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### **Winnebago County Health Department's Shelley Brown-Giebel Honored with ESGR Patriot Award from Department of Defense**

**Oshkosh, Wis – April 27, 2022** — Shelley Brown-Giebel, preparedness specialist and COVID-19 response leader at the Winnebago County Health Department, was honored with a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in recognition of extraordinary support of their employees on duty with the 128 Air Control Squadron.

"The Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees who, like the citizen soldiers before them, have answered their nation's call to serve," said LeRoy Frahm, Wisconsin ESGR Ombudsman Director and Volunteer. "Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's Guard and Reserve units. Nearly half of our nation's defense is in the National Guard and Reserves today."

Master Sergeant Kenton Craddock of the Air National Guard nominated Brown-Giebel for her outstanding assistance and coordination with the National Guard during their COVID-19 response mission. Brown-Giebel has led the health department's efforts in testing and vaccine throughout the pandemic.

"While I served on state military orders assigned to Winnebago and surrounding counties, Shelley excelled as a bridge between the Wisconsin National Guard and numerous county entities, ensuring mission success for testing and vaccination sites for over 50 Soldiers and Airmen at dozens of locations over an 18-month span," stated Master Sergeant Kenton Craddock, "Her outstanding leadership and work ethic, combined with her kindness and care, resonated with my troops and she made us feel like family."

Brown-Giebel expressed her pleasure at this surprise recognition from ESGR. She said, "Each day this group of dedicated men and women motivated me to be the best person I could be and to treat them with respect and gratitude, and I am a better person because of the experience. No words can express how honored and touched I am by this recognition."

Following the award presentation, Winnebago County Health Department Director/Health Officer Doug Gieryn signed an official Statement of Support for all those who serve in the Guard and Reserve, which will be displayed in health department's lobby.

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About the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve:

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense operational committee, facilitates and promotes a cooperative culture of employer support for National Guard and Reserve service by developing and advocating mutually beneficial initiatives, recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and policies, resolving potential conflicts between employers and their service members, and acting as the employers' principal advocate within DoD. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. Wisconsin Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, 2400 Wright Street, Madison, Wisconsin, 53704, 608-242-3169, [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)