



**Media Contact:**  
Christina Morton, APR  
On Behalf of Walmart  
407-608-5905 (o)  
407-212-2658 (c)

## **Walmart Announces New Focus on Hiring Military Spouses; Update to Florida Veterans Hiring Number**

*News Comes as Walmart Reports Hiring 13,120 Veterans in Florida, Nearing Goal of Hiring 250,000 Veterans Nationwide by 2020*

**BENTONVILLE, ARK., Nov. 12, 2018** –Walmart today announced it will give hiring preference to military spouses, becoming the largest U.S. company to make such a commitment. The Military Spouse Career Connection, a new initiative by Walmart to recruit and hire military spouses, complements the 2013 Veterans Welcome Home commitment, enhanced in 2015, to hire 250,000 military veterans by 2020, a goal it is on track to surpass next year.

In Florida, Walmart has hired more than 13,120 veterans to date. Walmart today announced it has hired more than 212,000\* veterans nationwide since full implementation of the Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, and with over 32,000 veteran associates promoted since joining the Walmart and Sam's Club teams, they are turning opportunities into careers.

"Walmart's veterans hiring commitment means a lot to me personally," said Calvin Johnson, an assistant manager at store 1222 in Pensacola. "I came to work for the company 15 years ago because of the career opportunities and their support for our veterans. I've seen that opportunity first hand, through my own experience but also watching the careers of my fellow associates who are veterans."

A graduate of Pine Forest High School in Pensacola, Johnson was in the United States Army for 13 years in communications (31R), was stationed in Germany for six years and was deployed in Operation Desert Storm.

Walmart honored veterans, their spouses and families across the country with dozens of in-store ceremonies and events. Nationally, Walmart associates and local stores shared Facebook "thank you" messages to veterans and their families.

"Military spouses are unsung heroes," said Walmart President and CEO, Doug McMillon, today during a Veterans Day ceremony at the company's headquarters in Bentonville. "They serve in partnership with their uniformed spouses, and we want to honor them and help them find a job or build an amazing career. To military spouses: You've got a home at Walmart!"

There are more than 500,000 active duty military spouses nationwide. While the U.S. jobless rate hovers at four percent nationally, military spouses face a 26 percent unemployment rate

and a 25 percent wage gap compared to their civilian counterparts. A full 77 percent of these spouses want or need work, yet frequent relocation is often a barrier to finding and maintaining a rewarding career, according to the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership.

Military spouses are diverse, entrepreneurial, adaptable, educated, team-oriented and civically engaged, according to Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families. Nearly 85 percent have some college education or higher. A quarter have a bachelor's degree and 10 percent have an advanced degree.

"We have a duty to honor veterans and military families," said Retired Brig. Gen. Gary Profit, senior director of military programs for Walmart. "But, more importantly, they are tremendous assets to our business. Military spouses bring many of the same leadership qualities we see in veterans, yet they are disproportionately unemployed. We welcome them to Walmart and hope they will consider us for the next step on their career journey."

Through the Military Family Promise, Walmart has long offered military spouses and veterans the ability to transfer from one Walmart or Sam's Club location to another when a spouse is transferred because of the military. The Military Spouse Career Connection takes the company's commitment one step further by offering any military spouse with a current Uniformed Services Identification Card hiring preference when they apply for a job with the company beginning on November 12, 2018. All candidates must meet the standard hiring criteria, and available positions can be found at [walmartspouseswithamission.com](http://walmartspouseswithamission.com).

For more information about Walmart's Veterans Welcome Home Commitment and overall support to veterans, service members and military families, visit [walmartcareerswithamission.com](http://walmartcareerswithamission.com)

**\*Editor's Note**

These projections and reported hires/promotions include veterans hired under Walmart's original and expanded Veterans Welcome Home Commitment as well as other veterans hired by Walmart in this time frame. While Walmart thinks it is particularly important to support veterans as they make the transition to civilian life, Walmart believes all of them deserve respect and support, no matter when they left active duty.

**About Walmart**

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