that employers are making sacrifices as well. That’s why signing this proclamation that recognizes employers for their support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve is so important. We thank Mayor Hanafan and Mr. Williams for signing a proclamation designating Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County ESGR week.”

Gary Sherbon of Tyson Foods in Council Bluffs, is the military outreach area liaison for Iowa ESGR. Part of his duties include helping area members of the Guard and Reserve when they have questions about how their military service will affect their employment.

“I let them know that I’m there; and if they have any issues, they can come to me,” he said. “There are times members of the Guard have important questions about their service responsibilities, and if I don’t know the answer, I try to get it so they can give their employers the information as quickly as possible as a courtesy to them.”

Clark said he hoped to help raise public awareness about the important roles employers and businesses play in supporting of those Guard and Reserve servicemen and women, not only in Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County, but in Iowa as well.

“The employers who sign statements of support join a cadre of Fortune 500 companies, state and federal agencies and thousands of America’s employers in demonstrating support for our armed forces,” Clark added. “By signing the statement of support, these employers are sending a clear message to their employees that while they are serving their country they do not have to worry about their civilian jobs.”

More information about Iowa ESGR is available online at [www.iowaesgr.org](http://www.iowaesgr.org).



Staff photo/Chad Nation - From left, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Employer Liaison Representative Susan Pfeifer, Iowa ESGR Area 2 chairman Francis Clark and Military Liaison Representative Gary Sherbon look on as Mayor Tom Hanafan signs a proclamation declaring Sept. 13-19 as ESGR Week in Council Bluffs.