



NASDVA

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

2024 Annual Training Conference **Indianapolis, Indiana**



2024 Midwinter Conference



***Crystal City,
Virginia***



2024 Midwinter Training Conference







Save the Dates - 2025

2024 Annual Training Conference

NASDVA 2025 Conferences

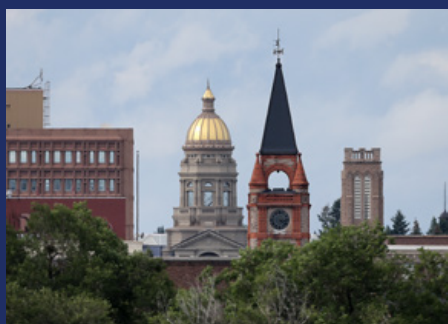
Midwinter Conference March 2-5, 2025

DoubleTree - Crystal City
Arlington, VA



ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 7-11, 2025

THE LITTLE AMERICA HOTEL, CHEYENNE, WYOMING





2024 Annual Training Binder Table of Contents

I. Welcome

- Save the Dates - 2025
- Welcome Letters
- Thank You to Our Sponsors
- Mission, Vision, and Conference Priorities

II. Agenda

III. Membership and Committees

- Membership Directory
- Directors by District Map
- Executive Committee
- NASDVA Committees
- Award Recipients
- Conventions and Past Presidents

IV. Bylaws

V. Speaker Biographies

VI. Sponsor and Vendor Information



Governor Eric J. Holcomb

Eric J. Holcomb, 51st Governor of the State of Indiana, is a lifelong Hoosier who was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, graduated from Pike High School in Indianapolis and Hanover College in southeastern Indiana. He went on to serve six years in the U.S. Navy, first at Naval Station Great Lakes and later in Florida and Portugal. Holcomb is currently serving in his second term as governor having been elected in 2016 and 2020 when he received the most votes for governor in Indiana History. Prior to his election as governor, Holcomb served as Indiana's 51st Lieutenant Governor. A basketball fan and collector of presidential signatures, Holcomb has not only made a basket in each of Indiana's 92 counties but also possesses documents signed by every U.S. president.



Earning a reputation as a pragmatic consensus builder, Holcomb frequently travels throughout the state, visiting with Hoosiers about how to make Indiana the best place in the world to live, work, study, play and stay. Under Holcomb's leadership, Indiana's economy is strong, the state's finances are honestly balanced, and the state is streamlining government services and returning dollars to Hoosier taxpayers, while simultaneously delivering significant investments and advancements in infrastructure, education, workforce, quality of life and public health.

During Holcomb's terms, Indiana employees and employers have enjoyed consecutive record-breaking years of job commitments. In 2022, companies committed a record-breaking \$22.2 billion in capital investment. In 2023, Forbes recognized Indiana as the best state in the U.S. to start a business. Actively seeking to build global relationships and attract investments in Indiana's economic growth, Holcomb has made 18 international trips as governor, visiting more than 20 nations. With Holcomb at the helm Indiana touts a sterling AAA credit rating.

Maintaining Indiana's "Crossroads of America" infrastructure and strengthening Indiana's connections between our communities is a top priority for Holcomb. He implemented a long-term, fully-funded 20-year, \$60 billion Next Level Roads program. Holcomb has strengthened communities and improved quality of life with the Next Level Trails program, the largest-ever state investment in Indiana's trail systems a \$180 million investment, and \$35 million for land conservation efforts. In 2019 and again in 2022, CNBC ranked Indiana number one in the nation for infrastructure.

Holcomb has worked to align Indiana's K-12, higher education, workforce and economic development efforts to empower Hoosiers with the necessary skills to succeed in the economy of the future. He launched the Next Level Jobs program to prepare and connect more Hoosiers to high-demand, high-wage careers. He has signed historic investments in education into law, including a \$1.47 billion increase in K-12 tuition support in 2024 and 2025. Under Holcomb's leadership, Indiana has become a trailblazer for school choice and parental empowerment by expanding vouchers, enhancing charter school access, and advancing work-based learning.

In 2023, Holcomb led the effort to transform public health funding in Indiana yielding a %1,500 increase in state dollars to local health departments. This followed the recommendations from the Governor's Public Health Commission that Holcomb created in 2021. Politico recognized Holcomb's leadership on public health saying, "Indiana may offer a conservative model for improving fragile and beleaguered public health systems and countering the growing opposition to them that's dominating the discourse."

Holcomb serves on the Executive Committee of the National Governors Association and Republican Governors Association. In 2018, The Hill named him one of ten governors shaping the future of politics. An article in Governing magazine read, "Indiana's governor doesn't scream, doesn't threaten, and doesn't even complain. He just wins."

Holcomb and his wife, Janet, live with their cat, Topper, in the Governor's Residence in Indianapolis.



The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

Dennis Wimer (IN)
President

Tim Sheppard (WY)
Senior Vice President

Terry Prince (IL)
Junior Vice President

John Scocos (WI)
Executive Director

Welcome to your 2024 NASDVA Annual Training Conference in the “Crossroads of America” Indianapolis, Indiana.

NASDVA was founded in 1946 to bring together the State Directors from all 50 States, DC and 5 Territories to promote and encourage communication, discussion, as well as action to effectively provide the best services and benefits for America’s twenty million veterans.

You and your agencies have worked extremely hard to improve the lives of our Veterans, their Families and Survivors to ensure they receive the services and benefits they have earned. Thank you for all you have done to care for our Veterans.

To keep this association not only strong but also relevant, we must take proactive measures to increase the effectiveness of our services to all Veterans which will significantly improve their quality of life as well as their physical and mental well-being.

One of the main reasons for NASDVA’s success is our strong partnerships with USDVA and other federal agencies, Veteran Service Organizations, and non-profit organizations.

During this year’s conference we will receive updates from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Executive Leadership, learn from Pillars of Excellence recipients and hear from experts on a number of topics critical for the success of our agencies. This year we partnered with the VA and SAMSHA to help connect the Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families with all of the state departments of Veterans affairs. We are especially honored to be able to partner with the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators and share resources and ideas between our two organizations with co-located summer conferences.

For our new State Directors, Welcome! There is no better role than the one you are in right now. Take this opportunity to meet and get to know your colleagues in other states. I have learned more from my colleagues at NASDVA than any other organization I have been a part of since my service in the Air Force. This week you can collaborate, share best practices, and develop solutions to the many issues facing the Veterans in your state and our Nation.

I am honored to serve as your President, and truly appreciate the valuable contributions from all our members that have made NASDVA successful. A huge thanks goes to our Executive Committee, District VPs, and Committee Chairs for their contributions and teamwork who have made the association a more efficient and effective organization.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors and our partner participants. Without them and their continued support, this conference would not be possible. Our Nation’s Veterans ultimately benefit from their generosity of resources and time. Have a great conference.

Thank you and safe travels,

Dennis A. Wimer

President





We Are Leaders with a Purpose to Serve

Those who served know that military service in the U.S. Armed Forces is often demanding and dangerous. And VA data reflects that. Since the middle of the last century, each new U.S. war has seemed to leave its particular trademark on the veterans who served in it.

In the Korean War—known as long the “Forgotten War”—the profusion of cold weather injuries brought on by prolonged, open, and often near motionless exposure to frigid temperatures in wet and dirty conditions have resulted in a host of chronic conditions.

For veterans of the Vietnam War, an array of cancers and other serious health conditions has been linked to their exposure to the dioxin contained in the Agent Orange sprayed to kill off jungle undergrowth that hid enemy soldiers. Agent Orange has led to the early demise of countless thousands of veterans while leaving many thousands more debilitated.

The 1991 Gulf War, despite its relatively low rate of war casualties, left tens of thousands of veterans with a myriad of health conditions that include high rates of brain cancer, testicular cancer, Lou Gehrig’s disease, asthma, and chronic multi-symptom illnesses. There is still no clear way to help these ailing veterans or prevent similar outcomes in the future.



And after every war in recorded history, there have also been substantial numbers of veterans who have returned home with what is today recognized as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a condition that can be severely disabling, particularly if left untreated. Recent reports show that over 90% of those who served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will see actual combat, with as high as 40% of those serving returning home with PTSD.

Every veteran has a story—although they may not always be willing to share it—one that often varies widely from the experiences of the next. However, the sense of alert readiness, of living every moment on perpetual standby for practiced wartime duties that may come at any moment is a defining feature of military life that is uncommon in the civilian sector.

This is where we find our purpose as the leaders of our nation’s veterans affairs agencies: in helping these soldiers overcome whatever is ailing them and make a smooth transition back to civilian life. We are here to serve those who served, their families, their dependents, and their survivors. To connect them with whatever services and benefits our country has created to repay their service. To assist them in finding meaningful, gainful employment. And to ensure that they are able to live the American Dream they fought to protect. As we gather here in Indianapolis to network and learn and get better at how we serve our veterans, let’s keep that purpose at the forefront of our minds.

John A. Scocos
Executive Director
NASDVA



Thank you to our sponsors!

NASDVA's Annual Training Conference allows our members to gather and learn best practices, share ideas, get briefed by senior VA leadership, and better serve the veterans in the states and territories they serve.

Without our generous sponsors and vendors, these conferences would not be possible.

Premier Sponsor

WellHive

Conference Sponsors

Combined Arms

KLaunch

Optum Serve

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Tyler Technologies

Plenary Sponsors

HereNOW Help

HMR Veterans Services

National Veterans Legal Services
Program (NVLSP)

Zeel

Break Sponsors

Cohen Veterans Network

Gang & Associates

Military Women's Memorial Foundation

Orcutt | Winslow Architecture

Patriot Rehabilitation Services

The Veterans Consortium

Vendors

America's Warrior Partnership

Bridge My Return (BMR)

Civic Roundtable

GenVETS

Heroes with Hearing Loss

IDI

MyVetBENEFITS

Mentor Agility

National Cemetery Administration

PatientPoint

Public Consulting Group

Rios Partners

SFCS

Telemynd

TransUnion

Veterans Experience Office (VEO)

VFW - National Veterans Service

VETPRO

WICHE

Wounded Warrior Project



Mission

The mission of NASDVA is to foster the effective representation of persons claiming entitlements on account of the honorable military service of any person as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101; to provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and information; to facilitate reciprocal state services; to secure uniformity, equality, efficiency, and effectiveness in providing services to veterans and their family members in all States and Territories; and to maintain an interest in all veteran legislation.

Vision

To ensure the nation's Veterans, their Families, and Survivors receive the benefits and services they have earned in order to improve their quality of life and overall well-being.

Conference Priorities

- Committee and Business Meetings
- Updates from Senior VA Officials
- Sponsor and Vendor Engagement
- MOU Signing with TAPS and NASVH
- Discuss Governor's Challenge
- Connect with National Association of State Women's Veterans Coordinators
- Networking Between State and Territory Directors



2024 Annual Training Conference
August 18 – 21, 2024
Westin, 241 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46204
317-262-8100

SUNDAY, August 18th (Business Casual or State apparel)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 <i>Grand Foyer 1-3</i></p> | <p>Registration and Information
 Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and NASDVA Staff</p> |
| <p>9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
 <i>Chamber/Council</i></p> | <p>Executive Committee Meeting
 Dennis Wimer (IN), NASDVA President</p> |
| <p>10:00 – 11:30 p.m.
 <i>Chamber/Council</i></p> | <p>New Directors Orientation
 Conference Agenda, NASDVA By-Laws, and Website
 Tim Sheppard (WY), NASDVA Senior Vice President
 Terry Prince (IL), NASDVA Junior Vice President
 John A. Scocos, NASDVA Executive Director</p> <p>USDVA Overview and Partnership with NASDVA
 Henry Huntley, USDVA</p> |
| <p>11:30 – 12:00 p.m.
 <i>Designated Rooms</i></p> | <p>District Vice President Meeting (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest and Far West)
 (Room assignment will be posted)</p> |
| <p>12:00 – 1:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Lunch (on your own)</p> |
| <p>1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
 <i>Designated Rooms</i></p> | <p>Committee Breakout Sessions
 (Room assignment will be posted)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative • Public and Intergovernmental Affairs • Veterans Benefits/Education (SAA) • Memorial Affairs • Veterans' Health Care and Mental Health • State Veterans Homes • Outreach and Homelessness • Veterans Transition and Employment • Women Veterans • Minority Veterans |
| <p>2:30 – 3:15 p.m.
 <i>Westin Lobby</i></p> | <p>Transportation to Gainbridge Fieldhouse</p> |
| <p>2:30 – 6:45 p.m.
 <i>Gainbridge Fieldhouse</i></p> | <p>IDVA Reception
 Indiana Fever VIP Dinner & Game Experience (Tip-off 3:30)
 Sponsor: KLaunch
 Dennis Wimer (IN), NASDVA President</p> |



MONDAY, AUGUST 19th (Business Casual or State apparel)

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Grand Foyer 1-3</i>	Registration and Information Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and NASDVA Staff
6:30 – 7:45 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 4</i>	Breakfast Sponsor: TriWest HealthCare Alliance
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	NASDVA Opening Ceremony John A. Scocos , NASDVA Executive Director NASDVA Welcome Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President Color Guard Indiana National Guard Honor Guard National Anthem Indiana Representative Pledge of Allegiance Les Beavers (KY) , NASDVA Legislative Director Invocation Verdie Bowen (AK) , Past President Indiana Welcome Dennis Wimer (IN) , Host State Director Eric Holcomb , Governor of Indiana Roll Call Mark Tschampl (ID) , NASDVA Secretary
9:00 – 9:10 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	TriWest HealthCare Alliance Glenn Gray , Vice President, Military & Veteran Engagement
9:10 – 9:45 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Motivational Speaker Josh Bleill
9:45 – 10:30 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 1-3</i>	Break – State Director’s network with Sponsors and Vendors Sponsor: Patriot Rehabilitation Services
10:30 – 11:55 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Business Meeting (NASDVA Members Only – Separate Agenda) Treasurer Report and Legislative Update Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President NASDVA Executive Director Updates for 2025: Midwinter will be held March 2-5, 2025, at DoubleTree, Arlington, VA (Crystal City) John A. Scocos , NASDVA Executive Director Update on Annual 2025 Conference: September 7-11, 2025, in Cheyenne, Wyoming Tim Sheppard , Senior Vice President



12:00 – 1:00 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 4</i>	Lunch Sponsor: WellHive
1:00 – 1:10 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	WellHive Nadhal Eadeh , Senior Vice President of Federal Affairs
1:10 – 1:25 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Hiring Veterans: How to Leverage Military Talent for Organizational Growth Matthew J. Louis , President, Purepost
1:25 – 2:00 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Veterans Experience Office (VEO) Session John Boerstler , Chief Experience Officer
2:00 – 2:10 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	USA Homeownership Foundation, Inc, DBA Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals Son Nguyen , President & CEO
2:10 – 2:45 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 1-3</i>	Break – State Directors network with Sponsors and Vendors Sponsor: Cohen Veterans Network
2:45 – 2:55 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) Tom Herthel , Of Counsel
2:55 – 3:10 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Military Family Research Institute, Purdue University Katie Walter , Community Outreach Specialist
3:10 – 4:40 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	DoD Updates/SDVA Data-Sharing Session and MOU Signing Under Secretary Ashish S. Vazirani , Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense (DoD) Moderator: John Boerstler , Chief Experience Officer Panelists: Michael Odle , Director, DoD/VA Collaboration Office, DoD Michael Rosa , Program Manager, DMDC, Principal SDVA Liaison, DoD Shane Preston , Great Lakes Regional Liaison, Defense State Legislative Office, DoD
4:40 – 5:00 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	<i>Best Practice:</i> South Carolina Coalition-One Stop Model Todd McCaffrey , Secretary, South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs
5:00 – 5:05 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Conference Recap and Announcements Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President
5:30 – 5:45 p.m. <i>Westin Lobby</i>	Transportation to Reception Site Indiana War Memorial & Museum 55 E Michigan Street, Indianapolis, Indiana
6:00 – 8:30 p.m. <i>Indiana War Memorial & Museum</i>	President's Reception Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President Sponsor: WellHive , President Chris Bickert
7:00 – 7:05 p.m. <i>IWM Auditorium</i>	Call to Auditorium: Introduction of National American Legion Commander Daniel J. Seehafer , National Commander of American Legion



Agenda

2024 Annual Training Conference

7:05 – 7:15 p.m. <i>IWM Auditorium</i>	IWM Video
7:15 – 7:25 p.m. <i>IWM Auditorium</i>	Medal of Honor Recipient Introduction, President Dennis Wimer SFC Sammy Lee Davis & Dixie Davis
7:25 – 8:10 p.m. <i>IWM Auditorium</i>	Video and Presentation SFC Sammy Lee Davis & Dixie Davis
8:10 – 8:30 p.m.	Transportation to Indianapolis Monument Circle
8:45 – 9:15 p.m.	Shining A Light Salute
9:15 – 9:30 p.m.	Transportation to Westin Hotel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20th (Business Casual or State Apparel)

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <i>Grand Foyer 1-3</i>	Registration and Information Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and NASDVA Staff
6:30 – 7:45 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 4</i>	Breakfast Sponsor: Tyler Technologies
8:00 – 8:05 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Conference Update and Announcements Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President
8:05 – 8:15 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Tyler Technologies Randy Cahow, Sr. Director, Veterans Benefits Program
8:15 – 9:45 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Workforce/Transition/Education Session James Rodriguez , Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Labor Panelists: Stan Kurtz , Director, Policy and Engagement, U.S. Small Business Development Scott Sanders , President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) COL (Ret) Walter M. Herd , National Director, Army Transition Assistance Program Jared Lyon , President and CEO, Student Veterans of America Gary Harter , Director (UT)
9:45 – 10:30 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 1-3</i>	Break – State Directors network with Sponsors and Vendors Sponsor: The Veterans Consortium
10:30 – 10:50 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	AARP – National Veterans and Families Programs Peter Jeffries , Director, Juanita Jimenez-Soto , Manager
10:50 – 11:00 a.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	<i>Best Practice:</i> Veterans Welcome Center-Digital Kiosks Viviana M. DeCohen , Commissioner, New York State Division of Veterans' Services



11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Veterans Affairs Panel Glen Powers , Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs and Cemetery Operations, USDVA Dr. Shereef Elnahal , Under Secretary for Health, USDVA
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 4</i>	Lunch Sponsor: Optum Serve Speaker: Mark Swofford , Vice President Medical Disability Examinations, Health Services Advocate Awards Presentation Speakers: NASDVA President and Awardee
1:00 – 1:10 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	HMR Veterans Services Russell Keogler , Vice President of Corporate Operations
1:10 – 1:30 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	<i>Best Practice:</i> Homeless and At Risk to SSI and SSDI (SOAR Program) Brad Lindsay , Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Alternative Treatments for PTSD Speakers: Juliana Mercer , Director, Veteran Advocacy & Public Policy, Healing Breakthrough Matthew Seidl , Outreach Coordinator, Brave Program Dr. Gregory Burek , Medical Director Brave Program TBD , Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
2:30 – 3:15 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 1-3</i>	Break – State Directors network with Sponsors and Vendors Sponsor: Gang & Associates
3:15 – 3:30 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	<i>Best Practice:</i> Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic John Hilgert , Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
3:30 – 3:45 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (USDVA) Zaneta Adams , Deputy Assistant Secretary
3:45 – 4:40 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Women/Minorities Diverse Communities Session Lourdes Tiglao , Director, Center for Women Veterans Erika Hoover , President, National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators
4:40 – 4:50 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Military Women's Memorial Phyllis Wilson , President
4:50 – 5:20 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	VA History Center/History Program Michael D. Visconage , VA Chief Historian
5:20 – 5:25 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Conference Recap & Announcements Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Evening on your own Optional Qualtrics Event TBA



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21st (Business Attire)

