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## Acting Governor Guadagno Applauds Service Member and Veteran Employment Services at ESGR Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon

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Seven Seals Award Presented to Acting Governor Guadagno for Her Ongoing Support of Military Men and Women

**Trenton, NJ** - Commending veteran employment services in New Jersey, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today joined Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) for its Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon. Acting Governor Guadagno was presented with the Seven Seals Award in recognition of her advocacy for service members and veterans.

"The ESGR volunteers deserve the praise and awards for their work helping service members and their spouses transition into civilian life," said Acting Governor Guadagno. "As the mother of an Air Force Cadet, who will one day be a veteran himself, I can appreciate the hardships and sacrifices that come with joining the Armed Forces. They are the true heroes."

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers, and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR advocates on behalf of service members and their families, recognizes supportive employers, informs and educates service members and employers regarding their rights and responsibilities, and mediates conflict.

"ESGR's vision is to foster a culture in which all employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States," said Donald Tretola, ESGR State Chair. "I am honored to present to the Acting Governor the Seven Seals Award, the most prestigious award given on a state or federal level by the State Chair to an individual who supports our military men and women. This award represents all seven seals of the Armed Forces. The Acting Governor has been an advocate for our military service members and an advocate for ESGR's mission to serve those who serve."

ESGR's more than 4,700 volunteers represent small business and industry, government, education and the military. Volunteers serve in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Earlier this month, Acting Governor Guadagno announced the Dress Our Vets initiative to collect new and gently-used professional clothing for women veterans entering the civilian workforce. For information on getting involved, visit <http://www.state.nj.us/state/pdf/2015-dress-our-vets.pdf>.

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