



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department of Defense Announces St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Recipient *Tennessee Employer Among Fifteen to Receive Nation's Highest Honor for Supporting Guard and Reserve Employees*

WASHINGTON – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, announced today that St. Jude Children's Research Hospital of Memphis, Tennessee, is one of 15 recipients of the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. This year's recipients were selected from 2,864 nominations received from Guardsmen and Reservists for going far beyond what the federal law requires to support their military employees. Tennessee was the only state in the nation this year to receive two of these awards. In addition to St. Jude, Shofner Vision Center in Nashville was also recognized.

"I'm honored to announce the recipients of the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. "Guardsmen and Reservists across the nation rely on strong bonds with their civilian employers. By recognizing these 15 exceptional employers, the Department of Defense celebrates the contributions made by American employers to our Citizen Warriors. I commend these extraordinary employers for their unwavering commitment to service members and their families."

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was nominated by Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Byers from 3100 Strategic Intelligence Group, Detachment 6. She highlighted the hospital's active volunteer-based Military Support Resource Group that supports service members and their families during deployments. St. Jude employees send cards and care packages to deployed military members and participate in local veterans recognition events. The hospital also maintains a Military Tribute Wall to honor employees currently serving and veterans.

The 2014 Freedom Award recipients below will be honored at a ceremony in the Pentagon Sept. 26:

Employer

Arizona Public Service
AT&T
Capital One
CH2M-WG Idaho
General Mills, Inc.
J.G. Management Systems, Inc.
Los Angeles Fire Department
N.H. Department of Environmental Services
PNC Bank
Shofner Vision Center

Location

Phoenix, Arizona
Dallas, Texas
McLean, Virginia
Idaho Falls, Idaho
Golden Valley, Minnesota
Grand Junction, Colorado
Los Angeles, California
Concord, New Hampshire
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Nashville, Tennessee

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Triumph Pharmaceuticals Inc.
UNC Health Care
Washoe County School District
Zions Bank

Memphis, Tennessee
St. Louis, Missouri
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Reno, Nevada
Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information about the Freedom Award and this year's recipients, visit www.FreedomAward.mil under the Media Tab in the Press Releases section.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 190 employers have been honored with the award. To learn more about ESGR, visit www.ESGR.mil.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at OSD.ESGR-PA@mail.mil or by phone at 571-372-0705.

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