- 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Registration and Information
Grand Foyer 1-3 Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and NASDVA Staff
- 6:30 – 7:45 a.m.** Breakfast
Grand Ballroom 4 **Sponsor: Combined Arms**
- 8:00 – 8:05 a.m.** Conference Update and Announcements
Grand Ballroom 5 **Dennis Wimer (IN)**, NASDVA President
- 8:05 – 8:20 a.m.** *Best Practice: Veterans Talking to Veterans*
Grand Ballroom 5 **Tim Sheppard**, Director, Wyoming Veterans Commission
- 8:20 – 8:40 a.m.** HereNOW Help
Grand Ballroom 5 **Bryan Gray**, Co-founder & CEO
- 8:40 – 9:40 a.m.** Mental Wellness/Suicide Awareness Session
Grand Ballroom 5 **Cicely K. Burrows-McElwain**, Director, Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC) For Community-Based Interventions VA Suicide Prevention
- 9:40 – 10:15 a.m.** Veterans Benefit Administration (USDVA)
Grand Ballroom 5 **Joshua Jacobs**, Under Secretary for Benefits, USDVA
- 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.** Break – State Directors network with Sponsors and Vendors
Grand Ballroom 1-3 **Sponsor: Orcutt | Winslow Architects**
- 11:00 – 11:55 a.m.** USDVA Deputy Secretary Update, Group Photo
Grand Ballroom 5 **Honorable Tanya Bradsher**, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.** Lunch
Grand Ballroom 4 ***Claim Sharks: Blood in the Water or Benefit to Veterans? (CLE accreditation applied for with Indiana Supreme Court)***
Moderator/Instructor: Tom Herthel, Of Counsel, NVLSP
Panelists: Charlton McGinley, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Terry Prince, Director, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Tommy Baker, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs
Benjamin Pomerance, Deputy Counsel, NY State Department of Veterans Affairs
- 1:00 – 1:10 p.m.** Combined Arms
Grand Ballroom 5 **Speaker: Bryan Escobedo**, Executive Director, Technology & Innovation
- 1:10 – 1:30 p.m.** *Best Practice: Veterans Red-Carpet Welcome Home Program*
Grand Ballroom 5 **Whitney Allen**, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** State Veterans Homes Session
Grand Ballroom 5 **Fred Sganga**, Legislative Director, NASVH
Ed Harries, President, NASVH
Sign MOU with NASVH



2:30 – 2:50 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 1-3</i>	Break – State Directors network with Sponsors and Vendors Sponsor: Military Women’s Memorial Foundation
2:50 – 3:05 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	<i>Best Practice: Veterans K9 Corps</i> Mary Devine , Director, Nevada Department of Veterans Services
3:05 – 4:25 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Families, Caregivers, and Survivors Speakers: Candace Wheeler , Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors Robin Kelleher , Hope for Warriors Sign MOU with TAPS
4:25 – 4:30 p.m. <i>Grand Ballroom 5</i>	Conference Recap & Announcements Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President
5:15 – 5:30 p.m. <i>Westin Lobby</i>	Transportation to Hotel Tango Distillery
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. <i>Foxhole</i>	NASDVA Banquet Farewell Comments Dennis Wimer (IN) , NASDVA President
9:05 – 9:30 p.m.	Transportation to the Westin

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22nd
NASDVA EN ROUTE HOME



ALABAMA

W. Kent Davis, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs
RSA Union Bldg., Suite 850
100 N. Union Street, P.O. Box 1509
Montgomery, AL 36102-1509
<https://va.alabama.gov>

(334) 242-5077
Cell (334) 462-4513
Kent.Davis@va.alabama.gov
Wade.Morrison@va.alabama.gov



ALASKA

Verdie Bowen, Director
Office of Veterans Affairs
4600 Debarr Road, Suite 180
Anchorage, AK 99508
<https://veterans.alaska.gov>

(907) 334-0874
Cell (907) 354-7152
Verdie.Bowen@alaska.gov



AMERICAN SAMOA

Paleafei Harry Pulou, Director
Government Office of Veterans Affairs
P.O. Box 2586 (Industrial Park)
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799-6295
<https://www.americansamoa.gov/va>

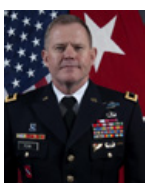
(684) 699-2910
FAX (684) 699-2908
suafasisina.pulou@go.as.gov



ARIZONA

Dana Allmond, Cabinet Executive Officer
Arizona Department of Veterans Services
3839 N. Third St., Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85012
<https://dvs.az.gov>

(602) 234-8415
Cell (480) 250-8305
Dallmond@azdvs.gov
Lsantellano@azdvs.gov



ARKANSAS

Kendall Penn, Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
501 Woodlane Dr., Suite 401N
North Little Rock, AR 72201
<https://veterans.arkansas.gov>

(501) 683-1455
Kendall.Penn@arkansas.gov
Mariah.Borrer@arkansas.gov



CALIFORNIA

Lindsey Sin, Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
1227 O St, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov>

(916) 651-3062
Cell (916) 599-6021
Lindsey.Sin@calvet.ca.gov
Cynthia.Ballesteros@calvet.ca.gov



COLORADO

Bruce Cowan, Director
Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
6848 South Revere Parkway, Suite 2-269
Centennial, CO 80112
<https://colorado.gov/vets>

(303) 914-5832
Bruce.Cowan@dmva.state.co.us



CONNECTICUT

Ronald P. Welch, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
<https://portal.ct.gov/dva>

(860) 616-3604
Cell (860) 977-8465
Ron.Welch@ct.gov
Lori.Conchado@ct.gov



DELAWARE

Miranda Mal, Director
Office of Veterans Services
802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
<https://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov>

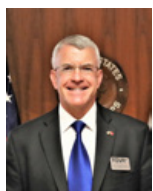
(302) 739-2293
Cell (302) 612-0147
Miranda.Mal@delaware.gov



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Charlette Woodard, Director
DC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs
441 4th St. NW Suite 707 North
Washington, DC 20001
<https://ova.dc.gov>

(202) 724-3856
Cell (202) 527-3265
Charlette.Woodard@dc.gov
Sharod.Wade@dc.gov



FLORIDA

James S. Hartsell, Executive Director
Department of Veterans' Affairs
2601 S. Blair Stone Road, Suite C-300
Tallahassee, FL 32399
<http://floridavets.org>

(850) 782-4307
Cell (727) 309-3076
James.Hartsell@FDVA.FL.GOV
Steve.Murray@FDVA.FL.GOV



GEORGIA

Patricia Ross, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Services
Memorial Building, Suite 970
205 Jessie Hill Jr. Dr. SE
Atlanta, GA 30334
<https://veterans.georgia.gov>

(404) 656-2300
Cell (470) 453-2153
Patricia.Ross@vs.state.ga.us



GUAM

Jose San Agustin, Director
Office of Veterans Affairs
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, GU 96932
<https://gvao.guam.gov/>

(671) 475-8392
Cell (671) 699-5771
Jose.Sanagustin@gvao.guam.gov



HAWAII

John P. Alamodin, Director
Office of Veterans Services
459 Patterson Rd., Rm 1-A103-E Wing
Honolulu, HI 96819
<http://dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/>

(808) 433-0420
Cell (808) 433-0422
john.p.alamodin@hawaii.gov
yolanda.r.ehere@hawaii.gov



IDAHO

Mark Tschampl, Administrator
Division of Veterans Services
351 Collins Rd
Boise, ID 83702
<https://veterans.idaho.gov>

(208) 780-1304
Cell (208) 941-6992
Mark.Tschampl@veterans.idaho.gov
Kevin.Wallior@veterans.idaho.gov



ILLINOIS

Terry Prince, Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
833 S. Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62794
<https://veterans.illinois.gov>

(217) 785-4114
Cell (312) 898-0554
Terry.Prince@illinois.gov
Jennifer.Franklin@illinois.gov



INDIANA

Dennis Wimer, Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
302 W. Washington Street, Room E-120
Indianapolis, IN 46204
<https://www.in.gov/dva/>

(317) 232-3923
Cell (317) 509-9859
DWimer1@dva.in.gov
KCherry@dva.in.gov



IOWA

Todd Jacobus, Executive Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
1301 Summit Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
<https://va.iowa.gov>

Cell (641) 750-9399
FAX (515) 727-3713
Todd.Jacobus@ivh.state.ia.us



KANSAS

William Turner, Director
Commission on Veterans Affairs
Jayhawk Towers, Suite 1004
700 S.W. Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66603
<https://kcva.ks.gov>

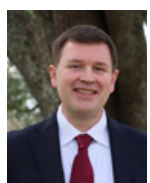
(785) 291-3106
Cell (785) 207-4605
Bill.Turner@ks.gov
Eric.Rohleder@ks.gov



KENTUCKY

Whitney Allen, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs
1111B Louisville Rd (NGAKY Bldg.)
Frankfort, KY 40601
<https://veterans.ky.gov>

(502) 564-9203
Cell (502) 314-0381
Whitney.Allen@ky.gov
Lynice.Noel@ky.gov



LOUISIANA

Charlton Meginley, Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
602 N 5th St (70802)
P.O. Box 94095, Capital Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
<https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov>

(225) 219-5031
Cell (225) 588-1634
Charlton.Meginley@la.gov
Miracle.Williams@la.gov



MAINE

David Richmond, Director
Bureau of Veterans Services
State House Station No. 117
Augusta, ME 04333-0117

<https://www.maine.gov/veterans/>

(207) 430-6034

Cell (207) 446-3962

David.A.Richmond@maine.gov

Melissa.J.Weston@maine.gov



MARYLAND

Tony Woods, Secretary
Department of Veterans' Services
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

<https://veterans.maryland.gov>

(410) 260-3844

Cell (443) 510-4105

Anthony.Woods@maryland.gov

Andrew.Libraty@maryland.gov



MASSACHUSETTS

Dr. Jon Santiago, Secretary
Executive Office of Veterans' Services
600 Washington St., 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-veterans-services>

(617) 210-5768

Cell (857) 207-0011

Jon.Santiago@mass.gov

Jennifer.Rathje@massmail.state.ma.us



MICHIGAN

Brian Love, Director
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Bldg 32
Lansing, MI 48906

<https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa>

Cell (517) 230-1058 (Director Love)

Cell (517) 599-9492 (Jennifer Taylor)

LoveB@michigan.gov

TaylorJ42@michigan.gov



MINNESOTA

Brad Lindsay, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs
20 West 12th Street, 1st Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155

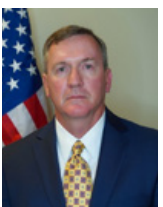
<https://mn.gov/mdva>

(651) 757-1582

Cell (651) 503-3529

Brad.Lindsay@state.mn.us

Nicole.Peine@state.mn.us



MISSISSIPPI

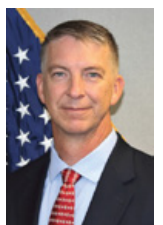
Mark Smith, Executive Director
Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board
660 North St, Suite 200
Jackson, MS 39202

<https://www.msva.ms.gov>

(601) 576-4864

Cell (601) 519-9432

Msmith@msva.ms.gov



MISSOURI

Paul Kirchhoff, Executive Director
Missouri Veterans Commission
Post Office Drawer 147
Jefferson City, MO 65102

<https://mvc.dps.mo.gov>

(573) 751-1423

Cell (573) 395-6034

Paul.Kirchhoff@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Ryon.Richmond@mvc.dps.mo.gov



MONTANA

Kelly Ackerman, Administrator
Veterans Affairs Division
P.O. Box 4798
Helena, MT 59636
<https://dma.mt.gov>

(406) 324-3742
Cell (406) 579-0127
Kelly.Ackerman@mt.gov
Taryn.Phillips@mt.gov



NEBRASKA

John Hilgert, Director
Department of Veterans' Affairs
P.O. Box 95083
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026
<https://veterans.nebraska.gov>

(402) 471-2458
Cell (402) 326-9125
John.Hilgert@nebraska.gov
Levi.Bennett@nebraska.gov



NEVADA

Mary Devine, Director
Department of Veterans Services
6630 S. McCarran Blvd. Bldg. C Suite 204
Reno, NV 89509
<https://veterans.nv.gov>

(775) 825-9850
Cell (702) 321-8311
devinem@veterans.nv.gov
Chavezl@veterans.nv.gov



NEW HAMPSHIRE

William (Bill) Gaudreau, Director
NH Division of Veterans Services
275 Chestnut St. Rm 517
Manchester, NH 03101
<https://www.nh.gov/nhveterans/>

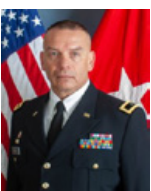
(603) 624-9230 Ext. 302
FAX (603) 851-1755
William.Gaudreau@va.gov
Christine.Fisher2@va.gov



NEW JERSEY

Vincent Solomemo III, Deputy Commissioner
NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Eggerts Crossing Road, P.O. Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625
<https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>

(609) 530-7033
Cell (609) 468-8027
Vincent.Solomemo@dmava.nj.gov
Esther.Chucaralao@dmava.nj.gov
Martin.Sotomayor@dmava.nj.gov



NEW MEXICO

Jamison Herrera, Acting Secretary
Department of Veterans' Services
407 Galisteo Street, Room 142
Santa Fe, NM 87501
<https://www.nmdvs.org>

(505) 827-6334
Cell (505) 546-8609
Jamison.Herrera@dvs.nm.gov
Shannon.Quintana@dvs.nm.gov



NEW YORK

Viviana M. DeCohen, Commissioner
New York State Division of Veterans' Services
2 Empire State Plaza, 17th Floor
Albany, NY 12223
<https://www.veterans.ny.gov>

(518) 807-3487
Viviana.Decohen@veterans.ny.gov
Joel.Evans@veterans.ny.gov



NORTH CAROLINA

Grier Martin, Secretary
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
413 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

<https://www.milvets.nc.gov>

(984) 204-8334
Cell: (919) 609-5547
Grier.Martin@milvets.nc.gov



NORTH DAKOTA

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Affairs
P.O. Box 9003
Fargo, ND 58106

<https://www.veterans.nd.gov/>

(701) 239-7165
Cell (701) 212-0940
LWangen@nd.gov



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Stanley T. Iakopo, Executive Officer
Military/Veterans Affairs Office
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 503416 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

(670) 664-2650
FAX (670) 664-2660
Stanley.Iakopo@gov.mp



OHIO

Debbie Ashenhurst, Director
Department of Veterans Services
77 South High Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

<http://dvs.ohio.gov>

(614) 728-1084
Cell (614) 623-2806
Deborah.Ashenhurst@dvs.ohio.gov
Jared.Nyhart@dvs.ohio.gov



OKLAHOMA

Greg Slavonic, Executive Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
2132 NE 36 Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

<https://odva.ok.gov>

(405) 523-4001
Cell (405) 694-8279
Gregory.Slavonic@odva.ok.gov



OREGON

Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels, Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
700 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

<https://www.oregon.gov/odva/>

(503) 373-2388
Cell (503) 508-4667
Nakeia.L.DANIELS@odva.oregon.gov
Matthew.L.CASTLEMAN@odva.oregon.gov



PENNSYLVANIA

Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General
Veterans Affairs
Fort Indiantown Gap, Bldg. 0-47
Annville, PA 17003

<https://www.dmva.pa.gov/>

(717) 861-8902
Cell (717) 821-1506
MWeigl@pa.gov
RiHamp@pa.gov



PUERTO RICO

Agustín Montañez-Allman, Director/Advocate
Puerto Rico Veteran Advocate Office
P.O. Box 11737
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1737

(787) 758-5760
Cell (787) 410-0984
AMontanez@opv.pr.gov
EHerrero@opv.pr.gov

<https://govtribe.com/vendors/comwealth-of-puerto-rico-advocate-vets>



RHODE ISLAND

Kasim Yarn, Director
Office of Veterans Services
560 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 206
Warwick, RI 02886

(401) 921-0411
Cell (401) 954-0078
Kasim.Yarn@vets.ri.gov
Matthew.Golderese@vets.ri.gov

<http://www.vets.ri.gov>



SOUTH CAROLINA

Todd McCaffrey, Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
477 Edgar Brown State Office Building
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 369
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 734-0205
Cell (803) 451-1617
Todd.McCaffrey@scdva.sc.gov
Terrylynn.DiChiara@scdva.sc.gov

<https://scdva.sc.gov/>



SOUTH DAKOTA

Greg Whitlock, Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers & Sailors War Memorial Bldg.
425 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 773-3269
(605) 773-8242
Greg.Whitlock@state.sd.us
Audry.Ricketts@state.sd.us

<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>



TENNESSEE

Tommy Baker, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Services
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Nashville, TN 37243

(615) 741-1959
Cell (615) 517-0970
Tommy.Baker@tn.gov
Deanna.Day@tn.gov

<https://www.tn.gov/veteran>



TEXAS

Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director
Texas Veterans Commission
1801 Congress Ave, Suite 14.1000
Austin, TX 78701

(512) 463-0504
Cell (512) 438-9425
Thomas.Palladino@tvc.texas.gov
Cheryl.Aldridge@tvc.texas.gov

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov>



UTAH

Gary Harter, Executive Director
Department of Veterans & Military Affairs
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

(801) 326-2372
Cell (801) 440-6946
GHarter@utah.gov
Jennicagruver@utah.gov

<https://veterans.utah.gov>



VERMONT

Robert E. Burke, Director
Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs
118 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-4401
<https://veterans.vermont.gov>

(802) 828-3380
Cell (802) 522-2426
Robert.Burke@vermont.gov



VIRGINIA

Charles Zingler, Commissioner
Department of Veterans Services
101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov>

(804) 786-0286
Cell (804) 840-8548
Chuck.Zingler@dvs.virginia.gov
Kendra.Ellison@dvs.virginia.gov



VIRGIN ISLANDS

Patrick Farrell, Director
Office of Veterans Affairs
3241 Estate Contant, Suite #5
St. Thomas, VI 00820
<https://veterans.vi.gov/>

(340) 774-8387
Cell (340) 998-9025
Patrick.Farrell@va.vi.gov



WASHINGTON

David Puente Jr., Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
1102 Quince St. SE
P.O. Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504
<https://www.dva.wa.gov>

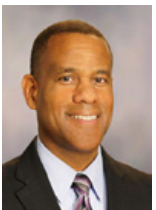
(360) 725-2155
Cell (360) 791-0264
David.Puente@dva.wa.gov
LisaN@dva.wa.gov



WEST VIRGINIA

Edward A. "Ted" Diaz, Cabinet Secretary
Department of Veterans Assistance
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Bldg. 5 Rm 205
Charleston, WV 25305
<https://veterans.wv.gov>

(304) 558-3661
Cell (304) 380-3998
Edward.A.Diaz@wv.gov
Jill.E.Connolly@wv.gov
Randy.W.Coleman@wv.gov



WISCONSIN

James Bond, Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
2135 Rimrock Road
Madison, WI 53713
<https://dva.wi.gov>

(608) 266-4838
Cell (608) 286-9462
James.Bond@dva.wisconsin.gov
Dawn.Lafond1@dva.wisconsin.gov



