



## Reaction to Bill Simon Speech to National Retail Federation

### Veterans

*"This is exactly the kind of act we hoped would be possible when we started Joining Forces - a concrete example of our nation's love and support that our troops, veterans, and their families can feel in their lives every day. As our wars come to an end and our troops continue to come home, it's more important than ever that all of us - not just government, but our businesses and nonprofits as well - do our part to serve those who have served us so bravely. So today, my challenge is simple: for every business in America to follow Walmart's lead by finding innovative solutions that both make sense for their workplaces and make a difference for our veterans and their families. Given what we've seen from Walmart and so many other companies over the past two years, we know that they will."*

- **Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States**

*"When veterans come home, quickly connecting to a job is a top priority. Walmart's commitment to linking veterans with employment demonstrates the value of military experience. Walmart's dedication to veterans is not new. For more than a year, the Walmart Foundation has joined Goodwill in piloting Operation: GoodJobs to provide veterans and military families with job training and placement, and long-term financial stability. These American heroes are important community assets and leaders who have sacrificed for us. We owe them opportunities to succeed. Goodwill is grateful for Walmart's ongoing commitment to veterans and their families."*

- **Jim Gibbons, President and CEO,  
Goodwill Industries International**

*"I applaud Walmart's commitment to honor our men and women who have served our nation in uniform. I hope this program of providing employment for our nations veterans will be emulated by corporations and business across America."*

- **John McCain, United States Senator**

*"I commend Walmart's commitment to hiring 100,000 of our nation's veterans over the next five years. Through their military service, our veterans have developed valuable leadership, problem solving and organizational skills that will benefit future employers as well as the communities in which they work and live. Walmart is tapping into an often overlooked potential in our workforce. I have seen Walmart's commitment to veterans through the American Red Cross Reconnection Workshops, Presented by Walmart, which have been developed and offered through a grant from the Walmart Foundation. Through this program we have provided essential skill building workshops to more than 2,000 service members, veterans and their families as they reunite with each other and their communities. Repeatedly, we see incredible strength, talent and commitment in those who participate; it is wonderful that Walmart will be providing these individuals the opportunity to exercise and grow their skills and talents through employment at a Walmart facility."*

**- Sherri Brown, Senior Vice President, Service to the Armed Forces, American Red Cross**

*"Walmart is leading the way for the retail industry in a way that is also good for the country. As our military is a national asset, so too are our veterans and their families. The future of America is a bright one, and this generation of veterans will help lead the way, just as their predecessors from generations past. If you're an employer, one of the best things you can do for the prosperity of our country is to hire a veteran. If you can't, point a veteran to Walmart or another of the retail companies who I'm sure will follow Walmart's lead. Our leaders are having serious conversations about some of the challenges we face as a nation. Who has more experience at facing challenges with integrity, commitment, and honor than our nation's heroes? As our military is a national asset, so too are our veterans and their families. America will always be the land of the free because it is the home of the brave. And with our veterans and their families leading the way in all parts of our country, our future can only be a bright one. Hire a veteran or military spouse. See for yourself . . ."*

**- Jim Knotts, CEO, Operation Homefront**

*"Walmart's support of the employment situation of veterans is extraordinary in terms of breadth of commitment, but also because it's a commitment to action informed by a deep understanding of the post-service challenges facing the nation's veterans and military families. Walmart is an exemplar for the private sector with regard to empowering veterans and their families. Not only does the company support workforce preparedness programs, job placement, and entrepreneurship education for veterans through its philanthropy, but complements those efforts with a corporate commitment to jobs and careers for veterans and their families. This comprehensive approach to creating economic opportunity for veterans is a class-leading approach from the private sector."*

**- Dr. Mike Haynie, Executive Director, Institute Veterans and Military Families, Syracuse University Barnes Professor of Entrepreneurship Whitman School of Management**

## Manufacturing

*“By partnering with retailers such as Walmart, we’re able to bring valuable manufacturing back to the U.S. for Coleman’s hardside cooler and personal floatation device businesses. Overall these two initiatives have resulted in over 160 incremental manufacturing jobs in the U.S. and will result in more than 1.8 million units of product for Walmart domestically. We’ve demonstrated that we can make this transition and remain competitive on price by increasing the utilization of our factories and reducing our lead times and transportation costs. We’re proud to be at the front of a trend as companies look into bringing manufacturing back to the U.S. We will continue to monitor our input costs and keep some facilities open with capacity available to see if we can bring additional manufacturing back to the U.S.”*

- **Dave Allen, SVP sales and marketing, Coleman Company**

*“One of the greatest ways to stimulate American economic resurgence is by increasing our manufacturing base, which is why Walmart's initiative is so important. Over a period of decades, and through the ups and downs of the economy, we have worked closely with our partners at Walmart in bringing products and programs to the marketplace that not only help each of our companies grow but, most importantly, benefit lawn and garden consumers throughout the United States. Like Walmart, at Scotts Miracle-Gro we consider ourselves a unique American company. We were founded in Marysville, Ohio by Civil War veteran Orlando McLean Scott in 1868 and this remains our hometown today. While we have grown to become the global leader in our industry, nearly 100 percent of the products we sell in the U.S. are produced here, creating nearly 7,000 jobs and stimulating the dozens of communities where we have operations. We take great pride in these communities and we're proud to be working with a partner like Walmart that has the vision to embark on an effort to make these communities – and all American communities – even stronger.”*

- **Barry Sanders, president and COO, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company**

*“1888 Mills is delighted to have Walmart's support and partnership in furthering our efforts to grow our USA terry towel mill in Griffin, Ga. Walmart's multi year commitment enables us to expand our production facility through investments in equipment, technology and people. We are proud to have our long term partner, the largest employer of American workers, carry our premium ‘Made Here since 1888’ towel program. These towels showcase the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the American textile worker. Together, Walmart and 1888 Mills are creating and sustaining jobs right here in the USA.”*

- **Jon Simon, CEO 1888 Mills**

*“We are very excited to partner with Walmart in their support of American made products and recognition of the jobs they create. Like Walmart, World Kitchen is committed to manufacturing products made in America. We own three manufacturing plants – all located in the USA – that make the great brands Corelle, Pyrex and Snapware.”*

**- Kris Malkoski, president of North America,  
World Kitchen**

*“At Mohawk, we share Walmart’s goal of providing the highest quality products at the lowest prices. We understand the importance of the total cost, from start to finish. The combination of raw materials, technology, design, innovation and a productive workforce allow us to leverage the assets of our global carpet business to manufacture and distribute well made, affordably priced merchandise from our facility in northwest Georgia. Through our productive workforce and world class environment, we are proud to say our products are ‘Made in America.’”*

**- Bill Kilbride, President, Mohawk Home**