

# Employers, Elected Officials, and Community Leaders Join Forces to Combat High Unemployment Rates for Military Spouses

First Lady Jill Biden provided keynote remarks to more than 1,800 virtual attendees at the U.S. Chamber Foundation's [Hiring Our Heroes](#)' Fifth Annual Military Spouse Employment Summit last week. The summit highlighted notable advancements in military spouse hiring and [gave actionable items](#) to the military community and stakeholders.

**Why it matters:** The unemployment crisis in the military spouse community that has been exacerbated by the global pandemic. With a 38% unemployment rate, military spouses remain an untapped talent source for American businesses.

## Key takeaways:

- A panel with U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) shined light on legislative priorities surrounding military spouse employment, including a [current bill](#) that contains a work opportunity tax credit and flexible spending arrangements for childcare services for uniformed services families.
- During the summit, HOH launched a new military spouse hiring initiative, [Discover The Talent](#), to empower businesses to support military spouse employment by working to target them for job opportunities then share their success.
- The [Military Spouse Research Collective \(MSERC\)](#), which brings together stakeholders to build a common foundation for how to approach military spouse employment research, was also announced at the summit.

**Congratulations to** Jasmine Tiara, a Navy spouse and owner of [Black Wallet](#), who received the [2021 Military Spouse Entrepreneur Impact Award](#). **Suzie Schwartz**, spouse of retired Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, received the Bonnie Amos Impact Award for Lifetime Achievement.

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