

Mike Kufchak

IBEW Local 11

Director of Veteran Affairs

297 N. Marengo Ave, Pasadena, Ca. 91101

17 Feb 2022

To: Alaska State Representative Mr. David Nelson.

From: Sergeant Major (Retired) Mike Kufchak, Director of Veterans Affairs
(International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 11).

Subject: Support of House Joint Resolution Number 32.

Representative Nelson, I am pledging my support of House Joint Resolution Number 32 (HJR No. 32) regarding the initiative to incorporate language into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for calendar year 2023. Whereas, Veterans have an increased opportunity for access into apprenticeships regarding Department of Defense (DOD) Projects as well as Contractors following State Labor Laws that would induce Apprentice usage.

An established relationship between Contractors and approved Transitioning Programs can fulfill the need for a skilled trained workforce for government projects. As your aware, Our Veterans, inclusive to their families, sacrifice above and beyond with constant deployments, separation, and relocation. Their spirit to serve Nation before themselves, is not measurable by any standard.

Upon completion of a veteran's service, be it 4 years, or a Career within our Armed Forces. They have proven advanced citizenship. They should at minimum be rewarded with the opportunity to re-join the workforce with a Career that provides the support a Family needs in terms of Financial and Health Care Support. Of which can be provided through Apprenticeship of which you know has become the other academic/skilled college. But ultimately, it's the work garnished by Contractors on those DOD Installations that veterans are acclimated and familiar with regarding language, and culture.

Bottom Line Up Front is that Contractors working in the Trades should be abiding by State Labor Law especially on DOD Projects and should be pulling their Labor from Apprenticeships that support Veterans with Careers.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Kufchak', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

M. Kufchak

Sergeant Major (USMC-Ret)



To: Members of the House Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs.

From: Joelle Hall, President of the Alaska AFL-CIO

CC: Rep. David Nelson

Date: March 3, 2022

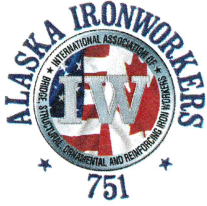
Subject: House Joint Resolution 32 - HIRING OF APPRENTICES/VETERANS

The Alaska AFL-CIO supports HJR 32 on the following grounds:

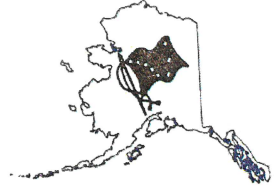
Helping veterans transition to life back home: Apprenticeships are one of the best paths to achieving higher wages and a better life. Apprenticeships lead to gainful employment, higher wages, marketable skills, and job security, allowing veterans and military families to do better. Financial instability is one of the greatest challenges facing veterans and transitioning service members. Fair wages and stable jobs will help us end the epidemic of veteran suicide.

Developing our workforce and building Alaska: Alaska needs workers. The immense federal investment in Alaska's infrastructure is a huge jobs program. As it stands, we do not have enough skilled Alaskans to fill every job coming our way. We must begin training Alaskans now to ensure that these jobs building our state are high-paying, skilled, and are filled by Alaskans. In turn, these working people keep the money in state and improve our economy. As the resolution notes, veterans trained by the armed forces of the United States offer employers workers who are skilled, motivated, mature, responsible, and high character. In turn, veterans that work in Alaska and earn good wages and benefits keep the money in the state and improve our economy.

Path to a union job: Apprenticeships can help lead to union membership. Following WWII, hundreds of thousands of GI's returned home and used a union job (and assistance from the GI bill to go to college), which helped drive the creation of the American middle-class. This generation deserves the same opportunity. We must encourage veterans to pursue pathways - like apprenticeships and union membership - that will bring them success, brotherhood, dignity in the workplace, and fair wages.



ALASKA IRONWORKERS LOCAL 751
8141 Schoon Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99518-3047
Phone: 907-563-4766 Fax:907-563-2855
Email: Anthony.Ladd-iwlu751bm@ironworkers.org
**AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE,
STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**



Anthony Ladd
Business Manager

February 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Alaska HJR 32 – Veteran Apprenticeship on Department of Defense (DOD) Projects

As the Business Manager of Alaska Ironworkers Local 751, I am writing this letter to express my support of Resolution HJR 32 for veteran apprenticeship on DOD projects. This advocates and backs the paramount right that workers have to be organized and optimally chosen for these military driven projects.

