

Sig Sauer receives Granite State Warrior Award

Sens. Hassan and Shaheen honor gunmaker

By Elizabeth Dinan
edinan@seacoastonline.com

NEWINGTON — Gunmaker Sig Sauer was honored with the Granite State Warrior Award and presented letters from Democratic Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan during a weekend ceremony, announced the N.H. Chapter for the Military Officers Association of America, which presented the award.

"We are honored to receive such a prestigious award," Sig Sauer Executive Vice President Tom Taylor said in a published statement. "Sig Sauer is proud to have its headquarters and manufacturing facilities in the Granite State, where we are relentless in support of our nation's military, law enforcement officers and law-abiding citizens."

The award was presented during a reception at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland by the MOAA, which describes itself as nonprofit, nonpartisan and "the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers."

Hassan's office provided the Portsmouth Herald with a copy of her letter to Sig Sauer congratulating the Pease International Tradeport business for the award and thanking Sig "for everything you have done for your community and our state." "New Hampshire has a proud history of military service that dates back more than 375 years, and

the continued devotion and sacrifice of our service members and veterans has helped maintain our military as the strongest fighting force, and the strongest force for good, in the world," Hassan wrote. "The contract between your company and the United States military represents a significant commitment and will have long-lasting economic and security benefits. Businesses like Sig Sauer are driving our economy forward, developing cutting-edge products that help defend our country and keep our servicemen and women safe."

Hassan closed her letter saying she looks "forward to continue working together to build a stronger and safer New Hampshire where all of our people and businesses can continue to grow and thrive."

Shaheen's letter also congratulates Sig Sauer and notes the award is a "testament to your efforts to provide the equipment that keeps our men and women in uniform safe from harm."

"Our servicemen and women make great sacrifices in order to preserve our freedoms, and their service reflects their remarkable humility and patriotism," she wrote. "Their model citizenship mirrors the selfless devotion of generations of Americans who came before them and shaped this country into the symbol of hope and promise it remains today. As fellow citizens, it is important that we meet their commitment to country with unwavering support and appreciation. Sig Sauer supports our military by ensuring



Sig Sauer, renowned firearms manufacturing facility, has headquarters at 72 Pease Boulevard at the Pease International Tradeport in Newington.

[RICH BEAUCHESNE/SEACOASTONLINE]

it has state-of-the-art tools that protect our troops from an ever-changing set of challenges abroad. "According to the MOAA-NH, the award was established in 2011, "to recognize outstanding contributions of a New Hampshire-based organization that "enhances the war fighting capabilities of US military forces through the development and introduction of weapon systems and/or subsystems that have led to the strengthening of our national security, or improves the health, morale, welfare, and recognition of U.S. military personnel and their direct families through the creation and delivery of unique services either in the US or where are military forces are deployed. Such services are specifically designed to improve the quality

of life of our military forces and their families."

A prior recipient of the award was gunmaker Wilcox Industries, also of Newington, for its tactical gear to improve survivability of troops in extreme combat conditions.

Another prior recipient was the Pease Greeters for its volunteer efforts welcoming troops that pass through Portsmouth International Airport, as well as the statewide Veterans Count organization for assisting veterans and their families in need.

A year ago Sig Sauer was awarded a \$580 million U.S. Army contract to provide Sig's Model P320 handguns for the Army.

The contract calls for the delivery of both full size and compact P320s, over a period of 10 years.