



For Immediate Release

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Illinois Chamber's Laurie Silvey named Chair of the Illinois Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee

Washington D.C. – The Illinois Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee, a Department of Defense (DOD) program, announced President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Center for Business Management Laurie Silvey as the new ESGR Illinois Chair.

ESGR is a DOD program that develops and promotes supportive work environments for service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable, along with conflict resolution assistance between service members and their employers.

Almost half of the United States' military force serves in the Guard or Reserve, and ESGR has a vital impact on these men and women, and their civilian employers. In the volunteer position, Silvey will provide leadership and vision for a team of dedicated volunteers throughout Illinois.

"It is essential for employers to support their Reserve Component employees," Silvey said. "I look forward to furthering ESGR's mission of promoting good relationships between employers and service members."

Silvey has been involved with ESGR for the past six years, most recently serving as the Illinois ESGR Committee Employer Outreach Director. She is one of two employer representatives on the National ESGR Board of Directors, appointed to a three-year term in October 2018.

Silvey joins 53 other chairs, serving under National ESGR Chair Ron Bogle, who oversee the ESGR mission in the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia.

The Illinois Chamber has supported Illinois ESGR for the past 15 years, and continues to allow designated employees to volunteer for ESGR during Chamber business hours. The Chamber has signed a Statement of Support for ESGR and provides the organization access to Chamber membership through events. The Chamber Foundation regularly

makes in-kind donations to ESGR and has been honored as the recipient of ESGR's Extraordinary Employer Support Award for its contributions.

"The Chamber has been active in supporting ESGR for many years, because we understand the irreplaceable role our service members play, not only abroad, but here at home in the workforce," said Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch. "We are thankful for all they have given to our country, society and economy and we will continue to work to assist organizations like ESGR in any way we can."

A previous Chamber employee, Executive Vice President of Operations Michael Ayers, served as Illinois ESGR Committee State Chair for five years until 2013.

Silvey took her oath of office at the Mark Center in Alexandria, VA, on November 15, 2019, for the position that holds a once-renewable three-year term of service.

More information about ESGR employer outreach programs and volunteer opportunities is available at www.esgr.mil, or by calling Kathy Kozak of the ESGR Illinois Committee at (309) 567-6111.

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