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New Hampshire Proclaims July 25 “Hire A Veteran Day”

CONCORD, N.H. (July 21, 2023) — Governor Chris Sununu has formally proclaimed July 25, 2023, to be “Hire A Veteran Day” in New Hampshire, joining other U.S. states participating in National Hire A Veteran Day, an unofficial holiday established in 2017 by Dan Caporale, a Marine Corps veteran and founder of nonprofit [Hire Our Heroes](#).

Hire a Veteran Day is a point in time set aside each year to raise awareness of civilian employment for transitioning service members and Veterans after their military service. It is an opportunity to highlight the unique leadership, work ethic, and character traits that Veterans bring to the civilian workforce, and it is a call to action for employers to consider and hire Veterans. The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) estimates approximately 200,000 individuals transition out of military service and return to civilian life and employment annually, roughly 2,400 of whom choose New Hampshire as a place to stay, work, play and learn.

[Research](#) has shown that Veterans bring valuable work experience as well as technical and nontechnical skills that are often in high demand, such as leadership, decision-making, dependability, and attention to detail. Most military occupations are not combat related and have direct equivalents in the civilian workforce; only 14% of the U.S. military’s occupations are combat specialties, meaning a large number of veterans leave their service with skills that can transfer to civilian jobs if given the opportunity, according to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

“The State of New Hampshire, through the N.H. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, N.H. Employment Security and fellow agencies, stands ready to support Veterans and their families with meaningful and skill-appropriate employment at businesses that strive to honor, fortify, empower, and positively impact Veterans,” said Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General. “We encourage all New Hampshire employers to thoughtfully consider hiring Veterans and bring to bear the unique qualities and experience they can bring as employees. We also invite them all to join the New Hampshire Veteran-Friendly Business Network and exploit opportunities to match talented and skilled Veterans with positions in New Hampshire businesses.”

The State of New Hampshire works closely with the private sector and Veteran community members to help Veterans get due credit for training and education they received during their military service and find gainful employment with veteran-friendly businesses or pursue entrepreneurship. This is accomplished in many ways, including military skills waivers for professional licensing, virtual and in-person hiring events, and creative initiatives such as the [N.H. Veteran-Friendly Business Network](#).

Launched in 2020, the N.H. Veteran-Friendly Business Network recognizes businesses, organizations, colleges, and schools in N.H. that have demonstrated policies and practices that honor, fortify, empower, and positively impact the lives of N.H. Services Members, Veterans and their families. The program is free and open to all New Hampshire employers. NHVFB-registered businesses become certified “Veteran Friendly” and gain access to a peer networking group to build relationships, enhance their military cultural competency, and exchange ideas and

best practices. To learn more and apply, go to <https://www.dmavs.NH.gov/about-us/N.H.-veteran-friendly-businesses>.

[Next Step Bionics and Prosthetics](#) in Manchester is a Platinum-level Veteran-Friendly Business Network member that provides amputees with state-of-the-art prosthetic devices. Founded in 1996, Next Step serves amputees of all ages from all over the world. As a trusted partner for Veterans dealing with the trauma of limb loss, Next Step Bionics and Prosthetics understands the unique needs of military members who have lost limbs as a result of combat or serious accident and may be dealing with challenges far beyond the physical aspect of limb loss.

“At Next Step, we are proud of our designation as a NH Veteran-Friendly Business and believe it is important to eliminate barriers that veterans sometimes encounter in our society,” said Bryan Chowning, FT/Director of Operations at Next Step Bionics and Prosthetics. “We recognize the unique skill set that many veterans possess, so throughout our 27-year history, Next Step has made a priority of employing and caring for those who have served our country.”

Many Veterans also choose the path of entrepreneurship; according to the [National Survey of Military-Affiliated Entrepreneurs 2021 report](#), 63% of Veterans were interested in entrepreneurship prior to the military, 56% indicated that entrepreneurship was helpful in finding a purpose after the military, and 47% indicated entrepreneurship made the transition into civilian life easier. As of 2019 N.H. had more than 2,700 veteran-owned businesses with paid employees, representing more than 9% of all N.H. businesses with paid employees and employing more than 17,600 workers – nearly 3% of N.H.’s workforce. Among veteran-owned businesses, nearly one-third were in the construction industry.

New Hampshire has also worked to create paths for Veterans to receive professional licensure for training and experience received during their military service. Paths include “Troops to Trucks” for Veterans to receive a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL); Medic to LNA for Veterans who received medic training to become Licensed Nursing Assistants; and most recently, a new waiver for Veterans to become licensing electricians.

About N.H. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services

The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services was established legislatively in New Hampshire in 2019. The Department is led by Major General David Mikolaities, the N.H. Adjutant General and Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General. The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services consolidated veterans services from across the state including the Division of Veterans Services, the Division of Community Based Military Programs and the State Veterans Cemetery. The Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services shares a mission triad with the New Hampshire National Guard—fight and win our nation’s wars, secure the homeland, and build enduring partnerships. To learn more about the N.H. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, visit <https://www.dmavs.NH.gov/>.

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VETERAN DAY**

JULY 25

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