WYOMING

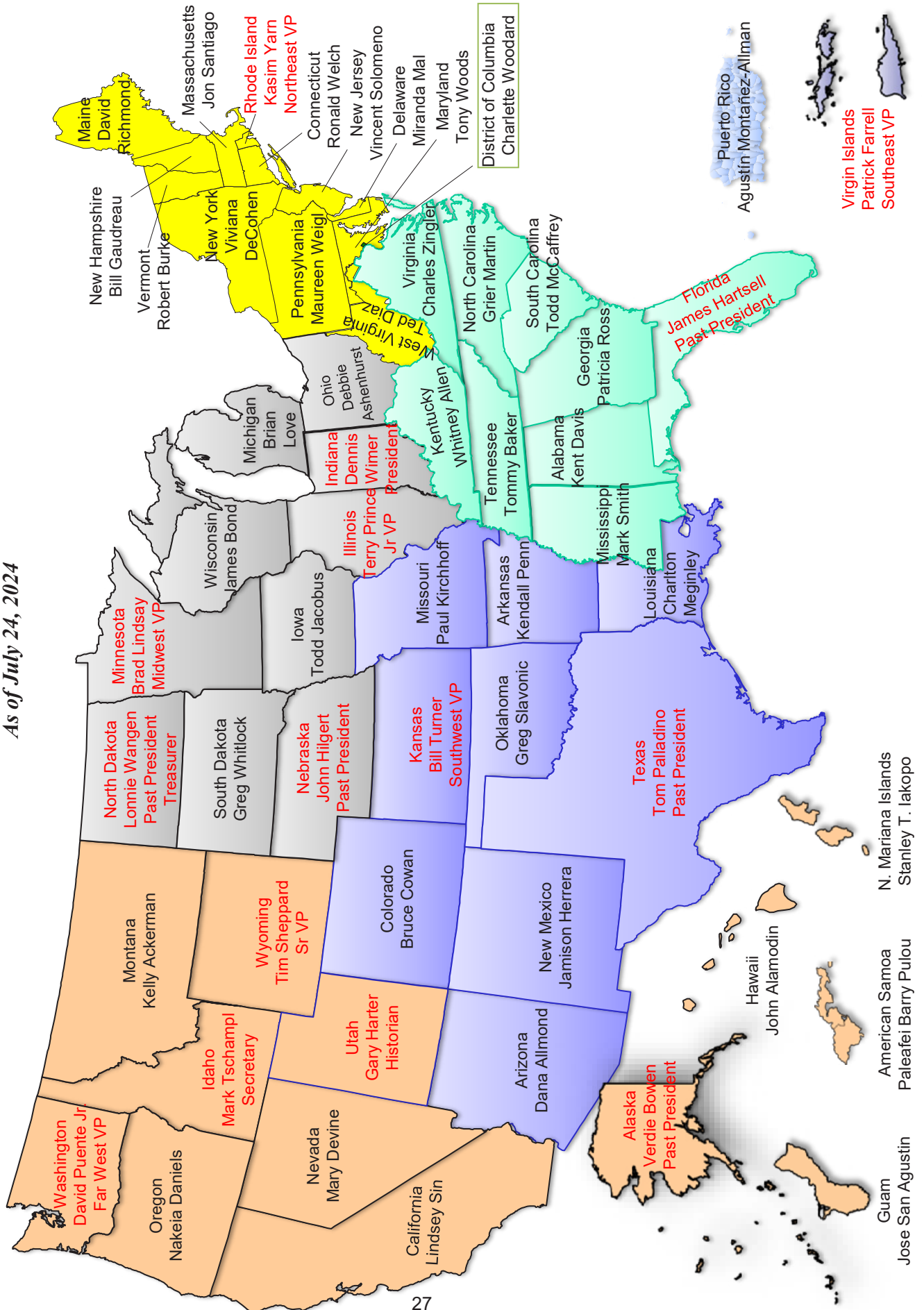
Tim Sheppard, Director
Wyoming Veterans Commission
5410 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
<https://www.wyomilitary.wyo.gov/resources/veteran/veterans-commission/>

(307) 777-8151
Cell (307) 631-5158
Timothy.Sheppard@wyo.gov
Shane.Whitworth@wyo.gov



2024 Directors by District

As of July 24, 2024





2024-2025 NASDVA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dennis Wimer Indiana	(317) 232-3923 Cell (317) 509-9859	DWimer1@dva.in.gov
Sr. Vice President	Tim Sheppard Wyoming	(307) 777-8151 Cell (307) 631-5158	Timothy.Sheppard@wyo.gov
Jr. Vice President	Terry Prince Illinois	(217) 785-4114 Cell (312) 898-0554	Terry.Prince@illinois.gov
Secretary	Mark Tschampl Idaho	(208) 780-1304 Cell (208) 941-6992	Mark.Tschampl@veterans.idaho.gov
Treasurer Past President 14-15	Lonnie Wangen North Dakota	(701) 239-7165 Cell (701) 212-0940	LWangen@nd.gov
Historian	Gary Harter Utah	(801) 326-2372 Cell (801) 440-6946	GHarter@utah.gov
Executive Director* Past President 07-08	John Scocos Wisconsin	Cell (608) 358-6195	JAScocos@gmail.com
Legislative Director* Past President 04-05	Les Beavers Kentucky	Cell (502) 396-5675	LesBeaversma60@gmail.com

District Vice Presidents

Northeast	Kasim Yarn Rhode Island	(401) 921-0411 Cell (401) 954-0078	Kasim.Yarn@vets.ri.gov
Southeast	Patrick Farrell Virgin Islands	(340) 774-8387 Cell (340) 998-9025	Patrick.Farrell@va.vi.gov
Midwest	Brad Lindsay Minnesota	(651) 757-1582 Cell (651) 503-3529	Brad.Lindsay@state.mn.us
Southwest	William (Bill) Turner Kansas	(785) 296-3976 Cell (785) 207-4605	Bill.Turner@ks.gov
Far West	David Puente Jr. Washington	(360) 725-2155 Cell (360) 791-0264	David.Puente@dva.wa.gov

Past Presidents

2021-2022	Thomas Palladino Texas	(512) 463-0504 Cell (512) 438-9425	Thomas.Palladino@tvc.texas.gov
2019-2021	John Hilgert Nebraska	(402) 471-2458 Cell (402) 326-9125	John.Hilgert@nebraska.gov
2017-2018	Verdie Bowen Alaska	(907) 334-0874 Cell (907) 354-7152	Verdie.Bowen@alaska.gov

*Non-voting member



The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

Dennis Wimer (IN)
President

Tim Sheppard (WY)
Senior Vice President

Terry Prince (IL)
Junior Vice President

John Scocos (WI)
Executive Director

July 24, 2024

Subject: 2024 NASDVA Standing Committees

Article II of the NASDVA By-Laws allows the President and Executive Committee to create committees. The current committee list follows:

1. Constitution and Bylaws
2. Nominating
3. Finance and Audit
4. Legislative
5. Strategic Planning
6. Conference Planning
7. Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
8. Veterans Benefits/Education/SAA
9. Memorial Affairs
10. Veterans' Healthcare and Mental Health
11. State Veterans Homes
12. Outreach and Homelessness
13. Veterans Transition and Employment
14. Women Veterans
15. Minority Veterans

1. Constitution and Bylaws

Executive Committee Members (Article VIII, Officers Section 1)

2. Nominating: (Article VIII, Section 1)

Chair: Dennis Wimer (IN)
President Past Presidents who are members
Mark Tschampl (ID), Secretary
5 District VPs (if they are not nominated for Junior VP)

3. Finance and Audit: (Article X Finance, Section 4)

Chair: Lonnie Wangen (ND), Treasurer
John Scocos (WI), Executive Director
Mark Tschampl (ID)
Gary Harter (UT), Historian

4. Legislative: (Article IV, Section 2)

Chair: Jr VP
Verdie Bowen (AK)
Les Beavers (KY), Legislative Director
John Hilgert (NE), (Past Pres)
5 District VPs (or their representative)

5. Strategic Planning

Chair: Dennis Wimer (IN)
Mark Tschampl (ID), Secretary
5 District VPs (or their representative)
John Scocos (WI), Executive Director

6. Conference Planning

Chair: Dennis Wimer (IN), President/Host State
John Scocos (WI), Executive Director
Terry Prince (IL), Sr VP
Mark Tschampl (ID), Secretary
Lonnie Wangen (ND), Treasurer
Kasim Yarn (RI), NE VP



7. Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

Chair: Ted Diaz (WV)
Tom Palladino (TX)
Verdie Bowen (AK)
John Spangler (CA)
Lonnie Wangen (ND)
Kasim Yarn (RI)
John Hilgert (NE)
Kent Davis (AL)

8. Veterans Benefits/Education/SAA

Chair: Ronald P. Welch (CT)
Keith Boylan (CA)
Mark Tschampl (ID)
Terry Westbrook (NC)
Benjamin Pomerance (NY)
Jennifer Donovan (OR)
Charlie Catoe (TX)
Cory Pearson (UT)
Steven Combs (VA)
Donnie Quintana (NM)
Herm Breuer, NACVSO

9. Memorial Affairs

Chair: Bill Turner (KS)
Anthony Woods (MD)
David Richmond (ME)
Kelly Ackerman (MT)
Joel Kintsel (OK)
Robert (Bob) Burke (VT)
Kent Davis (AL)

10. Veterans' Health Care and Mental Health

Chair: Lindsey Sin (CA)
Vice Chair: Maureen Weigl (PA)
Kendall Penn (AR)
Jose San Agustin (GU)
Terry Prince (IL)
Viviana DeCohen (NY)
Chip Osborne (TX)
Jon Santiago (MA)
Nicole Coleman, NACVSO

11. State Veterans Homes

Chair: Steve Murray (FL)
James Bond (WI)
John Scott (AZ)
Cheryl L. Poppe (MA)
Paul Kirchhoff (MO)
Mark Smith (MS)
Sarah Lane (OK)

Greg Whitlock (SD)
Tommy Baker (TN)
Fred Sganga, NASVH
David Puente Jr. (WA)

12. Outreach and Homelessness

Chair: Todd Jacobus (IA)
Brad Lindsey (MN)
Jason Loughran (NYC)
Joel Mutschler (PA)
Randy Coleman (WV)
Jon Santiago (MA)

13. Veterans Transition and Employment

Chair: Gary Harter (UT)
Dennis Wimer (IN)
Michael Thompson (IN)
William (Bill) Gaudreau (NH)
Debbie Ashenhurst (OH)
James Hendon (NYC)
Todd McCaffrey (SC)
Greg Whitlock (SD)
Shawn Deabay (TX)
Patrick Farrell (VI)

14. Women Veterans

Chair: Patricia Ross (GA)
Gina Chandler (AR)
Dana Allmond (AZ)
Virginia Wimmer (CA)
Patricia Ross (GA)
Donnie Quintana (NM)
Martha Garcia (OR)
Lisa Narciso (WA)

15. Minority Veterans

Chair: Whitney Allen (KY)
Xochitl Rodriguez-Murillo (CA)
Vincent Solomeno (NJ)
Joel Evans (NY)
Agustin Montanez-Allman (PR)
Tim Sheppard (WY)



The following is a list of 26 VA advisory committees. The VA Secretary has appointed several NASDVA members to these committees.

1. VA National Academic Affiliations Council
2. Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials *
3. Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee
4. Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation
5. Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education
6. Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War
7. Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee
8. Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee
9. Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
10. Health Services Research and Development Service Merit Review Board
11. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans
12. Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board
13. Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans
14. National Research Advisory Council
15. Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs
16. Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans
**Verdie Bowen, Committee Chair,
Director, Alaska Office of Veteran Affairs,
NASDVA Past President**
17. Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation

18. Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board
19. Veterans' Rural Health Advisory Committee
**Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, North Dakota Dept of Veteran Affairs,
NASDVA Past President**
20. Special Medical Advisory Group
21. Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities
22. Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee
23. Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
24. Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee
25. Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board
Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, California Dept of Veterans Affairs
26. Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs



IRON MIKE RECIPIENTS

The “Iron Mike” is awarded by the NASDVA Executive Committee to those who have contributed to the mission and success of NASDVA.

YEAR	RECIPIENT	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION
2001	Honorable R. James Nicholson	VA Secretary
2002	Commissioner Pete Wheeler	Georgia DVS
2003	George P. Basher, Director	New York DVA
2004	Kenneth Fisher	President/CEO of Fisher House
2005	Bob Filner	Congressman
2006	John Scocos, Secretary	Wisconsin DVA
2007	John Garcia, Secretary	New Mexico DVS
2008	Les Beavers, Commissioner	Kentucky DVA
2008	Antonio Davila, Ex Dir	Delaware DVA
2008	John King, Deputy Secretary	California DVA
2008	Joey Strickland, Deputy Secretary	Louisiana DVA
2009	Arnold Schwarzenegger	Governor, California
2009	Bill Biggs	HMR Veterans Services
2010	Terry Schow, Executive Director	Utah DVA
2010	Bob Riley	Governor, Alabama
2011	Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary	USDVA-Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
2011	Eric Shinseki	VA Secretary
2011	Tom Kelley, Secretary	Massachusetts DVA
2011	Charlie Smith, Director	North Carolina DVA
2011	Frank Salvas, Director	VA State Cemetery Grants Services
2011	Linda Schwartz, Commissioner	Connecticut DVA
2012	Mike Michaud	Congressman, U.S. Rep, Maine 2 nd District
2012	David Fletcher, Director	Arkansas DVA
2013	Jim Willis, Director	Oregon DVA
2013	Allison Hickey	Under Secretary, VBA
2014	Steve Muro	Under Secretary, VA Memorial Affairs
2014	Clyde W. Marsh, Commissioner	Alabama DVA
2015	Lonnie L. Wangen, Commissioner	North Dakota DVA
2015	Jason Cain	Director, VA Intergovernmental Affairs
2016	David Brasuell, Administrator	Idaho DVA
2017	Randy Reeves, Commissioner	Mississippi DVA
2018	Verdie Bowen, Director	Alaska DVA
2019	Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Director	Washington DVA
2021	John Hilgert, Director	Nebraska DVA
2022	Thomas Palladino, Executive Director	Texas Veterans Commission
2024	James S. Hartsell, Executive Director	Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs





DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECIPIENTS

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to NASDVA members who have made significant contributions to the growth and success of the association.

YEAR	RECIPIENT	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION
2023	Thomas Palladino, Executive Director	Texas Veterans Commission
2023	Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner	North Dakota DVA
2023	Verdie Bowen, Director	Alaska DVA
2024	John Hilgert, Director	Nebraska DVA



ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY RECIPIENTS

The "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" Award is a special award to recognize those who have impacted their community and the Nation, beyond their service as a veteran leader.

YEAR	RECIPIENT	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION
2023	Joey Strickland, Secretary	Louisiana DVA
2024	Les Beavers, Legislative Director	NASDVA





VETERANS “Advocate of the Year” RECIPIENTS

Each year the NASDVA president selects the NASDVA Veterans Advocate of the Year, which is awarded or announced at the NASDVA Midwinter Conference.

Year	Recipient	Agency/Organization
1997	George Skypeck	Artist
1998	BG Wilma Vaught	WIMSA
1999	Mrs. Diane Evans Carlson	Vietnam Veterans Women’s Memorial
2000	Honorable Hershel Gober	VA Deputy Secretary
2001	Honorable Sonny Montgomery	Congressman
2002	Honorable Tommy G. Thompson	DHSS Secretary
2003	Honorable Lane Evans	Congressman
2004	Mr. Raymond G. Boland	DASDVA, CARES
2005	Honorable Anthony Principi	VA Secretary
2006	Michael H. McLendon	VA Policy (WHCoA)
2009	Jim Webb	Senator, Virginia Author and sponsor for Post 9/11 GI Bill
2010	Daniel Akaka	Senator, Chairman of Senate Veteran’ Committee
2011	Patty Murray	Senator, Chairwoman of Senate VA Committee
2012	Eric Shinseki	Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs
2013	Jan Brewer	Governor, Arizona
2013	Dave Heineman	Governor, Nebraska
2014	Michelle Obama	First Lady. Joining Forces
2014	Dr. Jill Biden	Second Lady. Joining Forces
2015	Bernie Sanders	Senator, Vermont, Chairman of Senate Veteran’ Committee
2016	MG Joshua (Joe) Robles Jr.	President and CEO, USAA
2017	Robert McDonald	VA Secretary
2017	Sloan Gibson	VA Deputy Secretary
2018	Scott Blackburn	VA Acting Secretary
2019	Johnny Isakson	Senator, Georgia Chairman Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
2020	BG Les Beavers	Past Executive Director, NASDVA
2022	Henry Huntley	USDVA Intergovernmental Affairs
2023	Robert E. Wallace	Executive Director, VFW Washington Office





NASDVA “HONORARY Members”

Honorary members are nominated and voted on during the NASDVA business meetings

Name	Position
Susan McCrea	USDVA Intergovernmental Office
Hershel Gober	USDVA Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary
Clayton Clark	NASDVA Secretary, Former Director Vermont DVS
Louie Spinelli	MOPH Foundation Sponsorship of NASDVA
Tom Kelley	Secretary Massachusetts DVA, CMOH Recipient
Bill Biggs	CEO and President HMR Veterans Services, Inc.
Tammi Duckworth	Former Director of Illinois DVA, US Representative
Allison Hickey	Under Secretary VBA
Paul Galanti	Former Commissioner Virginia DVS, Vietnam POW
Tom Moe	Former Director Ohio DVS, Vietnam POW
Liza Narciso	Former NASDVA Assistant Treasurer
Martha Garcia	Former NASDVA Assistant Treasurer

*All NASDVA Past Presidents per ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS Section 3, are “Honorary Members” when no longer a member (Section 1).

PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, dated 13 February 2012, an “Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence” Award was established to recognize best practices from NASDVA members that have developed effective programs to address the four top-line issues: elimination of the claims backlog, ending veterans’ homelessness, improving access to VA benefits and services, and innovative state programs.

2014

- Illinois (Innovative) – Illinois Joining Forces
- Texas (Claims & Appeals Backlog) – Strike Force Teams
- Washington (Access) – Benefits Enhancement
- Washington (Homelessness) – Eliminating homelessness model
- Alabama (Innovative) – Veterans Treatment Court



2015

- Alaska (Access) – Alaska Native Sharing Agreement
- Florida (Access) – FDVA Outreach & Branding Campaign
- Idaho (Innovative) - Music and Memory Program
- Ohio (Claims & Appeals Backlog) – DOD Data Sharing
- Texas (Innovative) – Military Veteran Peer Network
- Washington (Innovative) – Washington State Transition Model
- South Dakota (Innovative) – Operation Reaching All Veterans





2016

- California (Access) – Women Veterans Outreach Program
- California (Homelessness) – Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP)
- Michigan (Access) – Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center (VRSC)
- Michigan (Innovative) – Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT)
- Nevada (Innovative) – Nevada Veterans Advocate Program (NVAP)
- North Dakota (Access) – Agent Orange Outreach Program
- Washington (Innovative) – Incarcerated Veterans Program



2017

- Alaska (Innovative) – Veteran Information System (VIS)
- Virginia (Innovative) – Housing Homeless
- Washington (Innovative) – Public-Private Partnerships grows Healthcare and other services for Veterans
- Alabama (Innovative) – Alabama Veterans Network
- North Dakota (Innovative) – Rural Veterans Court



2018

- California (Innovative) – Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Program
- Idaho (Innovative) – Idaho Veterans Memorials and Monuments
- Maine (Suicide Awareness) – 1st annual Military Veterans Symposium: Suicide Prevention
- Massachusetts (Homelessness) – Statewide Advocacy for Veterans Empowerment SAVE
- Minnesota (Claims & Appeals Backlog) – Discharge Access Database System DADS
- Texas (Access) – Veterans Health Care Advocacy Program
- Washington (Innovative) – Vets Corps. Veterans Helping Veterans Navigate Higher Ed.



