



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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DoD Yellow Ribbon Program Director to speak to Clermont Chamber

The Clermont business community welcomes Glenn Welling, Acting Executive Director for the Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon Program, to the Chamber of Commerce Monthly Membership Luncheon on June 11, 11:30 – 1:30 at Receptions Eastgate. Mr. Welling will provide an overview on how the Program helps National Guard and Reserve Service members and their families overcome challenges associated with combat deployments. The Yellow Ribbon Program gives Service members and their families the opportunity to connect with resources, information, and benefits before they deploy, when they're deployed, and after they return home.

One of the most critical challenges facing returning Service members is employment. In 2008, the Pentagon reported that over 10% of the National Guard and Reserve members were unable to return to their civilian jobs they held before deploying, in spite of the protective provisions in federal law. The problem is especially common among those employed by small businesses: Veterans for America found that some small businesses avoid hiring citizen soldiers. Almost 20% of recent veterans are unemployed, and 25% of those who are employed earn less than \$21,000 per year. Mr. Welling will offer insight on the readiness, relevancy, and experience of the 1.1 million National Guard and Reserve Service members and how they add value to the American work force.

Mr. Glenn Welling has drilled with the Navy Reserve for almost 30 years, and deployed in June 2008 to Iraq, where his mission involved detainee operations at Camps Bucca and Taji. He assumed the position of Deputy Executive Director for Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Program in January 2010, and currently serves as the Acting Executive Director. Mr. Welling brings first-hand knowledge and military experience in deployment-related issues facing the National Guard and Reserve to his position.

Advance registrations should be made by contacting the Chamber at 576-5000. Chamber Members as well as active or veteran members of the military and military support groups may attend the luncheon at the members rate of \$35. The rate for all other attendees is \$50.

Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is an association of approximately 1000 businesses working together to make the Clermont County area the best place to locate, operate and grow your business. The Chamber's key initiatives are advocacy, economic growth and member/investor benefits. Find us at www.clermontchamber.com. The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is Andrew McCreanor of Executive Service Corp.