



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Returning Veterans & Regional Employers are Big Winners  
at Empire City Casino's Veterans Job Fair  
Hundreds Declare "Hire a Hero" Effort a Resounding Success!**

(August 23, 2012) Returning veterans and hiring employers were the big winners today at Empire City Casino. Hundreds of job seeking veterans attended a Veterans Job Fair to try their luck, with the hope of securing employment. The event was organized by Empire City Casino as part of a "Hire a Hero" effort to encourage regional employers to hire military service men and women.

"We owe these young men and women a debt we'll never be able to repay," said **Timothy Rooney**, owner and operator of Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway. "This is our way of saying thank you and our way of giving other employers a way to show their gratitude as well."

Veterans from across the tri-state area came armed with their resume and charm to make their best first impressions. Some donned business suits while others dressed to impress in their military uniforms.

The day was hailed a success by the forty-five employers who were looking to add veterans to their employee ranks. Many who regularly attend veteran job fairs indicated that this was one of the best-attended events they had seen, noting that the lack of a centralized outreach process makes it hard to get the information to veterans. They were also grateful that Empire City Casino not only organized the event but underwrote the costs so that it was free for employers and veterans to participate.

Job seekers were impressed as well. **Timothy Parker of the Bronx** served in the Air Force and noted that he had been to several job fairs before, but none as well done. He has been unemployed for two years but hasn't given up yet. **Parker** was grateful to Empire City Casino for organizing the event and said, "Military people need society's help...Programs like this didn't exist years ago, veterans had to fight for jobs. Now help is coming."

For some, it was their first such job fair. **David McCullough of New Rochelle** served in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2008 and has been unemployed for a month. He was also surprised by how nicely the event was organized and was pleased to have the opportunity to network. **McCullough** stated, "Any help to our vets is important. They need all the help they can possibly get, especially in this economy. It's very hard to transition back into society for most of these guys. They don't get to practice interview or resume writing skills, so something like this is excellent. They are hardworking people who just need a chance."

While some military members may have been less confident in approaching would-be employers, **Peter Hartnett, 46, of New York City** clearly understands what veterans have to offer, after having served in the National Guard for six years after 9/11. **Hartnett** explained, "Veterans are great workers.

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They are trained to take orders and be obedient, and can work under pressure. They are very resourceful and job fairs like this are great opportunities for them to show their skills, skills that most people today don't have."

The event was certainly a success for **Vincent Ceresa, 30, of the Bronx**. Ceresa is a current member of the National Guard and this was his first job fair. He said that everyone at Empire City sent off a 'good vibe' and obviously wanted to help veterans. He was happy with the job opportunities available and had scheduled three interviews with employers.

For some of our brave military members, this job fair allowed them to explore opportunities beyond the military. **Rafael Salas, 19, of Manhattan**, who currently serves in the Army Reserves said that the large variety of employers opened his mind to opportunities he had never considered. While **Star Fortes, 24, of Brooklyn**, who has been in the Army for nearly three years, said that this was her first job fair and she attended in order to explore opportunities and determine if she wanted to make a career in the Army.

Many of the veterans expressed appreciation for a fair that was strictly for them. **Robert Morales of New York City** indicated that he was hesitant to come to the fair but liked that it was strictly for veterans. "Usually job fairs are long lines and handing in your resume," said **Morales**. "This is great because there is time for more conversation."

Recently returning war veterans were not the only job seekers on hand today. **Paul Potenza, 53, of Yonkers** served in the Navy for nearly four years and has been unemployed for a month. He was pleased with the job fair and found it to be very helpful in his job search.

Employers were equally enthused with the turnout and quality of candidates, and concurred that Empire City Casino's efforts were a resounding success. **Kate Gorton of Aaron's Franchise** in upstate New York indicated that this was one of the better job fairs that she has attended, providing a beautiful set up, very good flow and direction and a great variety of opportunities.

**George Futterman and Tom Honey of Prudential** indicated that they are always looking to hire veterans and have a veteran recruitment program entitled "Bringing Talent Home", the only financial company in the area to have such an effort in place. They praise veterans as ideal employees who have great discipline as well as great leadership skills.

WFAS of Cumulus Radio aired live from the event from 11am to 3pm, in addition to recruiting potential employees, and took the opportunity to conduct on-air interviews with employers and veterans, as well as a few of the elected officials who turned out to support the cause, including Assemblyman Gary Pretlow and Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick. Also in attendance were Yonkers City Councilman Mike Breen, who switched his political hat for his employer to recruit candidates for his business, as well as Rachel Estroff, Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Shelley Mayer.

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Links to photos from Veterans Job Fair below. Photo credit: Bill Wilson



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[IMG\\_2684.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_2667.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_2688.jpg](#)



[IMG\\_2678.jpg](#)



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**About:** Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway features: 5,300 slot machines, electronic roulette, craps, sic bo and baccarat tables. Italian cuisine is featured in Nonno's Trattoria, and trackside dining in the Empire Terrace Restaurant, which overlooks the track for live harness racing; a quick bite is available at the International Food Court and its wide-ranging menu. The multi-faceted Good Time Room is available for parties, benefits, weddings, and major events for up to 400. Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway is located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (at Central Avenue) in Yonkers, New York, Westchester County, (I-87 to Exit 2). Empire City Casino is open seven days a week from 9:00AM to 4:00AM. For more information, call 914.968.4200 or log onto [www.empirecitycasino.com](http://www.empirecitycasino.com).

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