



**STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)

WEB SITE: <http://dva.state.wi.us>

E-MAIL: [Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us)

FAX: (608) 264-7616

Jim Doyle, Governor

John A. Scocos, Secretary

**Attention Newsroom—News Release**

June 1, 2005  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Schuster 608-267-1797  
or Kathleen Scholl 608-267-3582

**Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs introduces *Neighbors Serving Neighbors***  
*Applebee's and Pizza Hut join support for veterans through the "Mission: Welcome Home" program*

(MADISON) -- Wisconsin Reservists and National Guard members have been answering the call to serve overseas leaving their jobs and families. As a result, those families find themselves in a financial setback even after their loved ones return.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to welcome the Wisconsin Hospitality Group to the "Mission: Welcome Home" program with their *Neighbors Serving Neighbors* project. This is a program that Wisconsin Hospitality Group, a locally owned franchise company that operates 36 Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bars in Wisconsin and 86 Pizza Huts in Milwaukee, Green Bay and Wausau areas, created to offer free dinners to families of reservists serving overseas. Booklets of free dinner certificates redeemable every month, beginning in June through the end of November, are being delivered to all identified family support coordinators for Reserve Component military units.

Department Secretary John A. Scocos said, "This initiative by the Wisconsin Hospitality Group, which includes Applebee's and Pizza Hut restaurants in Wisconsin, is one more terrific way our communities are working together with the Department's 'Mission: Welcome Home' program. Our service members will know how much they are appreciated."

"It seems that no matter what is put forth for these families, it's just never enough," says Mark Dillon, CEO of the Wisconsin Hospitality Group. "You can only imagine when families finally find a moment away from the emotional worry of their loved one serving, they likely spend that time wondering how to pay their bills."

For more information about "Mission: Welcome Home," go to [www.dva.state.wi.us](http://www.dva.state.wi.us), or call toll free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387).