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**(Neb.)-Heineman Wins National Honor From VA group**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/25/2013 06:48 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Gov. Dave Heineman has won national recognition from a state veteran-affairs group.

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs named the governor as its "Advocate of the Year," for his work on behalf of military service members, veterans and their families.

The group awarded Heineman for his promotion of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Hiring Our Heroes" program, an initiative that encourages employers to hire veterans. On Friday, Heineman kicked off a public awareness campaign intended to bring public awareness to military and veteran suicides.

Heineman served in the U.S. Army for five years.