



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

HIRE A VETERAN MONTH

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is home to more than 1.7 million veterans and has the second largest population of veterans in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, National Guard, and Coast Guard have responded immediately and effectively when called to defend our nation's security at home and abroad; 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, Florida's Regional Workforce Boards oversee 89 One-Stop Career Centers throughout the State, staffed with 129 Veterans Employment representatives dedicated to helping veterans and eligible spouses obtain employment; and

WHEREAS, these Veterans Employment representatives served more than 100,000 veterans last year, more than 10,000 of whom were recently separated from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, known as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, is the most comprehensive educational benefits package for veterans since the original GI 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, Florida understands the value of employing veterans and eligible spouses, and requires that these citizens are given preference in the hiring process of public employers including state government entities, utilities, universities, and school districts; and

WHEREAS, Florida's veterans are responsible for an annual infusion of more than 10 billion federal dollars into the state's economy through retirement pay, compensation and pensions, and medical care;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2009 as *Hire a Veteran Month* in an effort to increase Florida's leadership as a veteran-friendly state and promote the availability of Florida's talented, well-trained veterans to Florida's employers, 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 Capitol, this 29th day of October, in the year two thousand nine.



A blue ink signature of Charlie Crist, written in a cursive style.

Governor