

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LIBERTY UTILITIES – EMPIRE DISTRICT TO BE HONORED
BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

JOPLIN, MO – May 16, 2018 – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, will recognize David Swain, President - Central Region; Brian Berkstresser, Plant Manager - State Line; and Curt Kennedy, Manager of Maintenance - State Line, of Liberty Utilities - Empire District. Each will be presented with a Patriot Award in recognition of their extraordinary support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Friday, May 18, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., the Patriot Award ceremony will be conducted at the State Line Power Plant. Colonel (Ret.) Steven Vanderhoof, ESGR Area 4 Chair, will officiate the ceremony. The candidates were nominated by Nick Hite for their demonstrated support of the military National Guard and Reserve Service employees and their family members. Hite works as a Technician/Operator for at the State Line plant. Hite is a Staff Sergeant and is currently deployed with his unit in support of contingency operations.

David Swain, President, explains, "Liberty Utilities is proud to support our employees serving in the military. We are grateful for their commitment, service, and sacrifice. Receiving the Patriot Award is an honor, and we look forward to Nick's safe return to his family and friends."

According to Rear Admiral (Ret) Lee Metcalf, ESGR Missouri Chair, "The Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees. Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units."

Liberty Utilities – Empire District, Joplin, Missouri, is a subsidiary of U.S. based Liberty Utilities Co., and headquarters for the Company's Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to nearly 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding services in the Empire area, visit www.empiredistrict.com. For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

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