

# Local employers saluted for supporting soldiers 20 workplaces honored for aiding military employees.

[BY CRAIG D. REBER TH STAFF WRITER](#)

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Tim Nass spent 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard and retired as a chief petty officer. Now he works as the facilities director for the Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark in Dubuque. Two of his employees are military reservists.

On Friday afternoon, the Grand Harbor Resort and Waterpark was one of 20 local employers receiving Statement of Support certificates for its commitment to support National Guard and Reserve employees in their workplaces.

Dubuque hosts U. S. Army Reserve and Iowa Army National Guard units. The Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd (Ironman) Infantry has been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as on peacekeeping missions to the Sinai Peninsula and Kosovo since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Area Army and Navy reservists also have been deployed overseas.

The week of Sept. 14-20 is Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

Local employers lauded their civilian military employees.

"They have plenty of training behind them and the work ethic," Nass said. "They get training that a lot of other people don't have access to or haven't had access to."

John O'Connor, regional manager for Namasco Northern Division who served in the U. S. Marine Corps., said Namasco employed a 27-year member of the Naval Reserve who recently retired.

"We've supported them through the years," O'Connor said. "I think military people are great and they bring a lot to your organization."

Matt Giese, of the Giese Companies, said his uncle is a drilling reservist who has served in Iraq.

"He's constantly going, but we understand and work with him,"

Giese said. "Obviously the Guard and the Reserves are the backbone of our military. Without them, we would really be depleted."

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Dick Anstoetter, of Anstoetter Construction Co. in Farley, brought employee Jeff Doelz, an Iowa Army National Guard soldier, to the event.

"He's a good man and the Guard teaches guys something. You get guys who show up for work every day and they're on time," Anstoetter said.

Doelz, 22, has served for more than two years.

"It's kind of like any other job, there are days where it's a pain in the butt, but for the most part it isn't bad," he said.

To see a video, [click here](#)