I see day in and day out the difference that it makes when there are jobs available to send apprentices out to and the proposal of DOD projects requiring support for apprenticeships is a proposition that we highly support.

Local 751's Apprenticeship Program takes place over the continuity of four years where you accumulate 6000 hours of hands-on-work with skilled ironworkers, as well as 860 hours of safety training in the classroom. Completing these requirements allows an apprentice to become a highly skilled tradesman.

It is now more imperative than ever to support the apprenticeship programs already in place for Alaska's workplace to grow and thrive. This resolution would encourage and promote job availability on our military bases – and yet also support our veterans and the construction industry as a whole.

With Regards,

Anthony Ladd
Business Manager & Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Ironworkers Local 751
907.590.9539



ALASKA SOUTHCENTRAL - SOUTHEASTERN SHEET METAL WORKERS
JOINT APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

1307 EAST 75TH AVENUE SUITE #4
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518-3258

OFFICE PHONE (907) 277-5367
FAX (907) 274-8219

February 28, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Resolution HJR 32 for veteran apprenticeship on DOD projects. Registered apprenticeships have proven to be the industry leader in construction education. It is paramount that we provide quality occupations to our Veteran population while at the same time providing the on-the-job-training needed for apprentices to become journey level technicians.

Local 23 has partnered with Helmets to Hard Hats and more recently the SMART Hero's program, to great success. These programs have brought quality Veteran apprentices into our program, but that is only half of the equation. Jobs need to be present for these new apprentices to learn on. They need the time to work with licensed Journeypersons and use real life situations to apply class knowledge. Resolution HJR 32, will provide this.

We are expecting to see a high demand for skilled trades workers. To make sure that these workers live up to the word "skilled", we need to support Union Apprenticeships and apprentice utilization policies. Training our next generation of construction workers, while at the same time providing career opportunities for Veterans is a win for all involved.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bold
Training Coordinator
SMART Local 23 JATC
907-277-5367



1740 N. Terrilou Court • Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 357-6400 • 1-888-367-6482 • FAX (907) 357-6430
www.nitalaska.com

TO: Rep. David Nelson

FR: Joey Crum

RE: HJR 32

DATE: 3/1/2022

I support HJR 32 – Encouraging the United States Congress to Establish Hiring Goals for Veterans. After service to our country, often at great sacrifice, setting a minimum goal for the number of jobs in the civilian workforce is the least we can do. The training our veterans receive during their military service in many instances transfers skill that is equal to or greater than journey level and reserving a place in the workforce for the highly skilled is reasonable. A goal of 10 percent of the workforce on defense projects would be a good start.

Joey Crum

President /CEO

Northern Industrial Training, LLC



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer
520 E. 34th Ave., Suite 102, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 751-8500 • Fax (907) 751-8599

February 25, 2022

Via Email: Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov
Representative Tuck
Chair
House Military & Veteran Affairs Committee
120 4th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Letter of Support for HJR 32: Encouraging the United States Congress to establish hiring goals for apprentices and veteran apprentices.

Chair Tuck and members of the Military & Veteran Affairs Committee:

Teamsters Local 959 Supports House Joint Resolution for hiring preferences involving apprentices and veteran hire.

Members of our armed forces serving our nation deserve opportunities that will deliver comfortable living wages once they transition from the service to the workforce. HJR 32 encourages the development of more lanes for transitioning service members to gain access to trades utilizing their years of prior experience.

Military members of every branch have exposure to operating heavy equipment which provides them the skill to be certified for commercial drivers' licenses (CDL) through apprenticeship programs. Transitioning members entering a trade union will have more opportunity to have guaranteed work on DoD funded projects. Teamsters Local 959 is in full support of HJR 32 and we urge its passing.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Patrick FitzGerald
Political Coordinator
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959

Letter of Support for House Joint Resolution No. 32

I write this letter in support of House Resolution Number 32, not only as a representative of UA Local 367 Plumbers & Steamfitters, but also as a military veteran. I understand and appreciate the employment benefits offered to transitioning military personnel through bona fide apprenticeship programs offered by Unions.

