



Harley-Davidson Honored by the Secretary of Defense in Washington, DC

The 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was presented to Harley-Davidson by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on September 21, 2004.

([PRWEB](#)) September 23, 2004 -- The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, honored Harley-Davidson as a 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipient on September 21, 2004 in Washington, DC.

Harley-Davidson's spirit of support goes far beyond paperwork and benefits. An "All American" manufacturer based in Milwaukee, Harley-Davidson has shown tremendous support of its Guard and Reserve employees for more than half a century. It is estimated that about 14 percent of Harley-Davidson employees are members of the Guard and Reserve. Upon mobilization, the employee receives frequent "care packages", pay differential, continued health and life insurance, and 401(k) benefits. The corporate values mirror those its Guard and Reserve members fight for: freedom, patriotism and independence.

"Everyone at Harley-Davidson is deeply honored to receive a 2004 ESGR award and we thank those who nominated and selected us," said Harley-Davidson Chief Financial Officer and Army veteran Jim Ziemer. "But the real honor belongs to those who put their personal well-being on the line in service to our country."

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, a Waterford crystal eagle, was introduced in 1996 to publicly recognize the significant contributions and sacrifices made by America's employers of Guardsmen and Reservists.

"Harley-Davidson's exceptional support of their Reserve and National Guard employees during mobilization for the war against terrorism has set a standard for all employers to follow," said David Janes, ESGR National Chairman. "Harley-Davidson's advocacy of extending continuing benefits, making up pay differentials, and ensuring employees are returned to their jobs in a timely manner is truly a role model for corporate America. I am proud to have participated in the selection of Harley-Davidson for this prestigious award," added Janes.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, the only major U.S.-based motorcycle manufacturer, produces heavyweight motorcycles and a complete line of motorcycle parts, accessories and general merchandise. For more information, visit Harley-Davidson's web site at www.harley-davidson.com.

The unique mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active employer support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service.

ESGR provides free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.org or by calling 800-336-4590.

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EMPLOYER SUPPORT FOR THE GUARD AND RESERVE

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