



For Immediate Release

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## Department of Defense Announces 2020 Employer Support Freedom Award Finalists

**WASHINGTON** – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) proudly announces the 30 finalists for the 2020 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The finalists include small and large private and public sector employers, nominated by a National Guard or Reserve employee in their organization. ESGR received 2,623 nominations for this prestigious award for employers throughout the 50 states, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and District of Columbia.

The Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the Department of Defense to employers for their exceptional support of National Guard and Reserve members. On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, ESGR runs the annual award program, which has presented the honor to only 280 employers since 1996.

The Department of Defense will announce the 15 employers selected to receive the 2020 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award by mid-June. The recipients will be honored in a ceremony at the Pentagon August 28.

Here are this year's Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award finalists:

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Employer City, State</b>	<b>Nominator's Service, State</b>
• Accenture, LLP	New York, New York	Army Reserve, Texas
• AlixPartners, LLP	Southfield, Michigan	Navy Reserve, South Carolina
• American Water	Camden, New Jersey	Army Reserve, New Jersey
• Athene	West Des Moines, Iowa	Army National Guard, Iowa
• Battlefield Vegas	Las Vegas, Nevada	Army National Guard, Nevada
• Boston Consulting Group	Boston, Massachusetts	Air National Guard, Massachusetts
• CACI International Inc	Arlington, Virginia	Army Reserve, Colorado
• Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha, NE	Omaha, Nebraska	Army Reserve, Nebraska
• City of Prescott Fire Department	Prescott, Arizona	Army National Guard, Arizona
• Cuna Mutual Group	Madison, Wisconsin	Army Reserve, North Carolina
• Ecolab Inc.	St. Paul, Minnesota	Army National Guard, Minnesota
• Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.	McLean, Virginia	Army Reserve, Virginia
• King County	Seattle, Washington	Air Force Reserve, Washington
• League of Minnesota Cities	St. Paul, Minnesota	Army Reserve, Minnesota
• Lexmark International Inc.	Lexington, Kentucky	Army National Guard, Kentucky
• ManifestWorks	Hollywood, California	Marine Corps Reserve, California

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| • National Grid  | Providence, Rhode Island   | Army National Guard, Rhode Island    |
| • NIKE Inc.  | Beaverton, Oregon          | Army National Guard, Oregon          |
| • Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission                         | Middletown, Pennsylvania   | Air National Guard, Pennsylvania     |
| • QTS Realty Trust Inc.                                    | Overland Park, Kansas      | Air Force Reserve, Kansas            |
| • Qualcomm Incorporated                                    | San Diego, California      | Navy Reserve, California             |
| • Sanford Health   | Sioux Falls, South Dakota  | Army National Guard, South Dakota    |
| • Shell Oil Company  | Houston, Texas             | Marine Corps Reserve, Texas          |
| • Southcentral Foundation                                  | Anchorage, Alaska          | Air National Guard, Alaska           |
| • The Coca-Cola Company                                    | Atlanta, Georgia           | Army Reserve, Georgia                |
| • The Independence Fund                                    | Charlotte, North Carolina  | Marine Corps Reserve, North Carolina |
| • University of Pennsylvania Health System (Penn Medicine) | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | Air Force Reserve, Pennsylvania      |
| • Veterans United Home Loans                               | Columbia, Missouri         | Air National Guard, Missouri         |
| • Worcester Police Department                              | Worcester, Massachusetts   | Air National Guard, Massachusetts    |
| • Zlimen & McGuiness, PLLC                                 | St. Paul, Minnesota        | Army Reserve, Minnesota              |

The complete list is also at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) and [www.freedomaward.mil](http://www.freedomaward.mil).

### **About ESGR**

ESGR is a Department of Defense program that develops and promotes supportive work environments for Service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable laws. It also provides assistance in resolving conflicts between Service members and their employers.

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