Our transitioning men and women have proven they have what it takes to succeed in the construction crafts. They have attention to detail, know how to handle instruction, and have been conditioned to work in a structured environment such as is often found on construction sites. Their ability to adapt and overcome in all types of situations gives them an advantage when entering the construction trades, as jobsites are often required to be flexible when considering the multitude of crafts needed to work in unison, or the complexities of materials not arriving when needed.

Our transitioning members of the armed forces have volunteered to serve their country, and as such, made the determination to seek training which is often very specific in nature and doesn't always transition seamlessly into the civilian sector. Whether it's someone who played in the Army Band, a Marine Field Artillery Specialist, a Navy Cook, or a Load-Out Specialist in the Air Force who has decided to transition back into the civilian sector, we need to ensure they are afforded the same opportunity of success when exiting service as they were given when entering service.

Regards,
Brandon McGuire
Metal Trades Business Agent
UA Local 367 Plumbers & Steamfitters
United States Army, February 1999-2007

VIPER TRANSITIONS

www.vipertransitions.org

Representative David Nelson
State Capitol Room 13
Juneau AK, 99801 HJR 32

Re: House Joint Resolution No. 32 (HJR 32)

Representative Nelson,

I am writing in support of HJR 32. As a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan I have seen firsthand the struggles veterans face when transitioning to civilian careers. In my opinion, these struggles are tied directly to the veteran suicide rate that plagues our veteran communities.

I founded the non-profit, VIPER Transitions, to confront these struggles. Our mission is to end veteran suicide through the elimination of its main causes: veteran unemployment, underemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, and a fractured support system. We partner with numerous organizations and companies involved in construction as well as other industries. Our partners do more than offer a “thank you for your service,” they commit to training and hiring veterans. VIPER Transitions focuses our effort on the careers in the construction industry which rank in the top three career fields sought by veterans upon leaving the military. We need the support of our elected officials to do what is in their power to create opportunities to assist veterans in entering these careers. VIPER Transitions supports the intent of HJR 32 which opens the door to career opportunities on DOD Projects creating the opportunities needed for veterans to succeed after their service is complete.

I encourage all Representatives to support this resolution and what it stands for. It is time to do more than offer these veterans our gratitude. It is time to act. It is time to show the men and women who would willingly sacrifice themselves for our freedom, that Alaska, and our indeed our Nation, are ready to support them when the uniform comes off. Thank you for bringing forward this important resolution.

Respectfully,



Kyle Kaiser
President
VIPER Transitions

Redefining military transitions, one veteran at a time.

VIPER AK Inc is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our Employer Identification Number is 82-5454885



*Three Park Place
Annapolis, MD 21401
Telephone: (410) 269-2000
Fax: (410) 267-0382*

February 18, 2022

Dear Alaska State Legislatures,

The United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA), affiliated with the national building trades, represents over 359,000 plumbers, fitters, welders, and service technicians and we stand in favor of Alaska State House Resolution NO. 32.

The UA has partnered with the Department of Defense to provide transitioning military service members, from all branches of service, the opportunity to participate in the UA Veterans in Piping (VIP) program. The UA's VIP program is an award-winning program that offers high-quality skills training free of cost to active-duty military personnel who are transitioning back to the civilian workforce. VIP graduates are provided direct entry into a 5-year UA apprenticeship program and a career in the pipe trades industry in an agreed upon location nationwide. The UA established the VIP program in 2008 as a means of addressing two important issues: 1. A growing shortage in the construction industry of skilled workers due to the combined effects of an aging workforce, increased demand, and lack of skilled training for youth. 2. Despite the fact U.S. military veterans are disciplined and highly trainable, they continue to experience an exceedingly high unemployment rate upon transition from the military. This mission cannot be accomplished alone; we need your help to combat these issues that our nations heroes have faced upon transition for decades.

You have a unique opportunity through this resolution to honor veterans by providing access to quality jobs and support systems to aid the reintegration process for thousands of men and women who have served in our armed forces of the United States. As responsible and empathetic leaders in the construction industry we can all play a critical role in helping veterans' transition back into civilian life by opening job pathways and creating supportive workplace cultures. By supporting and empowering veterans as vital members of the community you will be changing lives, not only for the service member, but their families as well.

The UA thanks you for your support of this resolution and for your service to the state of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Micheal J. Hazard
Program Manager/Veterans in Piping
UA Education & Training Department
International Training Fund
Three Park Place
Annapolis, MD 21401