



Charlie Crist
Governor

Monesia T. Brown
Director

Governor Crist Proclaims November *Hire a Veteran Month* *Florida Businesses Encouraged to Utilize Valuable Employment Resource*

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Recognizing the tremendous value of those who have served our country, Florida Governor Charlie Crist has proclaimed November 2007 as *Hire a Veteran Month*. The Governor's proclamation reaffirms our commitment to those who have served our nation in times of war and peace.

Coordinated by the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and our workforce partners, Workforce Florida, Inc. and the regional workforce boards, this initiative is designed to remind employers of the unmatched economic resource provided by our state's veterans.

"Florida is home to an estimated 1.8 million veterans and has the fastest growing veterans population in the nation," said AWI Director Monesia T. Brown. "Our veterans possess valuable leadership, business and technical skills gained while serving their country. They are a versatile and well-trained resource for employers and Florida is fortunate to have ready access to such a highly-skilled workforce."

AWI is committed to meeting the needs of our heroic veterans and our employers through high quality programs and services. Such programs include employment and training initiatives such as the Veterans' Employment & Training System, Hire a Vet, Citizen Soldier and the Military Families program. Last year Florida's One Stop Career Centers served more than 74,000 veterans, with more than 12,000 recently separated from the Armed Forces.

Florida's veterans come to the workforce highly adept with new technology, and are skilled and trained in a variety of areas. The state is committed to bringing employers and veterans together using the full network of workforce partnerships and professionals across the state, along with the Employ Florida Marketplace, located online at <http://www.employflorida.com/>.

"Demographics of veterans are shifting with the return of young troops who have served in the Global War On Terrorism," said Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director LeRoy Collins Jr. "FDVA is working with AWI to assist veterans looking for

employment to include lifetime veterans' preference for those seeking jobs with municipal, county and state government.”

Veterans offer Florida's businesses the benefits of high skills, education, leadership, maturity and dedication learned or enhanced during their service in the military. By bringing recognition to our veterans, we honor not only their military service but also the contributions they bring to the workforce. Join us in honoring their commitment and sacrifice to our country. Hire a veteran!

[Click here to read Governor Crist's proclamation.](#)

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The Agency for Workforce Innovation is the state's lead workforce agency and directly administers the state's various Workforce Programs and Office of Early Learning. Workforce development policy and guidance are provided by Workforce Florida, Inc. Partnering together, along with the 24 Regional Workforce Boards that deliver services through nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers around the state, they compose the Employ Florida network.