

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington has more than 65,000 active duty military, national guard and reserve forces, and nearly 600,000 veterans who have willingly volunteered to serve our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, many veterans who are making the transition from active service to civilian life find themselves competing for limited job openings; and

WHEREAS, Washington's Military Transition Council was the first of its kind in the United States and has resulted in a 24 percent increase between 2011 and 2014 in the number of service members leaving Joint Base Lewis-McChord with jobs; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington recognizes that veterans are a well-trained pool of labor with a wide range of skills and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington and the Employment Security Department are committed to providing veterans and their family members with the employment and training opportunities needed to achieve happy and successful careers; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Security Department and Department of Veterans Affairs have teamed up with the Washington State Legislature and others to launch a statewide YesVets Hiring Initiative to recognize employers who hire veterans, resulting in 377 employers hiring 596 veterans since February 2016; and

WHEREAS, our state offers a Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Business and Occupation (B&O) tax credit, Public Utility Tax (PUT) credit for employers who hire eligible veterans, and our state certifies Veteran Owned Businesses and encourages all agencies to increase contracts with them; and

WHEREAS, 9.2 percent of the staff working for the state of Washington's executive branch agencies are veterans; and

WHEREAS, there is no greater way to repay our veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice than to help them secure employment, self-reliance and economic stability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November, 2016 as

Hire-A-Veteran Month

in Washington State, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 8th day of November, 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written over a horizontal line.

Governor Jay Inslee

