

Ironworkers Local 75 offer opportunity to veterans

The construction industry has pledged to hire more than 100,000 military veterans over the next five years, and the apprenticeship program of Ironworkers Local 75 is available to provide veterans with the skills needed to get one of those high-paying jobs.

More than 100 American construction companies came together at veterans' employment symposium, hosted by the U.S. Department of Labor and Joining Forces in February, to announce that they plan to hire more than 100,000 veterans within the next five years.

Ironworkers Local 75 has long been a proud participant in Helmets to Hardhats, a program that bridges the gap between the military and apprenticeship programs.

Local 75 Business Manager Buzz Murphy recalls turning to the apprenticeship after serving his country. He says the training afforded him a pathway to a good, rewarding career.

“We make it our goal to connect our veterans with the education they’ll need to find good jobs in our trade,” Murphy says. “It’s the least we can do for the good men and women who proudly serve our country.”

The apprentice program of Ironworkers Local 75 prepares workers for a career that offers good wages and excellent benefits. And while many in college sink into debt preparing for a career, Ironworker apprentices earn while they learn. The starting wage of apprentices in the Ironworkers Local 75 is 60 percent that of an experienced journeyman – \$15.91 an hour, plus health insurance and pension benefits.

“All men and women who have sacrificed for our country in our armed services deserve opportunities for good jobs worthy of their character and their achievements,” said Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. “The Department of Labor will do whatever it takes to help our veterans translate their skills and leadership into jobs, and I am inspired by the commitment displayed today by the construction industry and all our partners in helping to achieve that mission.”

The construction industry is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that [construction](#) is one of the [fastest-growing industries](#) in the nation, with job growth of more than 1.5 million jobs between now and 2022. [Jobs for Ironworkers](#) are projected to grow 22 percent between 2012 and 2022, and median income for Ironworkers is nearly 33 percent higher than the median for all jobs.

[Learn more about Helmets to Hardhats by clicking here.](#)