Wisconsin veteran honored nationally for helping fellow vets find employment

Air Force veteran Michael James of Saukville, Wisconsin, was selected as the recipient of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) National Commander’s Award for the 2020 Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative. Saukville will be formally recognized during the DAV & Auxiliary Virtual Salute program scheduled for Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. EDT on DAV’s website (www.dav.org/virtualsalute).

Saukville is the local veterans’ employment representative for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. He ensures all service members separating from the military in Milwaukee County are briefed on resources and opportunities available to them. He also dedicates his time and effort to facilitating relationships and awareness to improve veteran employment in his community.

“Michael has a drive and passion for his work on behalf of fellow veterans,” said DAV National Commander Stephen “Butch”
Whitehead. “It’s especially critical to veterans at a time when their future career opportunities may be unknown. He shows them they’re not alone, that when they hang up their uniform, people will remember the sacrifices they made and that they’ll be part of the veteran community.”

In 2018, Cook made 784 employer contacts on behalf of veterans, attended 16 job fairs and hiring events that brought in more than 1,500 job seekers, participated in five information fairs at local elementary schools, and corresponded with his state’s governor on the importance and value of the services provided by his department.

“Michael has made a remarkable impact on the veteran – as well as the disabled veteran – community,” said DAV National Employment Director Jeff Hall, “His advocacy also breeds credibility with employers, largely because he’s a veteran himself. We’re proud to recognize his work and his continued service on behalf of fellow veterans.”

About DAV:
DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them, fighting for the interests of America’s injured heroes on Capitol Hill, providing employment resources to veterans and their families, and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a nonprofit organization with more than 1 million veteran members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at www.dav.org.