

## 'Hire A Hero' Program Links Vets and Aerospace Jobs in Wichita, KS

Labor and business leaders in Wichita, KS, home to aerospace giants Spirit, Boeing, Raytheon, Cessna and Bombardier, announced a new program for America's veterans. Hire A Hero, a free program of the non-profit Armed Forces Support Foundation, helps transitioning military veterans find good civilian jobs. IAM President Tom Buffenbarger joined with Spirit Aero-Systems Chief Executive Officer Jeff Turner, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Ret. Maj. Gen. Matthew Caulfield and leaders of the state's largest aerospace firms to unveil the new program in Wichita.

"We believe the Hire A

Hero program is an important answer to the growing shortage of skilled workers in high-tech manufacturing and aerospace jobs," said

Buffenbarger. There are thousands of aviation-related companies in Kansas and about 40 percent of Wichita's aerospace workforce is set to retire within the next four years.

"The aerospace industry is critical to both our U.S. and Kansas economies," said Jeff Turner, Spirit Aero-Systems CEO. "Attracting and training talent for our

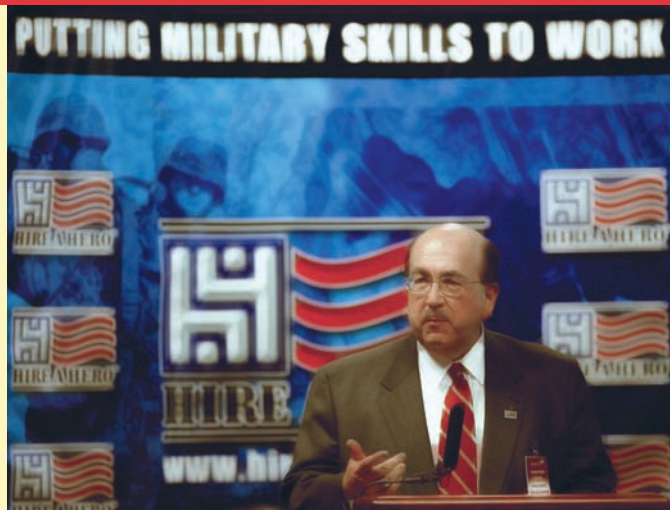


Photo By Randy Tobias

*IAM President Tom Buffenbarger speaks at the joint labor and aerospace industry unveiling of the Hire A Hero program in Wichita, KS.*

profession is close to all our hearts." Turner predicted Wichita aircraft firms will need to fill between 5,000 and 6,000 new jobs this year alone.

Kansas Gov. Sebelius signed a proclamation of support for the Hire A Hero program and pledged to promote the program. For more information, visit [www.hireahero.com](http://www.hireahero.com).

## 2007 Aerospace Conference Focused on Growth



*IAM president Tom Buffenbarger, left, and GVP Rich Michalski, center, congratulate retiring Aerospace Coordinator Dick Schneider at the 2007 Aerospace Conference.*

More than 200 local and district lodge leaders, staff and guests gathered in Portland, OR for the 2007 IAM Aerospace Conference. "Focus on Growth" was the conference theme, with presenters and delegates sharing information on organizing strategies.

"The entire aerospace industry is going through changes, but there are opportunities amid the turmoil," said Headquarters GVP and Conference Chair Rich Michalski. "From organizing workers under the Service Contract Act to negotiating new contracts that feature the IAM National Pension Plan, there are innovative ways to grow this union."