2019

- District of Columbia (Customer Experience) – Veteran Special Outreach & Advocacy Roundtable Series
- Michigan (Customer Experience) – Incarcerated Veteran Program
- Nevada (Claims & Appeals Backlog) – Ask a VSO
- Maine (Homelessness) – Homeless Veteran Coordinator Program
- Nevada (Innovative) – Nevada Veterans Legislative Program
- California (Innovative) – California Transition Assistance Program
- Delaware (Innovative) – Delaware Joining Forces





2020

- Alaska (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) – Alaska Coalition for Veterans and Military Families
- Maine (Innovative) – Justice Action Committee
- Michigan (Innovative) – The Veteran Friendly Schools Program
- Minnesota (Innovative) – Veterans Application Tracking System
- New Mexico (Innovative) – The Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program
- New York (Innovative) – The Fresh Connect Checks Program
- Wisconsin (Innovative) – Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program



2021

- Arizona (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) – Be Connected Program: A State-wide Model for Upstream Veterans Suicide Prevention
- Idaho (Innovative) – Ceremonial Urn Cover Program
- Kentucky (Homelessness) – The Homeless Veteran Trust Fund
- Minnesota (Delivery of Services to Tribal Governments Serving Native Americans) – Tribal Veteran Service Officer Program (TVSO)
- Nevada (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) – Operation Mission Ready
- Oregon (Customer Experience) – I am Not Invisible Exhibit Women Veterans Program
- Virginia (Claims & Appeals Backlog) – VSVA Benefits Appeals Program



2022

- California (Innovative) – Justice Involved Veteran Initiative
- Kentucky (Innovative) – Veterans Songwriting Project
- Maine (Innovative) – Veterans' Dental Network (MVDN)
- Maryland (Innovative) – Serving Those who Served: A Library Partnership
- Nevada (Innovative) – Patriot Employer Program
- NYC, New York (Innovative) – Mission: Vet Check
- Pennsylvania (Customer Experience) – VET Connect
- Virginia – (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) - Identify Service Members, Veterans and Families, Screen for Suicide Risk and Refer for Services (VISR) Pilot



2023

- Indiana (Innovative) – Specialty Programs of the Military Family Relief Fund
- Utah (Innovative) – Veteran Business Resource Center
- Kentucky (Innovative) – Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund
- Alaska (Delivery of services to Tribal Governments Serving Native Americans) – Tribal Veterans Representative Program
- Minnesota (Homelessness) – Every Veteran Deserves a Home
- Washington (Innovative) – Military Spouse Liaison
- Nebraska (Claims & Appeals Backlog) – Virtual Claims Clinics





2024

- Kentucky (Innovative) – Veterans Red-Carpet Welcome Home
- Minnesota (Homelessness) – SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Program
- Nebraska (Innovative) - Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic
- Nevada (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) – Veteran Care Pocket Card
- New York (Innovative) – Veterans Welcome Center Digital Kiosks
- South Carolina (Innovative) – South Carolina Veterans Coalition One Stop Model
- Wyoming (Suicide Awareness and Prevention) – Veterans Talking to Veterans





	YEAR	HOST STATE	PRESIDENT ELECTED		YEAR	HOST STATE	PRESIDENT ELECTED
1st	47-48	Illinois	Homer G. Bradney, IL	39th	86-87	Arizona	William J. Gregg, MN
2nd	48-49	Louisiana	C.Clarence Horton, AL	40th	87-88	New Jersey	Frank Wilkes, AL
3rd	49-50	Minnesota	T.H. McGovran, WV	41st	88-89	Mississippi	Jesse G. Ugalde, CA
4th	50-51	Colorado	William R. Rice, CO	42nd	89-90	Oregon	Sam Black, VA
5th	51-52	Maine	Clinton Green, IN	43rd	90-91	Florida	Douglas Brown, TX
6th	52-53	North Carolina	Melvin T. Dixon, FL	44th	91-92	Nevada	Jon Mangis, OR
7th	53-54	Oklahoma	William K. Barrett, GA	45th	92-93	Arkansas	Dale Renaud, IA
8th	54-55	Michigan	Floyd E. Henderson, ND	46th	93-94	North Dakota	Joseph R. Clelan, PA
9th	55-56	Kansas	Alexander J. Smith, VT	47th	94-95	New Mexico	Earl Peck, FL
10th	56-57	West Virginia	Gordon A. Huseby, WI	48th	95-96	Virginia	Michael C. D'Arco, NM
11th	57-58	Oregon	Charles L. Morris, TX	49th	96-97	Arizona	Norman O. Gallion, AZ
12th	58-59	Illinois	J. Marvin Russell, CA	50th	97-98	Mississippi	Antonio Davila, DE
13th	59-60	Alabama	James L. Crider, TN	51st	98-99	Wisconsin	Dennis Foell, SD
14th	60-61	Wisconsin	Lawrence J. LaLone, MI	52nd	99-00	Hawaii	Gen "Stoney" Wages, KS
15th	61-62	Tennessee	H.C. Saalfeld, OR	53rd	00-01	Puerto Rico	Walt Ozawa, HI
16th	62-63	California	Charles N. Collatos, MA	54th	01-02	Canceled - 9/11	Raymond G. Boland, WI
17th	63-64	New Jersey	James J. Murphy, AZ	55th	02-03	South Carolina	Raymond G. Boland, WI
18th	64-65	Florida	Pete Wheeler, GA	56th	03-04	Louisiana	Joey Strickland, LA
19th	65-66	Washington	Richard C. Manning, MD	57th	04-05	New York	Les Beavers, KY
20th	66-67	Louisiana	Wayne E. Garrett, KS	58th	05-05	Washington	John King, WA
21st	67-68	Massachusetts	Melvin L. Jacobsen, NV		05-06	Mid-year apt.	George Basher, NY
22nd	68-69	New Mexico	Lloyd F. Zander, ND	59th	06-07	Utah	John Garcia, NM
23rd	69-70	Virgin Islands	Walter C. Head, Jr., AL	60th	07-08	Maryland	John Scocos, WI
24th	70-71	Oregon	Robert R. Washburn, ME	61st	08-09	California	Charlie Smith, NC
25th	71-72	Kentucky	O.C. Ball, OK	62nd	09-10	North Carolina	Terry Schow, UT
26th	72-73	Maryland	Larry Laughridge, ID	63rd	10-11	Alabama	Linda Schwartz, CT
27th	73-74	Arkansas	Harry F. Carper, VA	64th	11-12	Oregon	David Fletcher, AR
28th	74-75	Arizona	Frank A. Schmidt, Jr., MI	65th	12-13	Puerto Rico	Jim Willis, OR
29th	75-76	Louisiana	A. Leo Anderson, DC	66th	13-14	Tennessee	W. Clyde Marsh, AL
30th	76-77	Illinois	Fiberto Ruiz, Jr., NM	67th	14-15	California	Lonnie Wangen, ND
31st	77-78	Nevada	Eryle A. Rohlesen, VI	68th	15-16	Florida	David Brasuell, ID
32nd	78-79	Pennsylvania	Ray J. Kauffman, IA	69th	16-17	Texas	Randy Reeves, MS
33rd	79-80	Texas	John H. Easton, MD	70th	17-18	Virgin Islands	Verdie Bowen, AK
34th	80-81	South Carolina	Frank Godwin III, MS	71st	18-19	Massachusetts	Alfie Alvarado, WA
35th	81-82	Louisiana	John Siemer, OH	72nd	19-20	Nebraska	John Hilgert, NE
36th	82-83	Virgin Islands	Joseph C. Anderson, NY	73rd	21-22	Nevada	Thomas Palladino, TX
37th	83-84	New York	Aubrey Bullard, TX	74th	22-23	Hawaii	Wanda Wright, AZ
38th	85-86	Alabama	Rich C. Countryman, AZ	75th	23-24	New York	James Hartsell, FL
				76th	24-25	Indiana	Dennis Wimer, IN



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, INC.
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I
NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Inc.

Section 2. The headquarters of the National Association shall follow the residence of the President of such National Association. The address of the National Association shall be the same as the address of the National President or as otherwise prescribed by the Association membership.

Section 3. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Inc. 'Roberts Rules of Order, as Revised', shall govern all procedures not covered.

ARTICLE II
DEFINITIONS

Section 1. The term 'Member' as used hereinafter is defined as follows: The Director of a State Department of Veterans Affairs of a State, Commonwealth, Territory, or the District Columbia. The State Service Officer or one holding a comparable position, or his/her designates, or, in the absence of any of the above-named persons, such persons as may be designated by the Governor of such State, Commonwealth or Territory or the Mayor of the District of Columbia and who shall have paid such dues as are hereinafter to be assessed. The person must be a full-time paid employee of the state or district he/she represents.

Section 2. The term 'Associate Member' as hereinafter used is defined as follows: An official or employee of a State Department of Veterans Affairs, or like group who shall have been approved and recommended by the member from his/her state and who shall have paid such dues as are hereinafter to be assessed, or an officer or member of a Veterans or Service organization recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) or its successor.

Section 3. The term 'Honorary Member' as used hereinafter is defined as follows: Such former members previously qualified under Article II, Section 1, and such other persons who upon approval by a majority vote of President and Executive Committee, and Past Presidents are granted an Honorary Life Membership Card by the Secretary of the Association.

Section 4. All staff employees, commissioners and/or Board members directly associated with the respective offices of the members of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs shall be recognized as being non-voting members of NASDVA, in fact with no provision for a dues assessment.

Section 5. The President and Executive Committee shall resolve any questions concerning the eligibility of an applicant for membership in the Association.



ARTICLE III PURPOSES

Section 1. The purposes of the National Association are to foster the effective representation of persons claiming entitlements on account of the honorable military service of any person as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101; to provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and information; to facilitate reciprocal State Services; to secure uniformity, equality, efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to veterans and their family members in all the States and Territories; and to maintain an interest in all veterans' legislation.

Section 2. The National Association recognizes the great worth and merit of all existing congressionally chartered veterans' organizations and asserts a willingness and determination to cooperate with such organizations. It further declares a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of all veterans and their families regardless of organizational affiliation or the lack of it.

ARTICLE IV SUB-DIVISIONS OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The National Association shall be divided into five (5) districts comprised as follows:

Northeast District: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Midwest District: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Southeast District: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Southwest District: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Far West District: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands.

Each such district shall, from its own membership and while in caucus prior to or at the National Association Mid-Winter Training Conference, elect a District Vice President and such District Vice Presidents shall become members of the National Executive Committee. In each such district, a majority of district members or the official designee in good standing attending the National Association Annual Training Conference shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The District Vice President of each district, or their designated representative from the district, may be a member of the National Legislative Committee. The National Legislative Committee shall meet at the call of the designated Chair of the committee.

Section 3. The representative from each state within the district shall comprise the district committee. The District Vice President may call meetings of the district committee. The District Vice President should notify the National President prior to convening any such meetings. A report of such committee meetings shall be forwarded to the National Secretary for dissemination to the members at large.



ARTICLE V
ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Each state, after having paid such dues as are hereinafter assessed, shall be entitled to one member with a vote at each National Association Annual Training Conference and/or Mid-Winter Training Conference. Each Director or his/her designee with appropriate credentials is strongly encouraged and advised by National Association to actively participate in all district meetings, the Mid-Winter Training Conference, the Annual Training Conference, and meetings of any affiliated group that will benefit our constituents and NASDVA.

Section 2. There shall be a class of membership described as Associate Members which will be composed of officials and officers, or members of veterans or service organizations recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Administration (USDVA) or its successor, or employees of State Departments of Veterans Affairs or like groups. This class of member may, only upon recommendation or approval of the State Director or his/her equivalent, be an Associate Member of the National Association.

Section 3. Associate Members shall not be permitted to vote in National Association Annual or Mid-Winter Training Conferences or district caucuses but may be permitted to participated in the deliberations and discussions at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Section 4. There shall be an additional class of membership described as Honorary Members; such shall be composed of such individuals as described in Article II, Section 3.

Section 5. Honorary Members shall not be permitted to vote in National Association Annual or Mid-Winter Training Conferences or district caucuses but may be permitted to participated in the deliberations and discussions at the discretion of the presiding officer or committee chairman; all said deliberations and discussions are to be considered advisory only, both as to floor debate and committee session.

Section 6. All staff employees, commissioners and/or board members as described in Article II, Section 4 shall not be permitted to vote in National Association Conferences or district caucuses but may be permitted to participated in the deliberations and discussion at the discretion of the presiding officer.

ARTICLE VI
AUTHORITY

Section 1. Absolute authority of the National Association shall be vested in the majority vote of the members at the National Association Annual or Mid-Winter Training Conferences.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have authority in the interim between National Association Annual Training Conferences, with the advice and counsel of the states that may be affected by action(s) taken by the Executive Committee interests, to take such action as will be in the best interests of the National Association and for the good of veterans generally and shall implement the mandates of the previous National Association Annual or Mid-Winter Training Conference.

ARTICLE VII
QUORUMS AND PROXIES

Section 1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the paid-up members.



Section 2. Any member may, by written authority, empower another official or employee of his/her department or office to act as proxy in his/her stead at any meeting of the National Association.

Section 3. Any member may, by written authority, empower the official representative of another state to act as proxy in his/her stead at any meeting of the National Association.

Section 4. In the event a District Vice President is unavailable to attend an Annual or Mid-winter Training Conference, the District members will caucus to designate a representative for Executive Committee meetings.

ARTICLE VIII **OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the Senior Vice President, the Junior Vice President, the five (5) District Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Historian, and all Past Presidents who are members of the Association.

Section 2. At the National Association Mid-Winter Training Conference, members shall elect the President, Senior Vice President, and Junior Vice President. These officers will be nominated by a committee consisting of the current President and Past Presidents who are members (Article II, Section 1) and the five District Vice Presidents. Prior to election, there will be a call for additional nominations from the membership. Officers will be elected by a majority vote to serve a one-year term or until the next Mid-Winter Training Conference. If no one candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the association members will conduct a runoff election choosing between the two candidates who received the most votes from the first ballot. These officers cannot be elected to the same office twice, except one who is appointed as a result of a vacancy under the provisions of Article IX, Section 1, who then shall be eligible to seek election for a consecutive term. Only members as defined in Article II, Section 1 are eligible to hold elective office. Persons who become ineligible for membership cease to be eligible to hold elective office.

Section 3. The President with the approval of the Executive Committee shall appoint members, as defined in Article II, Section 1, to serve as Treasurer, Secretary, and Historian of the Association. They will serve until such time as the President with the approval of the Executive Committee appoints a new officer, the officer's appointment is terminated, or the officer resigns. Persons serving in these positions who become ineligible for membership shall be removed from the position.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall, in addition to other duties assigned by the constitution, be responsible for information technology, fundraising, VSO relations, public affairs and policy development and implementation.

Section 5. A National Association President who may leave office prior to 30 days of tenure because of lack of membership qualification as defined in Article II, Section 1, shall be deemed not to have held office and shall not be recognized to have been a Past President of the National Association.

Section 6. All members of NASDVA who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and are elected or appointed as officers of the Association shall certify in writing that all periods of their individual service in the United States Armed Forces is characterized as honorable service and that such certification shall be submitted to the NASDVA Secretary within thirty days of their election or appointment. If such certification is not submitted, the office shall be declared vacated and the Executive Committee shall immediately fill, by appointment with a qualified member, the vacated office for the remainder of the term of office.



ARTICLE IX **VACANCIES**

Section 1. In the event the office of President shall become vacant for any reason, the Senior Vice President shall immediately assume the President's office; in the event the office of Senior Vice President shall become vacant the Junior Vice President shall assume the Senior Vice President's office. They shall serve in these positions until the remainder of the current term. Further, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill by appointment the vacated office of the Junior Vice President and solicit nominations from all members, as defined in Article II Section 1, to serve until the next scheduled conference of the Association. At the next conference, election for the Junior Vice President shall take place in accordance with Article VIII Section 1. If the appointed Junior Vice President assumes the vacant position of Senior Vice President prior to being elected by the members, then he/she serves until the next scheduled conference when an election will take place for Senior Vice President. Vacancies occurring among the District Vice Presidents shall be filled through election by and from the membership of the district affected. The President shall call an election as expeditiously as possible to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE X **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The President shall be the executive head of the National Association. He/she shall be chairperson of the National Association Annual Training Conference and of the Executive Committee, and as such he/she will establish the agendas for the Annual Training Conference and Midwinter Training Conference. The President shall be authorized to appoint the membership of the standing committees and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office of President. The President will appoint a member of the Veterans HealthCare and State Veterans Homes Committee as a liaison to the Association of State Veterans Homes. Any other position (appointed or elected) created by the President, or the body is to be approved by the Executive Committee at each Annual Training Conference. Districts will caucus when necessary.

Section 2. The Senior Vice President shall act as the representative of the President and shall serve in his/her stead upon request. He/she shall perform such duties as delegated by the President, which shall include chairing the Strategic Planning committee and coordinating with the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs to execute the NASDVA Strategic Plan.

Section 3. The Junior Vice President shall act as the representative of the President and shall serve in his/her stead upon request. He/she shall perform such duties as delegated by the President, which shall include chairing the Legislative Committee and assisting with the preparation of the annual testimony to the U.S. Congress.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the National Association and of the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are customarily required by his/her office. The Secretary shall compile and maintain association correspondence including Resolutions and Amendments to the Bylaws and an updated Directory of State Directors and a contact list of members, associate, and honorary members.

Section 5. The National Association Historian shall record, compile, and maintain a history of the National Association and manage historical documents in the NASDVA Dropbox. The historian will maintain an updated database of State best practices and veterans' benefits and services.

Section 6. The Treasurer is the National Association's top financial officer. Partnering with the President and Executive Director, he/she develops and administers the annual budget and provides financial reports to the



Executive Committee and the membership at the Annual and Mid-Winter Training Conferences. The Treasurer shall coordinate with the National Association's President, Executive Director, and contracted financial institution, for the disbursement of funds.

The Treasurer will ensure the National Association files taxes appropriately with the Internal Revenue Service and all states and territories so that it may retain its status as a non-profit organization. The Treasurer will annually register the National Association as a corporation.

Section 7. The District Vice Presidents (DVPs) shall be the executive head of their respective districts. DVPs should call for a district meeting at the Mid-Winter Training Conference, Annual Training Conference and one other time within their districts annually. Encourage networking among district representatives. Each of the five (5) District Vice Presidents will, in turn, also meet during the Mid-Winter Training Conference and the Annual Training Conference. Each shall be chair of the district meeting and prepare minutes of such meeting. A copy of the minutes shall be distributed to each member of the District and the Secretary of the National Association. Each shall be authorized to appoint the membership of such standing committees as the district may determine necessary. Each shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office of District Vice President. When the Annual Training Conference is held within their district, the DVP will be responsible for hosting any special accommodations at the conference and will be assisted by the other members of the district.

ARTICLE XI **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs shall have the authority to form committees with concurrence of the majority of the Executive Committee. Additionally, the President shall designate membership and a Chair for all committees within sixty (60) days following each Annual Training Conference or after the establishment of a committee. If such chair's attendance is precluded at either the National Annual or Mid-Winter Training Conferences or unable to serve during the interim between conferences, another member of the committee shall be designated by the President as chair to perform the duties of that office as required. The President may appoint members or associate members to serve on the committees. For each committee there must be clear definitions established by the President as to duties and responsibilities. The list of standing committees will be annotated in the NASDVA Operations Manual.

ARTICLE XII **RESOLUTIONS/MOU/MOA**

Section 1. Resolutions, Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), and Memorandums of Agreements (MOA) may be adopted by a vote of a majority of the members present at the National Association Annual Training Conference or Mid-Winter Training Conference.

Section 2. The Executive Committee, in the best interest of the Association shall have the authority in the interim between the National Association Annual Training Conference and Mid-Winter Training Conference to prepare resolutions, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) that have not previously been considered by the membership and submit such resolutions/MOUs/MOAs to the association membership at the next NASDVA Training Conference.



ARTICLE XIII
ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE LOCATION SELECTION

Section 1. The location of Annual Training Conferences will be determined by a majority vote at the Mid-Winter Training Conference business meeting of the preceding year (example: The 2009 Annual Training Conference will be determined at the 2008 Mid-Winter Training Conference). In the event that a state withdraws their offer to host a conference after it has been selected, the Executive Committee will select an alternate location.

Section 2. States that wish to host the Annual Training Conference will provide the President a letter of intent prior to the start of the Mid-Winter Training Conference business meeting. All states that wish to host the Annual Training Conference will be provided an opportunity to present information about their intentions prior to a vote.

Section 3. The location of the Mid-Winter Training Conference will be approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIV
REPORTS AND RECORDS

Section 1. It will be the responsibility of the National Association Secretary to furnish each member, within sixty (60) days of adjournment, a digest of the minutes of the business meetings held at the Annual and Mid-Winter Training Conferences to include all motions, resolutions and actions.

Section 2. The National Association Secretary will be responsible for the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings with distribution to the membership within 30 days.

Section 3. The Treasurer provides financial reports to the membership at the Annual and Mid-Winter Training Conferences.

Section 4. The National Association Secretary and Treasurer will keep all records current during his/her tenures. All records not of current value shall be retired and forwarded to the headquarters of the National Association for permanent storage.

Section 5. The National Association President is authorized to appoint a General Counsel annually.

ARTICLE XV
FINANCE

Section 1. The membership dues of the National Association shall be established by a majority vote of the members during the Annual Training Conference or Mid-Winter Training Conference, with changes in the dues levels taking effect the following fiscal year. In the event no majority is reached, the dues level will remain the same. Honorary Members do not pay yearly membership dues but will pay Mid-Winter and Annual Conference registration member fees.

Section 2. Associate Members may, upon payment of their annual dues, participate as affiliate members. The dues for an Associate Member shall be established by a majority vote of the members during the Annual Training Conference or Mid-Winter Training Conference, with changes in the dues taking effect the following fiscal year.



Section 3. The Executive Committee shall establish the conference fees for the Annual and Mid-Winter Training Conferences.

Section 4. The fiscal year of the National Association shall run from October 1st each year to September 30th inclusive, of the next year. Dues should be paid to the National Association by the Annual Training Conference.

