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**VETERANS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce announces inaugural Veterans in the Workforce award recipients

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – The Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce, the state’s only membership-based business organization serving veterans and military families, announced Wednesday the four inaugural recipients of the Milwaukee Veterans in the Workforce Awards at a luncheon held at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee. The recipients are veteran-friendly businesses who were selected based on their commitment to recruiting, retaining, and supporting veterans and military families in southeastern Wisconsin.

The award recipients are:

- *Veteran Recruitment Campaign:* **FoxConn**, is recognized for prioritizing veteran recruitment as part of their workforce strategy, and using innovative and creative strategies to attract veterans to Wisconsin
- *Veteran-Friendly Employer:* **Brooksource**, is recognized for designing and implementing a company-wide program to train their hiring staff how to interpret, translate, and accurately assess the talents of the veterans they interview
- *Veteran Friendly Workplace:* **WaterStone Bank**, is recognized for exemplary support of nonprofit and community organizations in southeastern Wisconsin serving veterans and military family members
- *Veteran Resource Group:* **Baird**, is recognized for the exemplary work of their veteran associate resource group, PATRIOT

“These employers have gone above and beyond to support veterans in their workplace and their communities,” said Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Saul Newton. “Their commitment sets an example for employers across the state to follow and shows that these organizations know that supporting veterans is an investment worth making.”

The Milwaukee Veterans in the Workforce Awards Luncheon, a collaboration between the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce and Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce held during Milwaukee Veterans Week, recognizes employers in southeastern Wisconsin who have made a commitment to hiring and supporting veterans and military family members. Available research shows that even though more than 90% of employers say hiring veterans is important to their organizations, many do not know the best practices for recruiting and retaining these individuals to their organizations. The region’s economy and veterans community are improved by highlighting best practices for businesses and employers.



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“We are proud and honored at WaterStone Bank to give back to the men and women who fight for our freedom,” said WaterStone Bank’s President and CEO, Doug Gordon. “We cannot thank them enough and we are the Land of the Free because of the Brave.”

“At Baird, we have a large and passionate group of associates who are committed to supporting veterans and their families in so many ways,” said Jeff Freiburger, Baird’s Director of Compliance and Executive Sponsor of the firm’s PATRIOT Associate Resource Group. “We are honored to be recognized by the WI Veterans Chamber of Commerce and the MMAC for our PATRIOT-Associate Group’s efforts to hire and support veterans and their families while they are working at Baird and while they’re serving.”

In addition to the awards presentation, the inaugural event also features remarks from Steven Janke of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and keynote speaker, Joseph Allie, Director of Global Competency at Rockwell Automation. The cost to attend is \$40 for members of the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce and MMAC, and \$50 for the general public.

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About Milwaukee Veterans Week

Dedicated to promoting veteran-owned and veteran-friendly businesses, as well as the vibrant network of nonprofit organizations in our community, Milwaukee Veterans Week is a week-long marketing and events program highlighting the contributions veterans make to their local community.

This program supports our veteran business community by offering a series of business-focused events throughout the week, in addition to encouraging the general public to observe Veterans Day by patronizing local veteran-owned businesses through media coverage and digital promotional efforts.

About the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce

The Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting military veterans, veteran-owned and veteran-friendly businesses. On behalf of our members we serve as an advocate for Wisconsin’s veteran business community and promote economic opportunity for military veterans, military families and veteran-friendly businesses.

About FoxConn Technology Group

Foxconn Technology Group is the most dependable partner for joint-design, joint-development, manufacturing, assembly and after-sales services to global Computer, Communication and Consumer-electronic (“3C”) leaders. Aided by its legendary green manufacturing execution, uncompromising customer devotion and its award-winning proprietary business model, eCMMS, Hon Hai has been the most trusted name in contract manufacturing services (including CEM, EMS, ODM, and CMMS) in the world.

About Brooksource



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Brooksource is a national IT consulting and recruiting company based in Indianapolis, Indiana with 25 offices across the country. The Milwaukee office has been around since 2009, located right in the heart of downtown Milwaukee, servicing Fortune 1000 companies across the state to deliver creative technical solutions and the correct talent to accomplish goals. Project Patriot is our company-wide Veteran recruiting initiative. Our Project Patriot team is committed to finding and fostering relationships with talented Veterans and supporting their job search while serving as advocates and empowering hiring managers to be more Veteran-ready employers. <https://www.brooksource.com/project-patriot>

About WaterStone Bank

WaterStone Bank, established in 1921, offers a full suite of personal and business banking products. The community bank has branches in Wauwatosa, Brookfield, Fox Point/North Shore, Franklin/Hales Corners, Germantown/Menomonee Falls, Greenfield, Oak Creek, Oconomowoc/Lake Country, Pewaukee, Waukesha/Brookfield and West Allis, Wisconsin along with commercial lending branch in Minneapolis, Minnesota. WaterStone Bank is the parent company to Waterstone Mortgage, which offers mortgage banking offices in 25 states. For more information about WaterStone bank go to <http://www.wsbonline.com>. Follow WaterStone Bank on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Google+.

About Baird

Baird is an employee-owned, international wealth management, capital markets, private equity and asset management firm with offices in the United States, Europe and Asia. Established in 1919, Baird has approximately 3,500 associates serving the needs of individual, corporate, institutional and municipal clients. Baird has \$211 billion in client assets as of June 30, 2018. Committed to being a great place to work, Baird ranked No. 12 on FORTUNE's 100 Best Companies to Work For in 2018 – its 15th consecutive year on the list. Baird is the marketing name of Baird Financial Group. Baird's principal operating subsidiaries are Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated in the United States and Robert W. Baird Group Ltd. in Europe. Baird also has an operating subsidiary in Asia supporting Baird's investment banking and private equity operations. For more information, please visit Baird's website at www.rwbaird.com