

UAW Local 1853 and Saturn Receive ESGR Award

In what appeared to be a Military staff meeting on the Saturn site this past Monday, the Welcome Center was filled with military personnel in their finest uniforms and accompanied by Local 1853 officials, such as UAW International Rep. Harold Cox, Chairman Mike Herron, President Rick Martinez and Veteran's Committee Chairman Larry Robinson. The Welcome Center became the stage for an award ceremony where a coveted Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) Award was given to the UAW-Saturn team. It was the work of Local 1853 member, George F. Kerner Jr., a team member from Body Systems (also a reservist Sgt.). Kerner wrote a letter recommending such award be given to our organization because of the support Local 1853 and Saturn have given him when he was called to active duty recently, Kerner's letter to the ESGR department explained how the UAW-negotiated policy for active members in the military is above and beyond the call of duty. The UAW-Saturn policy allows reservists and guards called to active duty to keep all of their benefits and pay.

In an interview with UAW News this week, Sgt. Kerner stated, "Colonel Franks of the 2145th GSU Army Reserve informed me that my letter to the ESGR had generated great enthusiasm and an award would be presented to the UAW and Saturn for their support of all guards and reservists."

Kerner says, "I was so glad to see that the UAW and Saturn got the award for helping out the guards and

reservists. We, as weekend warriors, thank the UAW and Saturn for taking care of us and our families when we are deployed. It is my wish that the UAW-Saturn team will get a National award or recognition for helping us when our country needs it most. We are proud to be Americans supporting our country."

Local 1853/Saturn member Mark D. Young, from Chassis ION, participated in the ESGR award ceremony. Young is one of many team members that have served on



active duty. He belongs to the 130th Rear Area Operation Command of the Army National Guard based in Tullahoma. Young tells UAW News he was proud to be a part of the ceremony on Monday and he is also grateful for the support that Saturn and the UAW have provided while serving our country. "I feel humble when I return to work after having been in active duties. The gratitude of the people here is exceptional; they are so grateful and usually thank me for serving."

President Rick Martinez wraps up this



great occasion by thanking all our members who serve in our armed forces. "With their sacrifices, they defend the freedom of our country and on behalf of all Local 1853 members, we say THANK YOU."

The award has only been given to 15 businesses or organizations in the state of Tennessee. UAW President Rick Martinez and Saturn People Systems VP Brian McClelland signed a statement of support for the Guard and Reserves before Monday's ceremony ended.