Section 5. An annual budget shall be prepared by the Finance and Audit Committee and submitted to the membership for approval at each Annual Training Conference.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may contract with an outside organization to manage NASDVA's funds and provide accounting services including membership dues, conference fees, sponsor donations, and all expenditures. This organization will provide quarterly financial reports and an annual audit of the funds to the NASDVA President, Executive Director and Treasurer.

ARTICLE XVI **BONDING OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Treasurer of the National Association shall be bonded in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the faithful performance of his/her duties; such bond to be provided by a reputable commercial surety company, the expense of which shall be borne by the National Association. This bond shall be a type referred to as a 'position bond' and shall be secured for a period of three to five years to take advantage of reduction in premium over a one-year bond. It will be the responsibility of each newly elected President to notify the surety company which issued the current bond of the name and address of any newly appointed Treasurer.

ARTICLE XVII **DISBURSEMENTS**

Section 1. An appropriation of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the National Association treasury may be made to the 'director-host' of each National Association Annual Training Conference of the National Association for the purpose of assisting to defray the necessary expenses of such convention. The Treasurer shall make this allowance available to the 'direct-host' prior to the actual dates of such National Association Annual Training Convention upon the receipt of the instruction and voucher from the President of the National Association. Each 'director-host' shall, no later than thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the National Association Annual Training Conference, forward to the Treasurer of the National Association any unexpended or unencumbered funds and a detailed written accounting of the expenditure of the National Association funds to the Executive Committee. When approved by the Executive Committee, this accounting of the expenditure of the National Association funds shall be submitted to the Executive Committee. When approved by the Executive Committee, this accounting shall be made part of the permanent records of the National Association in the custody of the Treasurer.

Section 2. The President of the NASDVA or his/her designated representative shall be provided an appropriation not to exceed a sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to defray expenses for travel, hotel accommodations and other related expenses to events or meetings at which he/she represents the Association. This may include expenses incurred to attend the National Association Annual Training Conference and Mid-Winter Training Conference. This does not include expenses incurred for the luncheon at the Mid-Winter Training Conference, which will be paid by the Treasurer. The President or his/her



designated representative shall make an itemized accounting of any balance returned to the Treasurer. Member Directors who are designated representatives of the President shall submit a report on their assignment to the President for distribution to the membership.

Section 3. There is hereby established a discretionary fund of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in each fiscal year which may be disbursed by direction of the President to meet unforeseen contingencies which may arise, and which are not provided for elsewhere in the Bylaws or other lawful action of the National Association. The fund may also be used to help defray travel costs to represent or conduct the business of NASDVA, to attend Executive Committee meetings providing the President officially calls the meeting. An itemized accounting shall be made to the Treasurer, which shall be noted in the annual financial report and reported to the membership.

Section 4. Employees: The President of the National Association shall be authorized to retain employees or contractors to meet the needs of the Association. The President shall oversee the hiring and termination of employees or contractors, with all hiring and termination decisions voted on by the Executive Committee. The President shall determine the appropriate level of compensation for employees or contractors, with all compensation decisions voted on by the Executive Committee. The President or their delegate will supervise all employees or contractors operating on behalf of the Association.

Section 5. The President and Executive Committee will retain an Executive Director for the National Association who reports to the President and Executive Committee and serves to support and conduct administration for the Executive Committee. He/she routinely informs the executive committee of the association's operational status, as well as advising members on strategies to accomplish the mission and goals. The Executive Director duties include facilitating executive committee meetings, overseeing daily operations of the association, managing the association's finances, including budgeting and account spending in coordination with the Treasurer and the contracted financial institution, develops fundraising for the organization, acts as the point of contact of the Annual and Mid-Winter Training Conferences, and represents the nonprofit with federal agencies, veteran organizations, and the public.

Section 5. At each National Association Annual Training Conference, the incumbent Treasurer, with the advice and counsel of the Finance/Audit Committee, will prepare an operating budget for the next fiscal year and present to the National Association Annual Training Conference for appropriate action.

Section 6. District Vice Presidents shall be provided a sum not to exceed a total of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) during any one term of office to assist in defraying incidental expenses incurred in conducting a district meeting or meetings or may be used to help defray travel costs to attend an Executive Meeting held at a time other than the Washington, D.C. Mid-Winter Training Conference or Annual Training Conference, provided the meeting is an officially called meeting by the President to conduct the business of NASDVA. An itemized accounting shall be made to the Treasurer, which shall be noted in the annual financial report and reported to the membership.

ARTICLE XVIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any National Association Annual Training Conference or Mid-Winter Training Conference by a majority vote of two-thirds of the members present provided the proposed amendment has been distributed in writing to all members of the National Association at least thirty (30) days prior to action thereon by the National Association. The proposed amendment may be delivered to members through standard mail, fax, or Email. Approved amendments will take effect immediately unless an effective date was established in their passage.



ARTICLE XIX **RATIFICATION**

Section 1. All acts heretofore performed in connection with the organization and establishment of the National Association are hereby confirmed and ratified.

ARTICLE XX **DISSOLUTION**

Section 1. Upon the dissolution of the association and after payment of all outstanding debts of the association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Last amended on February 20, 2023, during the Business Meeting at the NASDVA Mid-Winter Training Conference.



Glenn Gray

Vice President, Military and Veteran Engagement

TriWest Healthcare Alliance



Mr. Glenn Gray is Vice President, Military and Veteran Engagement for TriWest Healthcare Alliance, a Department of Veterans Affairs contractor headquartered in Phoenix, AZ. TriWest supports the VA nationally through the Community Care Program, assisting with access to care for our nation's Veterans.

Glenn has more than 30 years of experience and accomplishments in the public, private and non-profit sectors in varying leadership roles. In his current role, he is responsible for oversight of TriWest's customer care and service recovery operations, which include educating Veterans, providers, Members of Congress, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) about the programs and services TriWest provides through its VA contract, as well as addressing customer service concerns for Veterans. Glenn also directs TriWest's community support and outreach efforts and represents TriWest at local, regional and national meetings and conventions.

In addition to his 26 years at TriWest, Glenn has also held roles as the Executive Director of the ASU Alumni Association, Director of Casework and Community Engagement for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and as a constituent services staff member for the late Senator John McCain.

Glenn is an Arizona native and graduate of Arizona State University. He and his wife reside in Chandler, AZ.



Christina Hubble

**Vice President, VA Program Manager
TriWest Healthcare Alliance**



Mrs. Christina Hubble is Vice President, VA Program Manager for TriWest Healthcare Alliance, a Department of Veterans Affairs contractor headquartered in Phoenix, AZ, which supports the VA nationally through the Community Care Program, assisting with access to care for our nation's Veterans.

Christina has more than 20 years of experience and accomplishments in the public, private and non-profit sectors in varying leadership roles. She comes to TriWest from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) where she held a multitude of roles over 14 years including strategy, transformation, program management, and VA Medical Center staff and leadership positions. In her current role, she is responsible for managing VA Community Care Network (CCN) contract program reporting, risk and issue identification and resolution, joint planning with TriWest colleagues, and ensuring TriWest is meeting VA CCN customers' needs and expectations.

Christina is a Wyoming native and has a Masters in Health Administration. She and her husband now reside in Wilmington, NC.



Josh Bliell

Motivational Speaker

“I’m a father, I’m a husband, I’m a Christian, I’m a spokesperson, I’m a Marine.”

After attending Purdue University, Josh was working in corporate America when, like many of us, the events of September 11, 2001, changed his life forever. Something clicked inside him after that fateful day and, two years later, Josh followed in his father’s footsteps and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 2004, at 27 years old, Josh was off to boot camp. And in 2006, he was deployed to Fallujah, Iraq.

Then, it all went black.

A bomb exploded under the vehicle Josh was riding in. He woke up five days later to the realization that he had lost two friends and both of his legs in the blast. He spent two years of extensive rehabilitation recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He currently has 32 pins in his hip and a 6-inch screw holding his pelvis together.

Corporal Josh Bleill is now a walking, talking, symbol of hope, using his story to motivate and inspire others. Even with all he’s been through, Josh doesn’t just believe in the American dream. He’s living it.

“It worked out. I’m not going to lie. I worked in the NFL with the Indianapolis Colts. I travel and do public speaking. The American dream is very possible. Even after something like this, so devastating that I thought things were over, it still worked out,” he said.

“In America, if you keep working and things do go wrong, if you have that drive, it’s well alive. It’s always a possibility.”

Josh didn’t just survive. With the help of those around him, he found a way to thrive once again.





Nadhal Eadeh

Senior Vice President of Federal Relations, WellHive

Nadhal Eadeh joined WellHive in April of 2019 to lead the technology company's marketing, strategy, congressional outreach, and government services portfolio. In his previous role, Nadhal spent 11 years at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and served under multiple Under Secretary for Benefits (USB). In his last position, Nadhal served as the Special Assistant and Intergovernmental and Veteran Service Organization liaison for the USB. Still active in Veterans issues, Mr. Eadeh serves as President of Veterans' Voice of America, an affiliate of Vietnam Veterans of America. He is the recipient of the 2021 National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs "Dedicated Advocate for Veterans" President's award.

Nadhal earned his Master's degree from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and his bachelor's degree from John Carroll University.





Matthew J. Louis Louis Advisors, LLC

A Veteran-Owned Small Business

(513) 314-9870 (cell)



matt@matthewjlouis.com

www.matthewjlouis.com



Matt Louis is one of the nation's leading experts in career transition for members of the military community. He coaches individuals on their transition efforts and advises employers on hiring programs designed to successfully assimilate this valuable talent pool. He is the author of the award-winning¹ and Amazon best-selling HarperCollins book [Mission Transition](#), a practical guide for veterans in career transition, their families, and their employers. His second book, [Hiring Veterans](#), is an award-winning² practical guide for organizational leaders on how to build programs to successfully assimilate members of the military community.

Matt serves as the veteran Transition Assistance officer for his West Point class, is a National Speaker for the US Chamber's Hiring Our Heroes program, serves JPMorgan Chase's external advisory council for military and veterans affairs, and advises the board of Soldiers To Sidelines.

During active commissioned service in the US Army, Matt served in the Southwest Asia combat theater and in the 194th Separate Armored Brigade. During reserve commissioned service, Matt served on the staff of the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and commanded multiple regions around the country for the US Military Academy's Admissions Office. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the US Army and serves on the Service Academy nominating committee for his local Congressman.

Matt holds an MBA in Operations and Finance from The Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from West Point, and is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College. He is also a certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and holds the ASCM organization's Certified Supply Chain Professional designation.

Matt is also the President of [Purepost](#), the optimal means for matching talent to available roles in the US economy. He previously led global strategy and transformation projects at Deloitte, the largest professional services firm in the world. Prior to Deloitte, Matt held global operational, production, and quality roles in multiple divisions of both General Electric and Procter & Gamble.

¹ 2024 American Legacy Book Awards Winner (Nonfiction: General), Finalist (Business: Career); 2022 International Readers' Favorite Gold Medal for Non-Fiction Military; 2021 eLit Book Awards: Gold Medal for Business / Career / Sales, Gold Medal for Current Events (Foreign Affairs / Military), Gold Medal for Best Author Website; 2023 American Book Fest Best Book Award (Legacy Nonfiction), Award Finalist (Legacy: Self-Help / Spirituality); 2023 Independent Author Network Book of the Year Award winner (Outstanding Career/Occupational), Grand Prize (Nonfiction Award, Third Place), Award Finalist (First Nonfiction), Award Finalist (Nonfiction Military/War), Award Finalist (Nonfiction Self-Help/How-To); 2021 Nonfiction Authors Association Silver Book Award; 2022 Global Book Awards (War & Military); 2021 Axiom Business Book Bronze Medal (Career); 2021 Living Now Book Awards Bronze Medal (Motivation / Improvement); 2023 North American Book Awards Bronze Medal (Military Nonfiction); 2023 Maincrest Media Book Award Winner (Military Nonfiction); 2023 Book Excellence Award (Career); 2023 Book Fest Book Awards: Website / Overall Design, 2nd place; Nonfiction Business - Careers, 3rd place; 2023 Outstanding Creator Awards: #21 Best Non-fiction Book; Best Military Book, 1st place; Best Self-Help & How-to Book, 1st place; Best Educational & Reference Book, 1st place; 2023 International Firebird Book Award (Career & Military Nonfiction); Pinnacle Book Achievement Award (Career) Fall 2022; 2022 Incipere Book Awards (Self-Improvement, 2nd place); 2022 Chanticleer International Book Awards (Military & Front Line, 1st Place; Instructional & Insightful Nonfiction, Finalist); 2023 Goody Business Book Award Winner (Self-Help / Personal Transformation), Award Finalist (Career Success); 2023 Four Seasons Book Awards Finalist; 2023 BooksShelf Nonfiction Writing Contest Finalist (Top 5%); 5-Star reviews: The Book Commentary, Readers' Favorite; #1 for Job Markets & Advice – Amazon, November 2022.

² 2024 Nonfiction Authors Association Gold Book Award; 2024 Chanticleer International Harvey Chute Book Awards 1st Place (Business & Enterprise); 2024 Independent Press Award (How-To); 2023 American Writing Awards Winner (Business Sales), Award Finalist (Business General), Award Finalist (Business Management & Leadership); 2023 American Book Fest Best Book Award Winner (Business Reference), Award Finalist (Business General), Award Finalist (Best New Nonfiction); 2023 Independent Author Network Book of the Year Award Finalist (Military / War); 2023 Goody Business Books Award Winner (Self-Help / How-To), Award Finalist (Leadership / HR & Employee Development); 2024 Axiom Business Book Awards Bronze Medal (Business / Human Resources / Employee Training); 2023 Incipere Awards – Third Place (Self-Help / Personal Development); 2024 Book Excellence Award Winner (Human Resources); 2024 BookFest Book Awards - First Place (Nonfiction, Business Labor); 2024 American Legacy Book Awards Finalist (Best New Nonfiction, Business: General, Business: Reference); 2024 International Book Awards Finalist (Business: Reference); 2023 Global Book Awards Finalist (War & Military); 2023 Pinnacle Book Achievement Award (Business Reference); 2023 Chanticleer International Book Awards (Military & Front Line, Shortlist); 5-Star reviews: Maincrest Media, Readers' Favorite, The Book Commentary; Amazon #1 New Release (Job Hunting) September 2023.



John W. Boerstler

Chief Veterans Experience Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

John W. Boerstler was sworn in on February 16, 2021, as the Chief Veterans Experience Officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As Chief Veterans Experience Officer, John leads the Veterans Experience Office (VEO), the Secretary's customer experience (CX) insight engine supporting and enabling the Department in providing the highest quality experiences in the delivery of care, benefits, and memorial services to service members, Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. In this role, he provides executive oversight of VEO's many innovative projects and programs, working collaboratively within VA's leadership to help achieve greater access, outcomes, and experiences for all VA's customers.



Prior to his current position, he served as the Chief Executive Officer of Combined Arms, a Community Information Exchange and collaborative technology company whose purpose was to effectively connect customers to thousands of vetted government and non-profit services to address social determinants of health and health-related social needs.

John has a distinguished career as a leader in the Veteran services field as a recipient of both the Eisenhower and Marshall Memorial Fellowships, having travelled to Bosnia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Israel, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom to write comparative papers on their military transition systems. As the first Marshall Prize recipient, John recently completed a three-year project in Ukraine to assist in the development of their Ministry of Veterans Affairs—the first of its kind in Europe. John was also honored to be selected in the inaugural cohort of Stand-To Scholars at the George W. Bush Institute's Veteran Leadership Program in 2018.

John is a native Texan who served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1999-2007 as a non-commissioned officer and infantry unit leader, including one combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004-2005 and Operation Natural Fire in the Republic of Kenya in 2006.



Son Nguyen

Founder & President, Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals (VAREP)

Son Nguyen is the Founder and President of the Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals (VAREP), a Veteran Service Organization (VSO) dedicated to improving the lives of veterans through education, housing, economic development, and philanthropy. VAREP is the only VSO that assists servicemembers and veterans with the VA Home Loan benefit and financial counseling.

Responsible for overseeing all facets of the organization, Nguyen drives the mission, fundraising, and operations. VAREP addresses veteran issues such as economic development, workforce development, affordable housing, homelessness, suicide prevention, mental wellness, alternative therapy treatments, and successful military-to-civilian reintegration.



As a Vietnamese refugee, Nguyen immigrated to the U.S. in 1975 with his three siblings and mother. Raised by a single mother, Nguyen learned the values of dedication, sacrifice, and strength, which are ingrained in his DNA. Proud to be foreign-born but American-made, he has a deep love for America and a passion for country and classic rock music.

An entrepreneur, Nguyen has founded two other nonprofits: USA Homeownership Foundation, Inc. and VETCares, Inc. These sister organizations provide housing counseling services, mortgage-free home donations, and various community grant programs for deserving heroes.

In addition to running nonprofits, Nguyen is active in the real estate, lending, closing settlement services, and government contracting sectors.

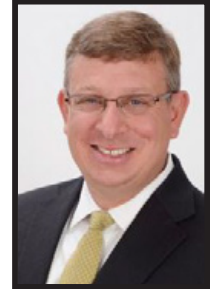
Nguyen enjoys cooking, traveling, attending the theatre, and playing golf, but his primary focus is supporting his 13-year-old son's baseball, basketball, and football activities.

A proud U.S. Navy Veteran, Nguyen holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations from the University of Florida and a Master's in Organizational Management.



THOMAS J. HERTHEL
OF COUNSEL
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM (NVLSP)

Mr. Tom Herthel serves as *Of Counsel* to the National Veterans Legal Service Program (NVLSP). In that capacity, Tom is responsible for providing counsel to the NVLSP Executive Director on matters relating to strategic partnership development. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Richmond Law School, where he teaches Veterans Law, Military Law, and coaches the National Veterans Law Moot Court (2022 national champion) team.



Before joining NVLSP in 2022, Tom served as a Deputy Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services. In that capacity, Tom was responsible for leading the Agency's Benefit Services, Virginia Veteran and Family Support, and Cemeteries service lines. Tom joined the Virginia Department of Veterans Services as the Benefits Director in 2014.

Immediately before joining the Department of Veterans Services, Tom served as the Director of the Air Force General Counsel's office in Europe, where he led a team responsible for providing legal support to the United States Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as well as for negotiating defense agreements throughout Europe. Tom retired from the military in 2012, having served a total of 26 years as a Navy Corpsman, Army Intelligence Officer and Air Force Judge Advocate (JAG). He is a combat veteran.

Tom attended the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. He attended Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, graduating with a Juris Doctorate degree. Tom also earned a Masters in Law (LL.M) in Military Law from the Army's Law Center in Charlottesville, Virginia and a Certificate in Military and Veterans Health, Policy and Advocacy from William & Mary Law School. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the Supreme Court of Alabama.

***Katie Walter******Senior Community Outreach Speciality, Purdue University Military Family Research Institute***

Katie Walter is a Senior Community Outreach Specialist with the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University. In this role, Katie promotes the use of data from the Measuring Communities site to make evidence-informed decisions; provides educational Data Academy trainings to teach others how to use data to support military-connected families; and supports the community through Joining Community Forces Indiana (JCFI) and other work. Katie is a state member of the Indiana Governor's Challenge to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families, as well as a state member for the Indiana Veteran Suicide Fatality Review Committee. Katie's expertise lies within health communication and public health, especially as it applies to using key data and optimizing community networks to make a change in the lives of those she serves. Katie earned a master's degree in health communication from Purdue University, and a bachelor's degree in public relations and strategic communication from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.





Ashish S. Vazirani

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Mr. Ashish S. Vazirani is performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness as of September 8, 2023. As the Under Secretary, Mr. Vazirani serves as the principal staff assistant and advisor to the Secretary of Defense for force readiness; force management; health affairs; National Guard and Reserve component affairs; education and training; and military and civilian personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and quality of life matters.

He was previously sworn in as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on July 18, 2022. Prior to this Mr. Vazirani briefly served in the Department of the Navy as the principal advisor on issues pertaining to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and suicide prevention and response within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.



