This Veterans Day, AFPM salutes all of the brave men and women that served our country in the military. If you want to thank veterans for their service and sacrifice, there is no better way than by hiring them. According to the latest estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are approximately 453,000 unemployed veterans in the United States, many of which possess leadership training and vocational skills that employers covet.

AFPM member companies such as Andeavor, Chevron, Fluor Corporation, KPMG LLP, Phillips 66 and many others have been working for years to bring military veterans into the refining and petrochemical industries. In total, the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries employ nearly 185,000 veterans, including nearly 6,000 females and 41,000 minority veterans amounting to 10% of our industries' workforce.

At AFPM, we have teamed up with Hiring Our Heroes and American Jobs for America's Heroes (AJAH), two national campaigns aimed at connecting veterans with employers. AFPM also continues to enhance the range of veterans-based educational tools and information on its AFPM Workforce Development website.

If you are in need of dedicated, trained, and disciplined workers, I encourage you to hire a veteran. There is an abundance of resources to help connect you with veterans seeking employment. It's a decision that is not only good for veterans but is also good for business. **Blog originally appeared on Chet Thompson's* LinkedIn*.*

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