



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UNITED ASSOCIATION GENERAL PRESIDENT HITE STATEMENT ON THE
PASSAGE OF THE VOW TO HIRE HEROES ACT OF 2011**

Washington, D.C.—Continuing his push to help the economy, President Obama signed into law a critical component of the *American Jobs Act*, entitled the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011*, which not only grants companies a \$5,600 to \$9,600 tax break for hiring veterans, but also expands education and training opportunities, enhances and eases the transition back to civilian life and helps veterans transfer their military skills into marketable workplace skills.

“I want to commend President Obama, Senator Murray (D-WA) and Congressman Miller (R-FL) for their bipartisan leadership on this issue. Helping our veterans transition from military life to the American workforce has been a top priority of the UA for decades--because, simply put, it’s the right thing to do. The United Association’s Veterans in Piping (VIP) program has been nationally recognized by the Secretary of Labor and other prominent leaders for its commitment to providing our service men and women with the lifelong skills they need for a successful career in the piping industry,” remarked General President Hite.

With the unemployment level for servicemen and women at an unacceptable 12.1%, coupled with more Iraq veterans returning home through the end of the year, this legislation provides crucial assistance to help our military heroes properly, and honorably, transition back into the American workforce.

The law, which is fully paid for, was passed with an overwhelming majority in both Chambers earlier this fall.

“No veteran who fought for our country should have to fight for a job when they come home,” President Obama announced in a White House statement.

UA Special Representative Anne St. Eloi; UA VIP spokesman and Major General Matt Caulfield (retired), UA General Counsel, Jim O’Connell, O’Donaghue and O’Donaghue; and Lonnie Coleman representing the Mechanical Contractors Association of America, were in attendance for the bill signing at the White House.

As always the Department encourages you to become engaged in the legislative process, here in Washington and at home in your state and local communities. Take action and visit <http://www.uagetinvolved.org/> to learn more information.

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The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO or "United Association" as it is commonly known, represents over 350,000 plumbers, pipe fitters, sprinkler fitters and service technicians in North America. For more information, please visit <http://www.ua.org>.