Prior to joining the Department of Defense, Mr. Vazirani was Principal of A2O Strategies, LLC where he provided advisory services to high growth, mid-size, and large enterprises, commercial and non-profit, on the development, implementation, and execution of growth strategies. Mr. Vazirani was Executive Director and CEO of the National Military Family Association (NMFA), where he provided strategic and operational oversight, and direction for all aspects of NMFA's advocacy and programming to support military families. During his tenure, NMFA regained its four-star charity rating and expanded programming, including a child care fee relief program. Before joining NMFA, he led development and programming at the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) where he ensured implementation and measurement of standardized programs serving junior enlisted military families. Mr. Vazirani also served as a Member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on the Well-Being of Military Families. Prior to his work with the ASYMCA, he spent over two decades as a management consultant working with leading high tech and pharmaceutical companies to create transformational change while delivering customer-centric solutions and profitable growth. Mr. Vazirani served on active duty in the United States Navy as a Submarine Officer from 1986 to 1993.

Mr. Vazirani holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Engineering from the McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University, and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He served as a member of the Board of Advisors of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation. His family immigrated to the United States when he was 3 years old. He grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland where he and his wife, Deborah, currently reside. They have an adult son and daughter. Mr. Vazirani is the son of a combat wounded, Vietnam-era Marine and the father of a currently serving Marine.



Defense – State Liaison Office: Great Lakes Region Military Community and Family Policy

Shane Preston, Great Lakes Regional Liaison

Shane Preston is the Great Lakes Regional Liaison in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. Mr. Preston engages with state policymakers and military leaders throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin addressing the needs of service members and their families.

Mr. Preston served in the United States Marine Corps and held the Military Occupational Specialty (0331) of Machine Gunner. Mr. Preston deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and then served as Chief Instructor at the Jungle Warfare Training Facility in Okinawa Japan.

Prior to assuming this position, Mr. Preston served for 8 years in the Michigan State Senate. In this role, he worked on a wide range of policy areas including agriculture, education, energy policy, judiciary, local government, military policy, natural resources, regulatory reform, and transportation related issues.

Mr. Preston is a licensed attorney and lives in Fenton Michigan with his wife and kids.





OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS

Michael R. Odle

Director, Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs Collaboration Office



Mr. Michael (Mike) Odle serves as the Director of the Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs Collaboration Office (DVCO). As such, he is the central point of contact within the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the White House, Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal agencies, and stakeholders regarding Service member and Veteran programs. He regularly provides strategic communication, planning, and operational oversight in support of DoD/VA enhanced collaboration, coordination and established interagency goals.

Appointed to the Senior Executive Service in November 2015, Mr. Odle was the Veterans Health Administration's senior communications official responsible for executing the national policy, planning, management and evaluation of communications programs for the largest integrated health care system in the country, serving nearly nine million Veterans annually at over 1,200 health care sites. His office encompassed media engagement, digital

media, advertising, internal information, history and nearly 150,000 volunteers serving America's Veterans. He worked to enhance communication with Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations, VA's dedicated volunteers, the news media, and the American public.

He has more than 20 years of accomplished public, legislative, intergovernmental affairs and marketing experience with the government, military, non-profit and private sector. He has held leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Odle is an Air Force Veteran and currently serves as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, assigned to U.S. Southern Command, Doral, Fla. During his military career, Mr. Odle served as the Assistant Director, Military Compensation Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower & Reserve Affairs), Pentagon; Senior Press Officer for the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan; spearheaded the Multinational Public Affairs Office in Bangladesh during a United Nations peacekeeping support operation; and served as a Public Affairs Officer in Louisiana during critical phases of rescue and relief efforts during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Mr. Odle received his bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism with an emphasis in marketing from Black Hills State University, S.D. and a bachelor's degree in international business from the University of the Potomac, Washington, D.C. He earned a master's in international management from Western Sydney University, Australia. Mr. Odle is a recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the State of California Commendation Medal for crisis communications.



Michael P. Rosa

Program Manager for Interagency Affairs, Defense Manpower Data Center

Mr. Michael Rosa serves as the Program Manager for Interagency Affairs, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and principal liaison to the State Department of Veterans Affairs (SDVA). Mr. Rosa advises DMDC leadership on interagency matters relating to the sharing of Service member and Veteran Data between the Department of Defense (DoD) and external partners including SDVAs, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Labor, and the Social Security Administration. He collaborates with strategic partners within the DoD and interagency space to craft policy, formulate plans, and execute programs for the Total Force and their families. Furthermore, Mr. Rosa executes day-to-day data sharing activities across DoD to include relationships within the Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Office of Warrior Care, and Defense Health Agency.



Mr. Rosa began his public service career as an officer in the Army Intelligence Corps and served in leadership and senior intelligence positions within the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, headquartered at Fort Henry, South Korea. Mr. Rosa entered the private sector as an Associate for Booz Allen Hamilton after separating from the United States Army. Mr. Rosa focused on enhancing DoD and VA information sharing initiatives during his tenure as a strategy and management consultant. His efforts contributed to streamlining the Disability Evaluation System into a single joint DoD/VA process, the first significant change to the disability evaluation process in over 60 years. He spearheaded the elimination of the paper DD Form 214 distribution process to both internal and external DoD recipients. Mr. Rosa's thought leadership culminated in the first substantial transformation in the proliferation of Active Duty separation information with authorized recipients since the paper based process produced the first DD214 in 1950. Leading the initial DD 214 evaluation team, Mr. Rosa has been working with the SDVAs since 2013 and is excited for the next phase of data sharing efforts with the SDVAs to best support our Service members, Veterans, and families in preparation for and after their separation from military Service.

Mr. Rosa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of New Hampshire and obtained his Master's of Management while serving on Active Duty. Mr. Rosa resides in mid-coast Maine with his wife and four children. A native of New Hampshire, Mr. Rosa is a member of the NH American Legion Post #67 and currently serves on his town's planning board. He is an active member of numerous civic organizations and local little league.



Daniel J. Seehafer

National Commander, The American Legion

Daniel J. Seehafer was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 31, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C., during the 104th national convention. Seehafer likes to say, “It’s personal,” when it comes to The American Legion’s mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of “Be the One,” to prevent veteran suicide.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, he earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including national chaplain and commander of the Department of Wisconsin.



Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country track while in high school and later received a bachelor’s degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for “100 percent” and “All-Time High” in membership during his terms as commander and adjutant. Other honors include District Commander’s New Post Achievement Award, Silver Brigade, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

National Commander Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan’s son, Jacob, and daughter, Emma, are also members of the Post 157 family. Dan is the son of the late Lester Seehafer and Jean Sabatke.



Sammy L. Davis

Sergeant First Class, United States Army

Sammy Lee Davis served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in 1965 and went to Vietnam in Battery C, 2D Battalion, 4th Artillery, 9th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on November 18, 1967, at Firebase Cudgil, west of Cai Lay.

His citation reads: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Davis (then Pfc.) distinguished himself during the early morning hours while serving as a cannoneer with Battery C, at a remote fire support base. At approximately 0200 hours the fire support base was under heavy enemy mortar attack. Simultaneously, an estimated reinforced Viet Cong battalion launched a fierce ground assault upon the fire support base. The



attacking enemy drove to within 25 meters of the friendly positions. Only a river separated the Viet Cong from the fire support base. Detecting a nearby enemy position, Sgt. Davis seized a machine gun and provided covering fire for his gun crew, as they attempted to bring direct artillery fire on the enemy. Despite his efforts, an enemy recoilless-rifle round scored a direct hit upon the artillery piece. The resultant blast hurled the gun crew from their weapon and blew Sgt. Davis into a foxhole. He struggled to his feet and returned to the howitzer, which was burning furiously. Ignoring repeated warnings to seek cover, Sgt. Davis rammed a shell into the gun. Disregarding a withering hail of enemy fire directed against his position, he aimed and fired the howitzer which rolled backward, knocking Sgt. Davis violently to the ground. Undaunted, he returned to the weapon to fire again when an enemy mortar round exploded within 20 meters of his position, injuring him painfully. Nevertheless, Sgt. Davis loaded the artillery piece, aimed, and fired. Again he was knocked down by the recoil. In complete disregard for his safety, Sgt. Davis loaded and fired three more shells into the enemy. Disregarding his extensive injuries and his inability to swim, Sgt. Davis picked up an air mattress and struck out across the deep river to rescue three wounded comrades on the far side. Upon reaching the three wounded men, he stood upright and fired into the dense vegetation to prevent the Viet Cong from advancing. While the most seriously wounded soldier was helped across the river, Sgt. Davis protected the two remaining casualties until he could pull them across the river to the fire support base. Though suffering from painful wounds, he refused medical attention, joining another howitzer crew which fired at the large Viet Cong force until it broke contact and fled. Sgt. Davis' extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army."



Randy Cahow

Director of Product Management, Tyler Technologies

Mr. Randy Cahow, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with a Secret security clearance, has over 20 years of experience. Cahow and the whole of Tyler Technologies are dedicated to working for the benefit of our nation's veterans and VSO communities. He excels in managing complex Java/J2EE projects and directs a team to develop strategic software solutions, collaborate with stakeholders, and enhance operational processes, resulting in a significant increase in client base and effective responses to client needs and technical requirements. His initiatives, including leveraging Learning Management Systems for Veterans' Benefits, demonstrate his commitment to innovation and client satisfaction within Tyler Technologies.



Will Jacobson

Business Development Representative - Platform Solutions, Tyler Technologies

Will Jacobson is the Business Development Representative for the Platform Solutions Division of Tyler Technologies, in which the company's Veterans' Benefits software portfolio resides. He is currently in the process of taking over the portfolio, helping to onboard Veterans' Service Officers around the country get connected with Tyler's industry leading software products. Will currently lives in Denver, CO.





James D. Rodriguez

Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS)

The Honorable James D. Rodriguez, MA is the U.S. Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). He is responsible for preparing America's veterans, service members and their spouses for meaningful careers. In this capacity and in Fiscal Year 2023, over 2,400 DOL Veterans' Employment and Training Service staff, contractors, and grantees served more than 430,000 veterans and military spouses across all Agency programs.



Mr. Rodriguez is an executive leader and proud veteran with more than 30 years of experience in the U.S. government, corporate sector, and 21 years in the United States Marine Corps. He possesses a comprehensive background in program management, interagency collaboration, and policy development. He also has extensive senior-level experience building and managing multi-million-dollar budgets and large diverse teams while meeting the expectations of the President of the United States and large corporate enterprises. Additionally, he has demonstrated experience with developing and leading large scale international and national programs with a commitment to operational excellence, risk management and quality assurance.

Mr. Rodriguez's recent executive experience includes leadership roles within Deloitte LLP's Government and Public Sector practice and BAE Systems, Inc. Government Relations department. He also previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Office of Warrior Care Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2014 through 2017.

Mr. Rodriguez earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Maryland, University College and a Master of Arts in International Commerce and Policy from the George Mason University, School of Public Policy. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Government and Political Science in the University of Maryland, Global Campus.



Stan Kurtz retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003 completing a 23-year career. Since retiring, he has continued to serve veterans for over 17 years. He is a graduate of the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. He served on the Secretary of the Navy Retiree council and is a graduate of the George W. Bush Stand to Leadership scholar program. Stan currently serves as the Director of Policy and Engagement for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office Veterans Business Development (OVBD). His previous roles within OVBD include Director of Programs and the Director of the Veteran Business Outreach Center program. Prior to serving at the U.S. Small

Business Administration, Stan served as the Director of Veteran Employment Services for the Texas Veterans Commission and the Assistant Veteran Employment Services Coordinator for the State of Florida.



Scott B. Sanders, NASWA President and CEO

Scott B. Sanders has been the President and CEO of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) since October 2014. He manages the association of state administrators who handle workforce training, unemployment insurance, employment services, employment statistics, labor market information programs and veteran reemployment in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and US Territories. The association provides advocacy at the national level for a more effective workforce system, and engages with the US Department of Labor, employers and the public.

He previously served as Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and was a member of the cabinet of Governor Michael Pence and Governor Mitchell Daniels. DWD managed and implemented training and employment programs for Hoosiers, collaborated on regional economic growth initiatives for Indiana, coordinated the adult education system, and oversaw the unemployment insurance system. He was also involved in the launching of JAG in Indiana in 2007.

Scott currently serves as a board member of the UWC Foundation and served as a board member of the LMI Institute from July 2017-June 2023. He also served on the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board from February 2019-January 2021.

Scott also has over 20 years of private sector experience prior to his role at DWD.

Scott earned his master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and his bachelor's degree from Miami University.



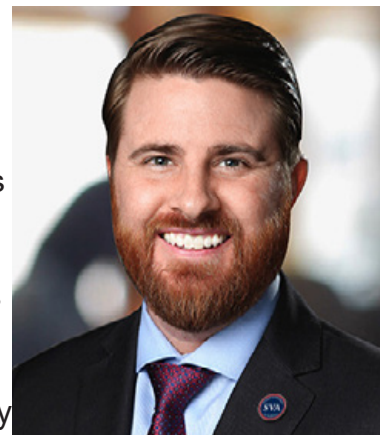


Jared Lyon, MPA

National President & CEO, Student Veterans of America

Jared Lyon was appointed National President & CEO of Student Veterans of America (SVA) in 2016. He leads the organization's efforts to empower student veterans using the transformative power of higher education. Since he took office, Lyon has overseen SVA's growth to a network of more than 1,600 chapters on campuses in all 50 states and three countries representing over 750,000 student veterans.

During his tenure, he co-authored the National Veteran Education Success Tracker (NVEST), a comprehensive study of the first 854,000 student veterans to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill. In 2017 Lyon led SVA's commitment to pass the "Forever GI Bill," the largest expansion of college aid for military veterans in a decade with an economic impact of \$3.4 Billion. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served as a submariner and diver, taking part in multiple deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



Before joining the headquarters team at SVA, Lyon held key positions, including National Program Manager at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans, and Manager of Florida Operations for the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team. He is an active member of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education, the Board of Advisors for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, the Florida State University (FSU) Veteran Advisory Board, and the FSU Student Affairs Development Council. Additionally, Lyon was recognized as a 2018 Presidential Leadership Scholar and the 2011 SVA National Student Veteran of the Year.

He holds an Associate of Arts from Eastern Florida State College, a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University, and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where he is currently pursuing his PhD in Social Science. Jared and his wife Chayla reside in Alexandria, Virginia with their sons, Campbell and Nolan.



Walter Herd

Director, Transition Assistance Program Human Resource Command

Retired Colonel Walter M. Herd, after serving 24 years in the Army, continues his service as the Army Transition Division Director at the Human Resources Command Center of Excellence in Fort Knox, Kentucky. In August 2010, Walter Herd accepted the position and immediately faced the challenge of re-engineering the Army's Transition Assistance Program.

Under Herd's leadership, the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was transformed into a robust, fully comprehensive transition program offering counseling, education, and employment assistance to Soldiers, DA Civilians, and retirees. Now mandated, TAP has transitioned over 500,000 Soldiers with an additional average of 115,000 eligible Soldiers to transition annually over the next five years.



Walter Herd was commissioned into the Regular Army in June 1983, becoming the sixth generation of his family to serve in America's military. He has served in over 25 countries and spent most of his career in Special Operations. He served in the 1st Ranger Battalion, later commanded a Special Forces A-Team, three Special Forces Companies, a Special Forces Battalion of some 350 "Green Berets" and ultimately, a Special Forces Group in combat.

That group was Colonel Herd's first brigade level command. Third Special Forces Group (forward) was the 4,000-man, 7-nation, Combined Joint Special Forces Task Force in Afghanistan. He later commanded another brigade at Ft. Knox, KY from the summer of 2005 until his retirement in the summer of 2007.

He has a BA in History from Centre College of Kentucky and three master's degrees, one from Marymount University in Human Resource Development and the other two from

Staff College and War College in Strategy and Military Science. Colonel Herd's professional education includes the USMC Command and Staff College and its second year School of Advanced Warfighting program, as well as the Joint Professional Military Education Program, Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk Naval Base. He graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA in 2002.

Colonel Herd is a published author with his book, "Unconventional Warrior," published in 2013 by McFarland Press.



Pete Jeffries, MBA

National Director, Strategic Campaigns & Integrated Management, AARP

Pete Jeffries leads the Strategic Campaigns & Integrated Management Team for AARP, America's largest membership organization with 38 million people. Pete's role includes driving team success through nationwide issues advocacy, brand building and voter engagement at the national, state and local levels, particularly in the areas of financial and health security for 50+ Americans.

Known for his strategic leadership and organizational management, Pete previously served as National Director for AARP's Veterans and Military Families (VMF) Initiative which delivers a suite of value-added and award-winning products and services on caregiving, fighting fraud, and securing employment unmatched in the non-profit Veterans marketplace. As a Veteran Caregiver Survivor for his U.S. Army Korean War Combat Father, Pete has walked the journey firsthand with the unique challenges facing Military Veteran Caregivers across the country.



Prior to AARP, Pete served as a senior Congressional Leadership staffer under two Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives and then ran Hill & Knowlton's Public Affairs Practice based in Washington, DC. Pete and his wife Kristin, both University of Iowa grads, now live west of Des Moines in central Iowa and have two children – a Hawkeye senior majoring in Business Marketing and a high school senior who's a National Champion competitive cheerleader.



Juanita Jimenez-Soto

Associate Director of Communications, AARP

Juanita Jimenez-Soto, a first-generation Mexican American, has a distinguished multimedia career spanning over 30 years. She joined AARP Texas in April 2014 as the Associate State Director of Communications. Her career began as a news anchor for KSPL Radio in San Marcos, Texas, where she created, produced, and anchored a Spanish-language news show while still a junior at Texas State University.



After graduating, Juanita worked as an editor and ENG operator before becoming a reporter/anchor and producer at KGBT-TV in Harlingen, Texas. In 1992, she made a significant leap to KHOU-TV in Houston, a top 10 TV news market. She held several positions while at KHOU including assignments editor, newscast, field, consumer, and digital producer. She was named Employee of the Quarter, served on the diversity board, and managed the station's internship program.

In 2009, Juanita transitioned to Houston Community College (HCC) where she used her digital skills to help inform non-traditional and traditional students, earning a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Sam Houston State University along the way. She joined AARP Texas as Associate State Director of Communications in 2014, where she used her innovative media expertise and bilingual skills to advocate for the 50+ multi-cultural community across the state.

In November 2023, Juanita became the first Hispanic woman to lead the National AARP Veterans and Military Families Initiative. This role is significant for her as the wife of a Navy veteran, mother of a West Point honors graduate and Army lieutenant, and aunt to a U.S. Coast Guard member.

Juanita has received numerous local, national, and international awards throughout her career. She has taken advantage of opportunities to serve her community, holding positions on parents' and teacher school boards, organizing volunteers and donations, and providing direct services and communications assets. Currently, Juanita sits on the City of Houston Area Planning Advisory Council, and Texas Food Policy Roundtable.

Juanita attributes her success to the "no fear" attitude and "querer es poder" philosophy she inherited from her parents.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Glenn Powers

***Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs
and Cemetery Operations
National Cemetery Administration (NCA)***



Glenn Powers was appointed as the Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs on March 10, 2011. As part of a re-organization in 2016, Mr. Powers was reassigned to be the Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs and Cemetery Operations. Since 2011, he has been responsible for leading five district (regional) offices, 135 national cemeteries, and NCA operations including the National Cemetery Scheduling Office and Memorial Products Service processing sites nationwide. Mr. Powers provides leadership for the Headstone, Marker, Niche Cover, Medallion and Presidential Memorial Certificate Program; services to determine eligibility for NCA administered

burial and memorial benefits; and programs to develop and improve VA national cemeteries. NCA annually provides interments for more than 130,000 Veterans and eligible family members and delivers more than 650,000 Presidential Memorial Certificates and 350,000 headstones, markers and niche covers to national cemeteries, state Veterans and tribal cemeteries, private cemeteries and next of kin around the world. Mr. Powers joined NCA in 2006 as the Director of Memorial Service Network IV in Indianapolis where he managed the operations of 27 national cemeteries in nine states. Mr. Powers was a United States Army infantry officer, retiring in the grade of lieutenant colonel in 2006. His military assignments included combat tours in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Just Cause; and various command and staff positions at Fort Ord, Calif.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; and Fort Campbell, Ky. His final military assignment was as Professor of Military Science and Battalion Commander for the U.S. Army ROTC unit located at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2016 – Present	Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs and Cemetery Operations, NCA, Washington DC
2011 – 2016	Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs, NCA, Washington DC
2006 – 2011	Director, Memorial Service Network IV, Indianapolis, IN

EDUCATION:

2010	Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program
2009	Veterans Health Administration Health Care Leadership Institute (ECF Members)
2008	Federal Executive Institute - Leadership for a Democratic Society
1996	Masters of Arts in Geography, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
1986	Bachelor of Science, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.



