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**For Immediate Release**

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# DA Receives Prestigious Award for Support of Reserve Military Employees

## *Pro Patria Award for Greatest Support of Guard and Reserve Employees*

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that her office was recognized by the Department of Defense with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Pro Patria Award for 2017. This is presented annually by each ESGR State Committee to one small, one large, and one public sector employer in their state or territory, in recognition of being the number one employer of Guard and Reserve troops. The award recognizes the San Diego DA's Office demonstrating great support to employees who serve in uniform through its leadership and practices, including adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. This is the highest level award that may be bestowed by an ESGR State Committee.

**“As District Attorney, I’m deeply honored to receive this Pro Patria award by the Department of Defense on behalf of the District Attorney’s Office for hiring and accommodating military servicepersons who are called to military duty,”** said District Attorney Summer Stephan. **“‘Pro Patria’ means ‘For One’s Country’ and it is humbling to be recognized for doing what is right to allow these heroes to serve our country. San Diego County is home to the largest concentration of military personnel and by hiring and retaining qualified candidates; we enhance public safety through their unique perspective and selfless character for service, dedication and loyalty.**

**[\[WATCH THE VIDEO of Award being presented to Deputy DA Harrison Kennedy on behalf of the DA’s Office.\]](#)**

The San Diego District Attorney’s Office has established policies to ensure their employees who serve in the military are given time off and supported during drill weekends, annual training, military schools and deployments. This includes 30 days of paid military leave each year, a pro-service culture that actively encourages reservists to leverage their military leadership and skills

during their work promoting public safety, and a salary-matching policy for deployed reservists so they can serve our country without suffering a financial hardship.

“During two, twelve-month deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office stood by my side to ensure my family was taken care of and allowed me to focus on getting home safely,” said Deputy District Attorney Harrison Kennedy who is also a Major in the United States Army Reserve. “This helped to ensure the bills were paid on time, my children did not have to switch medical providers, and I was able to have quality time with them after returning home.”

There are several employees currently in the Guard or Military Reserves. The San Diego District Attorney's Office highly values candidates with military service, as they are educated job seekers, who have strong work ethics, exceptional leadership skills and come from diverse backgrounds.

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**About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office**

*The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.*