



## Made in America Panel Urges Employers to Put Veterans at the Front of the Hiring Line

Some 4.8 million jobs were created in June, exceeding projections; the unemployment rate stands at 11.1 percent, which also exceeded projections; while the second wave of the COVID-19 virus will continue to set back reopening of the economy, we can't shut the country down; it's still troublesome that 1.4 million people have been added to the unemployment numbers; we need to make sure our military veterans don't have to suffer emotionally or financially; veterans are experienced and trained and should go to the front of the hiring line without having to go through unnecessary certifications; suicides among veterans are on the rise and there needs to be more mental health accommodations; America needs to engage with the rest of the world on trade; trade has improved our quality of life and helped bring down domestic prices of clothes and food; a robust trade program creates more jobs; neither the Democrats nor Republicans have a vision for improved trade, but Chinese theft of intellectual property continues to be problematic, were among the topics discussed by Neal Asbury and Dr. Rich Roffman on the nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates and globally on the Armed Forces Network).

Neal and Dr. Roffman began the show with hopes that July would usher in better economic news and more opening of the economy. The fact that 4.8 million new jobs were created in June is a good sign, which surpassed expectations. The unemployment rate has dropped to 11.1 percent – another good sign for economic recovery. The spike in COVID-19 cases could put a damper on the recovery, as was the news that unemployment numbers still hover near 1.4 million people.

"This is a setback, but we've gotten out of economic downturns like this before and we will re-emerge even stronger," predicted Neal, who noted that Americans are resilient.

The first guest on Made in America was Code of Vets founder and Air Force veteran, Gretchen Smith, whose organization seeks to "bring awareness and seek practical solutions to the daily struggles and issues of our veteran community. Our mission is to take care of our own. One veteran at a time. We are coalescing our base to be a powerful voice speaking for the rights for veterans with dignity and respect."

Smith notes that veterans need help when transitioning from the military to civilian life. And this comes at a time when the pandemic has closed down the American economy, impacting jobs. A

stumbling block is that even though veterans are well trained and experienced, they often need to undergo unnecessary certification for jobs for which they already have the skills.

"The stress of exiting the military is now mixed with the pandemic and the civil unrest, which have teamed together to contribute to a spike in suicide attempts that have reached 22 per-day. Charlie Daniels has been an avid supporter in helping us raise money (NOTE: AFTER THIS INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE CHARLIE DANIELS UNFORUNTAEY PASSED AWAY)," according to Smith, who hopes that people will contribute to her organization at [www.codeofvets.com](http://www.codeofvets.com).

The next guest on Made in America was Fred Hochberg, American businessman and civic leader. He served in various leadership roles at U.S. government agencies, non-profit organizations, and in academia. From 2009 to 2017, he was Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, becoming the institution's longest-serving Chairman. He is also the author of "Trade is Not a Four-Letter Word."

"There is nothing more powerful than products that are Made in America, which are known for quality and for innovation. That is not only true for manufactured goods, but also services," according to Hochberg, who added that trade impacts our daily lives in ways everyone can understand.

Neal, Dr. Roffman, and Hochberg engaged in a conversation about the support that trade has gotten from recent and current U.S. presidents.

"It's disconcerting that Trump is not a fan of engaging with the rest of the world on trade. He has spent most of his time attacking China, which is not unwarranted based on their stealing of U.S. intellectual property. But disengaging from the world is a mistake since trade has greatly lowered the amount of money Americans spend on food and clothes (now 17% of income compared to 50% during World War II). But neither Trump nor Biden has outlined a vision for trade," according to Hochberg, who reminded listeners that Obama was initially cool on trade but gradually embraced a more robust trade program.

Neal and Dr. Roffman agreed that trade improves our quality of life and creates good paying American jobs.

"We have to trade with the rest of the world. It helps our economy and we need to engage with other nations," opined Neal, who added that it's not just exports but imports.

Dr. Roffman and Neal were disappointed that

they did not have time to talk about the USMCA with Hochberg, which went into effect on July 1, 2020. But this will be remedied soon.

Each week Neal Asbury's Made in America provides Neal's insights into the week's top news stories and their impact on the worlds of entrepreneurship, small business ownership and the overall economy. Neal's analysis, together with co-host Dr. Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience, takes a non-biased approach based on real life experience in business as an American manufacturer and exporter. Made in America airs nationally each Saturday from 7-8:00 PM on Radio America. <http://www.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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