



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

HIRE A VETERAN MONTH

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is home to more than 1.6 million veterans and has the third largest population of veterans in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Florida's veterans are responsible for an annual infusion of more than 13.7 billion federal dollars into the state's economy through retirement pay, compensation and pensions, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, today's veterans offer Florida's businesses the benefits of competent skills, education, leadership, maturity, and dedication learned in military service; and

WHEREAS, Employ Florida Vets, an online jobs portal at Veterans.EmployFlorida.com, provides employment services by matching former servicemen and women to the jobs and training opportunities that suit their skills and experience gained in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Florida's workforce system consisting of the Department of Economic Opportunity, Workforce Florida, Inc. and the 24 Regional Workforce Boards, operates nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers throughout the state staffed with 174 veterans employment representatives dedicated to helping veterans and eligible spouses obtain employment; and

WHEREAS, these veterans employment representatives assisted more than 110,505 veterans during the past year; and

WHEREAS, the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, known as the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, is the most comprehensive educational benefits package for veterans since the original G.I. Bill was signed into law in 1944, and combines this educational opportunity with Florida's veteran employment services to afford our heroes a seamless transition into civilian employment; and

WHEREAS, under Florida law, public employees, including state government entities, universities, school districts and utilities, are required to give preference to veterans and eligible spouses in the hiring process;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, in an effort to increase Florida's visibility as the nation's most veteran-friendly state and promote the availability of Florida's talented, well-trained veterans to Florida's employers, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2012 as *Hire a Veteran Month* and encourage Florida's employers to Hire the Best – Hire a Vet.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee the Capital, this 8th day of November, in the year two thousand twelve.


Governor