Dr. Shereef Elnahal

Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Shereef Elnahal was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden to serve as Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and confirmed by the Senate on July 21, 2022. In this role, he leads the largest integrated health system in the nation alongside a team of nearly 400,000 professionals delivering world-class care to 9 million enrolled Veterans.



In the first year of his tenure, Dr. Elnahal has overseen the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) implementation of the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the largest expansion of Veteran benefits in a generation. To prepare the enterprise to provide more care and more benefits to more Veterans, caregivers, and survivors than ever before, he has spearheaded initiatives to improve access, expand infrastructure, and train employees to serve Veterans impacted by toxic exposures. Under his direction, VHA also embarked on an aggressive hiring effort, growing its workforce at historic rates despite recruitment and retention challenges in the broader health care market.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Elnahal served as President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospital in Newark, NJ from 2019 through 2022, leading the hospital through the COVID-19 public health emergency and providing a model for urban hospital and regional response efforts. Under his leadership, the hospital also realized substantial improvements in care quality and patient safety against national benchmarks.

Previously, Dr. Elnahal served as New Jersey's 21st Health Commissioner, appointed to the Cabinet post by Governor Phil Murphy and confirmed unanimously by the New Jersey Senate. During his nearly two years as Commissioner, he expanded the New Jersey Health Information Network, worked to improve infant and maternal health outcomes and reduce health disparities, and made strides in curbing the opioid epidemic.

This is Dr. Elnahal's second tour of duty at VA, having served as VA's Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality, Safety, and Value from 2016 through 2018, overseeing national policies around quality of care for the VHA, and as a White House Fellow in the VA from 2015-16. During that time, he co-founded the VHA Innovation Ecosystem, a program that continues to foster the spread of innovation and best practices that improve Veteran care across the nation.

Dr. Elnahal holds an M.D. from Harvard Medical School and an M.B.A. with Distinction from Harvard Business School.



Mark Swofford (PhD, FACHE)

CEO, Health Services, Optum Serve

Dr. Mark Swofford has been part of Optum since 2019, joining us from WellMed (OptumCare), where he most recently served as the Senior Vice President of Enterprise Care and Value Operations. Dr. Swofford brings with him 27 years of military experience, serving as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, where he provided health services administration and operational expertise to the Army Medical Department and its subordinate units.

Dr. Swofford is a board-certified health care executive with more than 29 years of experience in DoD and Medicare Advantage health care including development and delivery of clinical programs, executive leadership positions in inpatient and outpatient medical treatment facilities with annual operating budgets up to \$1.2 billion, and supervision of multiple government contracts totaling over \$300 million annually. Previous roles include health care delivery in hospitals and health clinics, analytics and policy development at the regional and national levels, and the provision of care management, utilization management, and population health management to patients in a full risk environment. Skilled in strategy development, change management, and program execution.

Dr. Swofford has a PhD, Health Services Organization Research from Virginia Commonwealth Univ and Master's in Health Administration from Baylor University. Dr. Swofford has more than 29 years of experience developing and implementing clinical programs in inpatient and outpatient facilities at the regional and national levels.





Department of Veterans Affairs

VSO Liaison, Office of the Undersecretary of Benefits

Martin Caraway

Strategic Advisor and Veteran Service Organization Liaison (VSOL) Veterans Benefits Administration

Martin Caraway currently serves as the Strategic Advisor and VSO Liaison for the Office of the Undersecretary of Benefits (OUSB). Martin is responsible for strategic collaboration with Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), private bars, and intergovernmental (State and County) executives across the nation. He advises senior executives within the OUSB on matters raised by VSO executives and is responsible for timely communication for all VBA matters related to service organizations.

Prior to this role, Martin served as the Strategic Advisor and Stakeholder Liaison for the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals, where he was responsible for external communication and managing timely legal submissions to the Board.



Before beginning Federal service, Martin was County Veteran Service Officer for Redwood County, MN. Responsible for advocating for the Veterans of Redwood County for Veterans benefits, healthcare, and other federal and state benefits, he was charged with leading outreach efforts to the community to raise awareness of Veteran issues throughout the community. While in this position, he volunteered with the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) and held many positions, from Legislative Director-1st Vice President. He has testified on numerous bills and issues before Congress and state legislatures. He also played an integral part in drafting the Appeals Modernization Act, the most extensive reform in VA policy history related to the claims and appeals process.

Martin is a former Marine with two combat deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003, 2004-05). He is married to Lindsey Caraway, and they have two children (Grace, Asher).

In his free time, he plays competitive golf; most notably, he is the past Captain of Team USA, Simpson Cup, a Ryder Cup-inspired tournament between 13 disabled Veterans from the USA vs. 13 disabled Veterans from Great Britain.

Major Awards:

- 2013 Board of Governors Emmy © award- Battlefield to Homefront
- 2013 Redwood County Person of the Year and Legionnaire of the Year
- 2014 MN Humanities Center -Veterans Voices "On the Rise" recipient
- 2016, 17,18 NACVSO Presidents Award
- 2023 NACVSO Doug LeValley Lifetime Achievement Award

EDUCATION:

BA, Political Science and Government Leadership, Metropolitan State University, MN



Russell Keogler

Vice President of Corporate Operations, HMR Veterans Services

Russell Keogler is an accomplished leader with 17 years of experience across a diverse range of healthcare sectors, including long-term, acute, and pre-hospital care. He currently serves as the Vice President of Corporate Operations for HMR Veterans Services Inc., where he oversees business operations for the organization and its affiliated companies.

Prior to his current role, Russell served as the Regional Vice President for South Carolina and Maryland, and as the Administrator of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. He began his work within the State Veterans Home Program within the admissions department at the Long Island State Veterans Home. Before his tenure in State Veterans Homes operations, Russell served as the Assistant Director – Hospitals for Health and Hospital Corporation.

Russell is actively involved in industry associations, currently serving on the budget and legislative committees of the South Carolina Health Care Association. For the past two years, he has also chaired the Networking and Technology Committee for the National Association of State Veterans Homes.

Russell resides in Anderson, South Carolina with his wife Christine and their two children, Knox and Quinn.

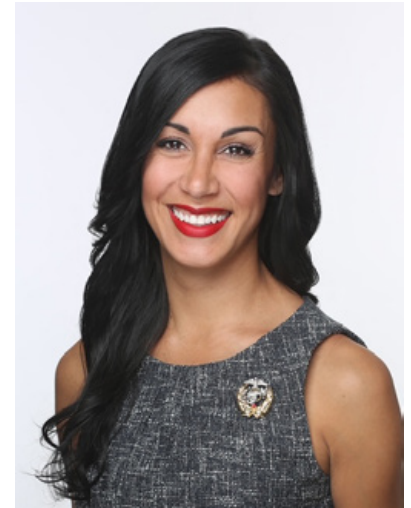




Juliana Mercer

Director, Veteran Advocacy & Public Policy, Healing Breakthrough

Juliana Mercer is a Marine Corps veteran who served her country honorably in and out of war zones for sixteen years. Throughout her military career, she deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and spent four years providing holistic support to injured Marines recovering at the Wounded Warrior Battalion in San Diego. After active duty, she channeled her passion and experience into the Veteran nonprofit arena, where she has actively supported wounded warriors and veterans' reintegration into civilian life. With over 20 years of experience working with and serving the veteran population, Juliana is deeply committed to serving their unique interests and needs. She knows what it takes to help veterans thrive.



In her quest to help fellow veterans and herself heal from years of personal and military trauma, Juliana found relief through psychedelic therapy that fundamentally changed her life. Having experienced its healing potential firsthand, she now dedicates her time and energy to ensuring that veterans who suffer from complex, chronic PTSD also have access to these therapies. Thus, in her current role as Director of Veteran Advocacy & Public Policy for the nonprofit organization Healing Breakthrough, Juliana passionately advocates for the research, training, and deployment of system-wide adoption of MDMA-Assisted Therapy in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, Juliana serves on the Heroic Hearts Project board of directors and is a lifetime member of the VFW, American Legion, and Marine Memorial Club.



Dr. Gregory Burek

Medical Director, Wisconsin Institute of Neuroscience's BRAVE Program

Dr. Gregory Burek is the Medical Director for the Wisconsin Institute of Neuroscience's BRAVE (Building Resilience through Action in Veterans and First Responders) Program. BRAVE is the Midwest's first treatment program designed to provide diagnostic and rehabilitation services, to help our Military Veterans and First Responders overcome Traumatic Brain Injuries and the resulting trauma, at little to no cost. BRAVE is the newest site within the Avalon Action Alliance, an alliance of partners committed to an integrative approach to brain health and mental wellness. As the Medical Director, he oversees the day-to-day operations of our clinical staff and treatment program. Dr. Burek served in the United States Marine Corps between 1999-2003 and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 for Operation Iraq Freedom. After his service he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in Biological Science, then went on to earn a Medical Doctorate from Drexel University College of Medicine in 2014. He completed residency in Psychiatry with the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2018. He is also the former Medical Director and founder of Aurora Health Care's, Veterans Retraining Program.



Matt Seidl

Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin Institute of Neuroscience's BRAVE Program

Matt Seidl currently serves as the Outreach Coordinator and as a peer mentor for the Medical College of Wisconsin's BRAVE program. Matt served 4 years in the U.S. Army, as a Cavalry Scout and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (06-08), where he earned his Purple Heart. Prior to working for BRAVE, Matt spent over ten and a half years working for the United States Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and multiple other Veterans Service Organizations. Matt later went on to receive his degree, in 2018, from the Illinois Institute of Art.





Zaneta Inez Adams

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

As Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ms. Adams provides strategic advice and guidance to the OPIA Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Undersecretaries for Health, Benefits and Memorial Affairs, and all other VA staff offices by fostering and enhancing government partnerships and acting as liaison between VA and the White House, federal, state, county, municipal, tribal, insular and international governments, rural and faith-based communities.

Prior to being named Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ms. Adams served as Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer from June 2019 thru December 2022. She was the first woman Veteran in Michigan history to be appointed to a governor's cabinet position.



In 2006, after eight years of enlisted service in the U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve, Adams was medically discharged with honor. During her time in the military, Adams served as a Joint Counter Narcotics Task Force Agent for the National Guard. Prior to her appointment to the MVAA, she was an attorney at Williams Hughes PLLC, assisting Veterans with compensation and pension appeals.

Adams has consistently demonstrated leadership through service and board membership. She is the former President and founded WINC For All Women Veterans. She recently served on the advisory board for Fisher House Michigan and as a board member for the USS Silversides Submarine Museum, Mercy Health Physician Partners and Challenge America. She was also an appointed member of the VA's Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Workgroup.

In 2021, Adams was named a Women Veteran Trailblazer by the VA's Center for Women Veterans. She also recently told her story for a VA's Million Veteran Program documentary, which was recently submitted for a regional Emmy. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia College and a Juris Doctor from Western Michigan Cooley Law School, where she also taught veterans' law as an adjunct professor. She has been married to Joseph Adams, an Army Veteran for over 23 years and has 6 children (including 2 sets of twins).



Lourdes Tiglao

Director, Center for Women Veterans

Lourdes Tiglao serves as primary advisor to the Secretary on Department policies, programs, and legislation that affect women Veterans. In addition, she oversees the Center's activities, which include monitoring and coordinating VA's administration of health care, benefits, services, and programs for women Veterans; serving as an advocate for cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and servicemembers; and raising awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), she was the Global Partnerships Manager at Airbnb's Open Homes (now Airbnb.org) program, overseeing a globally distributed team and a portfolio of 70+ nonprofit, private sector, and international aid agencies across six continents. She focused on strategy, standards and processes, and strategic partnerships both domestically and globally, while helping to lead the Veterans Employee Resource Group's (ERG) functional area in engagement.



Her background traverses sectors in the military, federal, and nonprofit organizations, spanning over a decade in leadership roles as mentor, educator, and manager in the US Air Force (USAF) and the nonprofit environment across business, communications, and healthcare.

During her military tenure, she utilized her medical expertise to help save lives during her extensive critical care air & ground transport experience globally on the Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT). She deployed to multiple locations including Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, and others. Her final assignment was in Okinawa, Japan, where she helped launch the very first Critical Care Medical Attendant Team (CCMAT), which provides critical care medical evacuation services. The effort also officially integrated Naval personnel on the team as a joint force effort to serve the Pacific region.

After transitioning from the military, Ms. Tiglao developed her disaster skills with Team Rubicon, a Veteran-led non-profit disaster response organization, deploying with the organization during Hurricane Sandy in New York and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. She later became Team Rubicon Global Strategic Partnerships Officer, connecting the network with government and organizations around the world. A staunch Veteran advocate, she is a former member on the MyVA Advisory Board for the US Department of Veterans Affairs and has sat on several Veteran-focused boards to improve service access for minority Veterans and enhance their lives through the arts. She has spoken on topics ranging from nonprofit management, medicine, Veteran reintegration, humanitarian response, and volunteer mobilization globally, including at the Philippine Embassy, New York and San Francisco Philippine consulates, the State Department, and as a guest speaker by international television networks, universities, and scientific conferences.



Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Erika Hoover, Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Manager

Erika Hoover has been working at the MVAA serving veterans since October 2017.

In her role, Hoover oversees a team that includes our Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Analyst, Community Health Technicians, Homeless Veteran Coordinator, Women Veterans & Underserved Populations Coordinator, and General Office Assistant - Veteran Connector. She is the chair of the Michigan Women Veterans Coalition, a statewide coalition created by MVAA to engage with federal, state, and local organizations to solve statewide female veterans' issues. Erika is also the current President of the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators. Hoover served in the United States Navy from 2009-2013 as an Aviation Machinists Mate, Petty Officer Third Class.



She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Portland State University and a culinary arts degree from Oregon Culinary Institute.



Phyllis J. Wilson

President, Military Women's Memorial

Phyllis Wilson served 37 years in the Army as a Military Intelligence (MI) Voice Intercept Operator. She has served around the globe – visiting more than 35 countries – in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and North America. In August 1990, she was mobilized to support OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/OPERATION DESERT STORM and served with XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC. In December 2002, she mobilized for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM as a senior Counter Terrorism Analyst. She deployed for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM as an Intelligence Analyst with Special Operations.



Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Phyllis J. Wilson served as the 5th Command Chief Warrant Officer for the United States Army Reserve and a key member of the Executive Team managing an organization of more than 200,000 personnel with an annual operating budget of more than \$8 Billion. She was a Senior Military Fellow with the Chief of Staff of the Army's Strategic Studies Group focused on Global issues 2050 and beyond.

Phyllis is a Registered Nurse and holds two Master's degree, two Bachelor of Science degrees, three Associate degrees, and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She attended the Defense Language Institute for both German and Spanish. She is a graduate of the Program in Advanced Security Studies at the George C. Marshall Center and School in Garmisch, Germany.

Her military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary & Service Medals, the Army Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Badge. In 2017, she was inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.

She is President of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation – the only major national memorial honoring the 3 Million women who have defended America from the Revolutionary War to today. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Policy Vets; Allied Forces Foundation; the Army Women's Foundation; and the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). She is also a Senior Fellow at AUSA. Phyllis serves as an Army Reserve Ambassador for Maryland which is afforded the rights, privileges and protocol status of a VIP-5, a 2-Star General Officer equivalent.

Phyllis is a member of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the World Wars, Association of the United States Army, Association of the United States Navy, Women Marines Association, Reserve Organization of America, Military Women Across the Nation, Army Women Veterans Association, Military Officers Association of America, Disabled American Veterans, Air Force Association, U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, the Mayflower Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Defense Industrial Association, and Women In Defense.



Michael Visconage

VA Chief Historian

Mike Visconage serves as the History Program Director and Chief Historian for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He joined VA in July 2019 and was charged with establishing a VA History Office and advancing the development of the National VA History Center as a central location for historical VA artifacts and archival materials. Mike served in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, including deployments to Iraq as a military field historian and Command Historian for Multi-National Forces. Before joining VA, he worked in a variety of private industry positions, implementing new programs and change-management initiatives. Mike was also an organizer and Co-Director of the Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration from 2015-19.





Bryan Gray

CEO & Co-Founder, HereNOW Help

HereNOW Help is a marriage of Bryan Gray's passion for technology that comes as a Carnegie Mellon alumni, and from his 20 years as a family counselor. His passion for helping both active military and veterans comes from his life growing up in a military family, and his first hand experience of the many areas of mental health support needed for our servicemen and women. HereNOW Help is currently being used across the country by various veteran service organizations, states, major healthcare systems, behavioral health centers, schools, universities, hospitals and many more.

HereNOW Help is a 30-in-1 mental wellness platform for veterans, active military and their families (i.e. meditations, daily check-in's, assessments, on-demand counseling, chat rooms, suicide prevention tools, substance abuse recovery, etc). Built on a suite of apps and a web-based desktop platform, HNH's features and tools are designed to help individuals in three phases of their mental wellness journey. 1) Self-Care: Tools to manage one's own mental health. 2) Peer-Care: Connect with others like yourself to find community and peer support. 3) Clinical-Care: 24/7/365 on-demand counseling and crisis intervention.





Joshua Jacobs

Under Secretary for Benefits

Joshua Jacobs serves as the Under Secretary for Benefits. In this role, he leads more than 32,000 Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) employees in the delivery of non-medical benefits programs. VBA provides disability compensation benefits to 6 million Veterans and their survivors and administers pension benefits for nearly 300,000 Veterans and their survivors. Through a nationwide network of 56 regional offices, special processing centers, and VBA Headquarters, he oversees the execution of \$189 billion in direct benefits to Veterans and their dependents.

Josh previously served as Senior Advisor for Policy in the Office of the Secretary, where he helped to design and implement a new structure and process for enterprise governance and policy development. In this role, Josh established and chaired a new Evidence Based Policy Council, which meets on a regular basis to drive enterprise policy making. Josh also developed a new interagency policy development process to coordinate and implement more than 50 interagency policy efforts.



Prior to rejoining VA in 2021, Josh Jacobs was a Senior Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton. From 2013 to 2017, Josh served as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Secretary of VA, where he was awarded the Secretary's Meritorious Service Award. Josh also served nine years in the U.S. Senate, including two years as Deputy Staff Director for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Josh is a graduate of the University of Washington. He and his wife, Julia, have three children.



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Tanya J. Bradsher

Chief of Staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs

Tanya Bradsher was selected by Secretary Denis McDonough to serve as the Chief of Staff for Veterans Affairs. As Chief of Staff, Ms. Bradsher is the senior advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the federal government's second-largest Cabinet department, with a budget of more than \$246 billion and over 424,000 employees serving in VA medical centers, clinics, benefits offices, and national cemeteries.

Ms. Bradsher is a combat Veteran who served for 20 years in the United States Army. She enlisted in 1993 and was commissioned in 1994 from the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Her major assignments included Spokesperson on the White House National Security Council for the Department of Defense, Asia, Africa, Western Hemisphere, counter-terrorism, and detainee policies; Defense Press Officer in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs at the Pentagon; Brigade Public Affairs Officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Deputy Public Affairs officer, 8th U.S. Army; Commander, Delta Company 516th Battalion, and Executive Officer, 1st Replacement Company, 8th Personnel Support Command.



Prior to being named VA's Chief of Staff, Ms. Bradsher served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Partnerships and Global Engagement on the National Security Staff in the Executive Office of the President. She previously served as the Chief of Staff to Congressman Don Beyer in Virginia's 8th District. Before working on the Hill, Ms. Bradsher was the Chief of Communications for the American Psychiatric Association (APA). Prior to joining APA, she served at the Defense Health Agency as the Chief for Communications Plans and Operation in the Office of Public Affairs.

During the Obama Administration, Ms. Bradsher served as the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security where she oversaw public outreach, media, and incident communications efforts and served as the principal communications advisor to the Secretary. Prior to joining DHS, she served at the White House as the Assistant Director, Office of Public Engagement, where she led Veteran, Wounded Warrior, and Military Family Outreach initiatives.

