

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Date:** November 13, 2023

**RE:** The City of Westbrook receives the 2023 HIRE Vets Medallion Award from the U.S. Department of Labor

**Westbrook, ME** – Following the Veterans Day weekend, the City of Westbrook is honored to announce that the U.S. Acting Secretary of Labor Julie A. Su recognized the City of Westbrook as one of many recipients of the 2023 HIRE Vets Medallion Award during a virtual award ceremony presented by U.S. Department of Labor on November 8th. We earned the gold award after applying earlier this year and we wish to thank the work of our Veterans Service Officer Arty Ledoux and our Director of Human Resources Joanne LePauloue for their efforts to make this award possible. The Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act (HIRE Vets Act) Medallion Program is the only federal award program that recognizes employers who successfully recruit, hire, and retain veterans.

“The City of Westbrook continues to lead the way and demonstrate its commitment to veterans, and we felt very confident that we were meeting the requirements to apply for the HIRE Vets award. Veterans are constantly encouraged to apply for City of Westbrook employment opportunities every time we engage with them. Once veterans are brought on board, they are encouraged to contact the Office of Veteran’s Services for any assistance both in terms of their prior military service and their professional development as well as assistance accessing VA benefits and programs they earned while in the military. Additionally, veterans employed by the City are offered an opportunity to attend the monthly veteran’s coffee and information sessions at the Community Center during their regular workday.” said Arty Ledoux, Veterans’ Service Officer.

The City of Westbrook is one of four employers in Maine and the only municipality to received this recognition. We join 858 other companies from 49 states, plus the District of Columbia, who have shown a commitment to hiring veterans, but also ensuring that they have a long-term career and growth plan that uses the diverse skills they acquired through their military service. Recipients of the 2023 HIRE Vets Medallion Award meet rigorous employment and veteran integration assistance criteria, including veteran hiring and retention percentages; availability of veteran-specific resources; leadership programming for veterans; pay compensation and tuition assistance programs for veterans. More than 1,600 employers have earned a HIRE Vets Medallion Award since 2018.

We are honored to be recognized with this elite award and proud to support veterans and their career goals. For more information about the program, visit [www.HIREVets.gov](http://www.HIREVets.gov).

