

Humboldt Fareway receives 'Above and Beyond' honor from ESGR

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Fareway Food Stores of Humboldt was among the 20 Iowa companies recently given the 'Above & Beyond' Award for their support of employees who serve in National Guard and Reserve military units. The 'Above & Beyond' Awards are presented each year by the Iowa Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (Iowa ESGR).

Civilian military members in the Guard and Reserve have their employment protected under Federal Law. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides guidance on the rights and obligations of employees and employers with respect to military service. The ESGR "Above and Beyond" Award honors the employers who exceed USERRA requirements.

Members of the military nominated their employers for the "Patriotic Employer" award in 2007. The 'Patriotic Employer' Award is a way for civilian military members to recognize their employers for supporting them during their military duty.

From those nominations, 20 employers were selected to receive the 2007 'Above & Beyond' Awards. The 'Above and Beyond' award is given to a select number of employers throughout the state. These awards recognize employers that have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for granting leave and providing support for military duty by their employees.

According to Iowa ESGR State Chair Barry Spear, "At this time when our National Guard and Reserve forces are asked to do so much, we are proud to recognize employers like Fareway that go the extra mile to support military employees and their families."

"Today, 1.2 million Americans, 14,000 within Iowa, serve in the Guard and Reserve representing nearly one half of the nation's military force. The extended nature of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has put tremendous pressure on soldiers, their families, and employers. Employers who go above and beyond in supporting military service earn the respect of their military employees and families, and these employers deserve the recognition and respect of the country," Spear added.

The Department of Defense established Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. Made up largely of volunteers, the ESGR has 150 volunteer members across Iowa. For more information about Iowa ESGR, visit www.iowaesgr.org.



Pictured (l to r) are: Major General Ron Dardis, Terrill Campbell (market manager of Humboldt Fareway), Fred Greiner (President of Fareway Stores, Inc.), and Iowa ESGR State Chair Barry Spear.