



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Norfolk DA Morrissey singled out for his support of Guard and Reserve

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Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey, center right, accepts the ESGR's Pro Patria Award for his "outstanding" support of his employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve, including Capt. Sean Riley, of Weymouth, who prosecutes felony cases in Morrissey's office. Braintree's John Pelose, at left, is Area Chair for the organization, and Paul Zbikowski, at right, serves as Massachusetts Chair for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Just days before Memorial Day, District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey was singled out to receive the 2020 Pro Patria Award recognizing his "outstanding service to the national defense" for his treatment of his employees in the Guard and Reserve.

It is the highest level award given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense.

According to Massachusetts ESGR chair Paul Zbikowski, the organization awards a Pro Patria award in each state each year to a private organization that employs more than 500, a private organization that employs fewer than 500, and a public sector employer who has "demonstrated the greatest support to Guard and Reserve employees through their leadership and practices."

Morrissey had previously been awarded the ESGR's "Above and Beyond" award and "Patriot Award," according to John Pelose, the area chair for the Massachusetts Committee and a Braintree resident. Both are pre-requisites for the organization's highest honor.

"Employers can strive to support the Guard members and Reservists who work for us, and give them the support they need, or employers can drag their feet," District Attorney Morrissey said after receiving the award at the war memorial near Coletta Field in Quincy. "My father was a reservist for years after his active duty in the US Army. I know what it means to those who serve and their families to have their jobs not only secure but supportive as they serve us. It is the right thing to do, and I hope other employers also see that."