Ms. Bradsher earned her M.A. in Strategic Communications from George Washington University and her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint and Army Commendation Medals. She and her husband, Colonel (Retired) John Bradsher, have three children.

***Bryan Escobedo******Executive Director, Technology & Innovation, Combined Arms***

Bryan is the Product Owner of Combined Arms' technology. He currently leads the organization's Technology & Innovation Department as well as all national expansion efforts, serving as the chief consultant to states seeking to establish a data-driven collaborative model for social impact. Most recently, Bryan became a 2023 Presidential Scholar at the G.W. Bush Presidential Center through the Stand To Veteran Leadership Program.

In 2003, Bryan enlisted into the United States Marine Corps as a Combat Engineer. He completed three tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart, Navy Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon. Bryan returned to his hometown of Houston, Texas to pursue a degree in Communications, with minors in both Philosophy & Psychology, from the University of Houston-Downtown.



In 2010, while in college, Bryan started to apply his military leadership to community leadership. He started five veteran-focused nonprofit programs and delivered lectures centered on developing a positive post-military identity. Bryan specializes in blending software and collaborative community strategy to create large scale networks of veteran-services.



FRED S. SGANGA, MPH, FACHE, LNHA

Fred S. Sganga is the Executive Director of the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University, a 350-bed Skilled Nursing Facility serving honorably discharged veterans and their families. Board certified in Health Care Management and a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Mr. Sganga has worked in a variety of senior level healthcare positions in academic medical centers, community hospitals, long-term care facilities and physician practice management. Mr. Sganga earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health from Hunter College and his Masters of Public Health from Columbia University.

Mr. Sganga serves as an adjunct professor in the Graduate Healthcare Administration Programs at Stony Brook University and Hofstra University. He lectures extensively on the topics of Healthcare Leadership and Long-Term Care Management.

Mr. Sganga is currently the Legislative Officer of the National Association of State Veterans Homes. Mr. Sganga also served as President of this organization in 2011-2012. In his current role as Legislative Officer, Mr. Sganga advocates on behalf on the 161 State Veterans Homes in all 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The State Veterans Home program consists of 30,000 beds and is the largest provider of long term care to our nation's veterans.

He is also a Board Member of the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. In addition, Mr. Sganga has served as Regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives representing the Greater New York area and is a member the Association's faculty.

Mr. Sganga has received numerous awards during his career including the 2000 Award of Distinction from the Metropolitan Health Administration Association. In 2008, he received the MHA Program Professor of the Year from Hofstra University. Also in 2012, he received the Secretary's Award from the Veterans Administration for his commitment and dedication to our nation's veterans.

Mr. Sganga resides on Long Island with his wife Marianne, and they have two daughters; Danielle, a pediatric cardiologist at Boston Children's Hospital, and Nicole, a journalist at CBS News in Washington, D.C.



Ed Harries

Executive Director - Tennessee State Veterans Home Board

Ed Harries has over 30 years' experience serving on an executive level in rehabilitation, long term care and acute healthcare management. His areas of expertise include operational improvement, strategic planning, market analysis and census building, organizational assessment and re-design, practical application of statistical data, and quality improvement and assurance. He has co-authored two articles: *Assessing the Accuracy of a Long Term Care Facility's MDS Process: A Guide for Administrators.*, Survey Savvy, Summer 2002 edition; and *Web-Based Software Applications for Long Term Care*, Nursing Homes Magazine, January 2004 edition.

His background includes extensive experience in long term care facility, outpatient rehabilitation center and tertiary care hospital management operations. He has served as Vice President of a post acute care consulting firm. Currently he is the Executive Director (CEO) of the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board, a position he has held for 15 years. He has spoken numerous times at health care conventions on both a state and national level for organizations including: The National Sub-Acute and Post-Acute Care Association (NASPAC), American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA), and the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA). A Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, He is an alumnus of Youngstown State University, has completed the post acute care "Core of Knowledge" program at The Ohio State's Max M. Fisher College of Business and has attended St. Joseph's College of Windham, Maine pursuing a Masters in Health Services Administration. He also holds a Black Belt in Six Sigma quality improvement methodology. Mr. Harries currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) as First Vice President.

He resides in Murfreesboro TN. with his wife Kelly.



TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS

3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201

800-959-TAPS ★ 202-588-TAPS (8277) ★ www.taps.org

CANDACE WHEELER

TAPS Director, Government and Legislative Affairs



Candace Wheeler joined the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) in 2018 as the Senior Advisor for Policy and Legislation. She is now the TAPS Director for Government and Legislative Affairs. As a military spouse and staunch advocate with over 30 years' experience, Candace works to protect the rights and earned benefits of surviving families.

On behalf of TAPS and as the Co-Chair of the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition, Candace was instrumental in helping to pass the historic *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022*, signed into law on August 10, 2022. Candace represented TAPS before Congress, testified in support of Toxic Exposure legislation, met with Congressional Members and staff, worked with fellow veteran service organizations, participated in press conferences and rallies, and helped build a strategy to secure House and Senate passage. The PACT Act now ensures more than 4 million veterans of multiple generations exposed to burn pits, toxins, and airborne hazards while deployed are provided immediate, lifelong access to VA health care, and benefits for their survivors.

Candace also led efforts to finally eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) – Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset or “Widow’s Tax”, which was signed into law in December 2019. Candace created a new strategy and the TAPS policy team educated Congress, garnered support from veterans and military service organizations, and empowered surviving spouses to advocate on their own behalf. Phased in over three years, nearly 66,000 surviving families now receive their full survivor benefits as of February 2023.

As the former President of The Military Coalition (TMC), Chairman of the National Military Family Association (NMFA), and Spokesperson for the Save Our Benefit Coalition, Candace has championed military and veteran families before Congress, State Legislatures, and Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA). Candace continues to educate policymakers on veteran and survivor issues, and serves on the Department of Veterans Affairs Federal Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials.

Candace earned a Master’s in Political Management from George Washington University (GW) and received the 2018 Founding Dean Arterton Award for academic excellence and professional distinction for her advocacy work on behalf of military families and surviving spouses. Candace holds an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of Southern California (USC).

The ***Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)*** provides comfort, care and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one. TAPS also provides programs to survivors nation and worldwide, and is committed to improving support provided by the federal government through the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Education (DoED), Department of Labor (DOL), state governments, and local communities for the families of the fallen – those who fall in combat, those who fall from invisible wounds, and those who die from illness or disease.



Robin Kelleher

CEO/Co-Founder Hope for the Warriors

Robin is a visionary organizational strategist across for-profit and non-profit industries, with a unique ability to create cohesive support for critical missions. She has an expertise in identifying opportunities and developing productive partnerships to promote campaigns and broaden awareness to create tangible support. She is highly skilled in translating vision to implementation, with strong persuasive abilities to engage and train key players.

Robin Kelleher is the co-founder who serves as the CEO of Hope For The Warriors®. Robin's entrepreneurship, leadership, and passion has led this highly successful "for purpose" organization to national heights, raising over \$75M and significantly impacting the military community. Robin is responsible for developing and implementing the strategic direction of the organization, driving results with a dedicated Board of Directors, and providing budgetary and mission-focused guidance to the growing staff of Hope For The Warriors®.



Robin serves as a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women In The Service (DACOWITS), Membership Committee and Health & Wellness Solution Group of the Washington Board of Trade. the Military Family and Veterans Service Organizations of America (MFVSOA) Board of Directors, the Virginia Chamber's Military & Veterans Affairs Executive Committee, and a PREVENTS Ambassador. Robin has worked extensively with military families, caring for family units during multiple deployments as the wife of a Marine. Additionally, her experiences as the daughter and granddaughter of US Soldiers have given her a unique insight into the needs of service members and their families.

Prior to 2006, Robin founded two for-profit and one non-profit business. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business and Economics from Randolph Macon College, a Certificate in Executive Leadership from Duke University, and a Certificate in the Psychology of Leadership from Cornell University.

External Provider Scheduling

WellHive is proud to be the technology solution for community care scheduling at VHA sites nationwide.



Side-by-side comparison of appointment availability across VHA's trusted network of external providers



Direct scheduling of Veteran referrals with providers



Configurable provider search and filtering to align with VHA's access standards



Real-time and actionable metrics for monitoring and managing Veteran care and network performance

By leveraging the WellHive platform, VHA can offer direct, integrated scheduling access across their external provider networks, furthering their commitment to providing Veterans with the soonest and best care.





Dedicated to improving Veteran health across the nation

Part of UnitedHealth Group®, Optum Serve leverages UnitedHealthcare® and Optum® to deliver solutions that meet the broad spectrum of health care needs throughout the federal government.

Community care services

We ensure that our nation's Veterans have access to the right care, at the right time and in the right setting.

Health services

From well-being and prevention to care coordination, we're here to simplify how those you serve receive top-quality, reliable care.

Scan the QR code to learn more





IN PROGRESS: MARYLAND VETERANS HOME—SYKESVILLE, MD

It's More Than Just Architecture.

It's a veteran's home and it's designed to serve them.

SFCS' mission is for veterans to feel welcomed and comfortable in a space that is built for them and their specific needs. As experts in senior living and veteran home design, our research-backed work rejects the institutional look and feel of traditional nursing homes.

By providing fully integrated architecture, engineering and interior design services, we can efficiently coordinate innovative solutions. This means better cost control and high-quality construction documents that minimize challenges for your general contractor during building.

Stop by our booth to further discuss how we can help your state veterans get home.

SFCS

architecture | engineering | planning | interiors



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO CONTACT US.

A Congressionally
Chartered
Veteran Service
Organization



The **Purple Heart** is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

The organization now known as the "**Military Order of the Purple Heart**," was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veteran's service organization comprised strictly of "combat" veterans.

Funds for welfare, rehabilitation and/or service work carried on by the organization are derived through the collection of used household items, the operation of thrift stores, through the donation of automobiles and, at the community level, from the annual distribution of its official flower, the Purple Heart Viola. Violas are assembled by disabled and needy veterans, many of whom receive little or no compensation from other sources. Thus, the benefits of your contribution to our programs serve are two-fold. First, they help the veterans who participate in these endeavors and, secondly, they enable the organization to do many things on behalf of hospitalized and needy veterans and their families.

Wives, mothers, daughters, step-daughters and adopted daughters of Purple Heart recipients are eligible to belong to the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which also does important work nationally and locally in veterans' hospitals.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART SERVICE FOUNDATION

PO Box 49

Annandale, VA 22003

[Contact the Service Foundation](#)

On the Web: [The Service Foundation](#)

ADJUTANT Contact Info:

PHONE: (703) 642-5360 FAX: (703) 642-1841

Email: Adjutant@purpleheart.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS INQUIRIES Contact Info:

PHONE: (352) 753-5535 CELL: (352) 250-9555

Email: Publicrelations@purpleheart.org

GENERAL INQUIRIES Contact Info:

PHONE: (703) 642-5360 FAX: (703) 642-2054

Email: Memberships@purpleheart.org



Request a demo:



Claims and Electronic Submission Software For Veteran Services Offices

- Password-less authentication
- Receive login codes by email or text message
- Intuitive and efficient data entry and claims management
- Responsive, real-time client support, onboarding and training
- Powerful Ad-Hoc Reporting: create, save and edit queries to fit your needs; query nearly every data field for reports
- Fully HIPAA compliant and third party certified annually
- Remote form review and signature from anywhere in the world
- Support clients remotely and contactless
- Batch upload documents and submit files up to 100MB each
- Instant submission confirmation
- Real-time submission status to VBMS
- Notifications and Reminders to track suspense dates and tasks



info@vetpro.us



www.vetpro.us



Most veterans want to stay in their homes as they age. But many lack the funds.

AARP research shows more than 70% of veterans age 45-plus are unaware of the \$150 million available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for veteran adaptive housing grants. Our new FREE **Veterans Home Modification Benefits Guide** lays out how to claim these often overlooked benefits, so veterans can remain independent and live safely and comfortably in their homes and communities for years to come.



To learn more, scan the QR code or visit aarp.org/VetsHomeBenefits



EMPOWERING VSOs TO SERVE THOSE WHO SERVED

Tyler's scale, experience, and expertise delivers the exact functionality states and VSOs needed to support Veterans.

CASE STUDY

Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office

CHALLENGE: The Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office (KCVAO) needed to automate the processing of Veterans' benefit claims in a way that would not only conform to their immediate needs but would be flexible to adapt over time to changing requirements.

SOLUTION: KCVAO selected the Tyler Technologies team to provide solutions to automate the Veterans' benefits claims process, including submitting claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The case management solution automatically populates forms and accepts e-signatures, streamlining the claims submission process. As their requirements evolve, Tyler continues to provide modernized solutions tailored to the agency's needs, based on the Tyler's Application Platform.



Scan QR code
to see the results.

SOFTWARE HIGHLIGHTS

USER FOCUS

- A community of 30+ states, 300+ counties, and 4,500+ users
- Interact with Tyler team members
- Request additions and enhancements for future releases

FULL API SUPPORT

- The new Benefits Claims API submits directly into VBMS
- The Benefits Intake API submits to the VA's central mail processing center

POWERFUL CASE MANAGEMENT

- Fast implementation through out-of-the-box functionality
- Easy configuration when requirements change



8.6 Million

Number of veterans served



\$10.9 Billion

Value of benefits claims processed



3+ Million

Number of claims processed

Your Data, Your AI, Their Future.

Streamlined Support for Veteran Services with Conversational AI

HOW WE WORK

Transforming Veteran Services

- **Proactive Outreach:** Targets veterans needing support using data analytics.
- **Guided Support:** Explains service options and schedules appointments.
- **Personalized Interactions:** Adapts responses to veterans' specific needs.
- **Omni-Channel Connectivity:** Engages veterans via SMS, email, social media and more.
- **Data Integration:** Creates unified profiles for continuous support.
- **Conversational AI:** Uses advanced AI chatbots for personalized, timely interactions.
- **Follow-Up Support:** Provides continuous follow-up and reminders.



OUR SOLUTION

Automated Communication:

Timely, relevant interactions.

Real-Time Data

Use insights to make meaningful decisions.

Scalable

Seamless integration with existing processes.



THE IMPACT

99.4% Engagement Rate

26x Efficiency Increase

1M+ Veterans Assisted

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

REDUCED DELAYS

24/7 SUPPORT



HER STORY

REGISTER



HER
STORY



Belongs at Our Memorial



womensmemorial.org

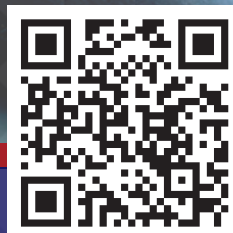


Connect Confidently

COMBINED, WE THRIVE.

We help states use the power of data and technology to deliver an unprecedented level of visibility and transparency throughout their entire network. This approach allows us to verify credibility, establish trust, and identify opportunities where greater support is needed.

**JOIN US AS WE RAISE THE BAR IN HOW
WE SERVE THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED**



LEARN MORE AT
COMBINEDARMS.US

SCHEDULE A DEMO



Learn more at www.nvls.org



National Veterans Legal Services Program

- Representing veterans and their families before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) and the Federal Circuit
- Training and mentoring service officers and other veterans' advocates
- Litigating class action cases in support of the veteran community
- Representing veterans in discharge upgrade proceedings
- Offering PACT Act expertise and assisting veterans through our Burn Pits Claims Assistance Program
- Authoring the preeminent treatise of veterans law—The Veterans Benefits Manual (VBM)

Doing all this at no cost to our veterans or their survivors.....EVER!

Thank you for allowing us to help you support our veterans since 1981!

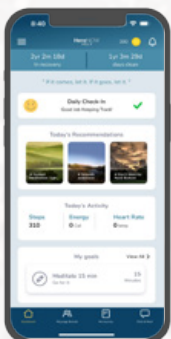


GOVERNORS CHALLENGE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

As veterans use the mental health app, *our powerful AI engine* analyzes hundreds of data points in real-time to establish a suicide risk score. Individuals that cross a certain threshold are immediately alerted and provided access to real-time intervention.

1 Self-Care

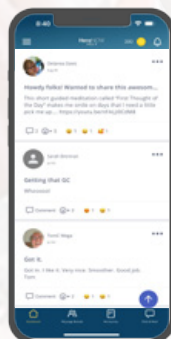
Tools to manage your own mental wellbeing.



- Suicide Prevention
- Addiction Recovery
- Meditations
- Self-Assessments
- Daily Check-In
- Track Progress
- Journal

2 Peer-Care

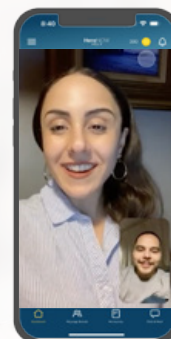
Find community support from others like you.



- Message Boards
- Chat Rooms
- Share Stories
- Find Mentors
- Share w/ Loved Ones
- Support Resources
- Talk, Text, Videos

3 Clinical-Care

24/7/365 on-demand counseling (talk, text & video).



- 24/7/365
- 83,000 clinicians
- Talk, Text and Video
- Manage Calendars
- Integrate with EMRs
- Share w/ Loved Ones
- Support Resources

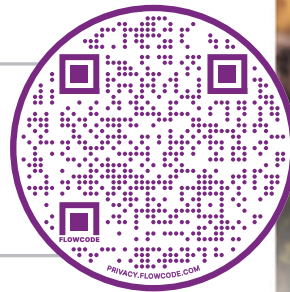


HEROES
WITH HEARING LOSS

Captions At Your Service

When you have hearing loss, the sound of silence after service can be deafening. This is where a Hamilton® CapTel® captioned telephone can really make a difference. Being able to listen and read every word said clarifies the conversation – so you can make a real connection that counts.

Ask the Heroes With Hearing Loss® team about Captioned Telephone solutions for veterans.



Visit: HeroesWithHearingLoss.org/service

Provided by Hamilton® CapTel®. FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS ANYONE BUT REGISTERED USERS WITH HEARING LOSS FROM USING INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) CAPTIONED TELEPHONES WITH THE CAPTIONS TURNED ON. Advanced speech recognition software is used to process calls, and, in certain circumstances, a live communications assistant may be included on the call. There is a cost for each minute of captions generated, paid from a federally administered fund. To learn more, visit fcc.gov. Third-party charges may apply: the Hamilton CapTel phone requires high-speed internet access (Wi-Fi capable) and in some cases, may require telephone service. Third-party trademarks mentioned are the property of their respective owners. CapTel is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc. Copyright ©2024 Hamilton Relay. Hamilton is a registered trademark of Nedelco, Inc. d/b/a/ Hamilton Telecommunications.

060524



orcutt | winslow

architecture | planning | interior design



**DESIGNING FOR OUR
NATION'S HEROES**



Cohen Veterans Network

Therapy for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families

Cohen Clinics provide therapy to post-9/11 veterans, service members, and their families, including those from the National Guard / Reserves.

CVN Telehealth, face-to-face video therapy available.

Learn more:
cohenveteransnetwork.org

@CohenVeteransNetwork @CohenVeterans



find a
Cohen Clinic
near you

CONNECTING OUR NATION'S HEROES TO HEALTH CARE

We're On a Mission to Serve®. Our strong network of high-performing medical professionals provides our nation's heroes access to high-quality, convenient care they have earned and deserve.



Proud Sponsor of the
2024 NASDVA Annual Training Conference

www.triwest.com

TVC Provides Free Legal Services to Veterans Nationwide



TVC proudly supports NASDVA and their dedication to our Nation's Defenders.



TVC Federal Veterans Pro Bono Program (Nationwide)



TVC Discharge Upgrade Program (Nationwide)



TVC Women Veterans Legal Assistance Program (Nationwide)



TVC Veterans Naturalization Assistance Program (Nationwide)



TVC Legal Advice & Referral Clinics (DC, MD, VA Area Only)



Scan Here for Contact Information for Each of our Programs

To Ensure They Receive The Care, Benefits & Compensation They Deserve.

For more information, visit our site: www.vetsprobono.org

#theyfoughtforus



Serving Those Who Served



Management Services for State Veterans Homes

Visit the HMR booth to learn how we can care for your residents, families and staff.

HMR Veterans Services Inc.
201 N. Main Street
Anderson, SC 29621
(864) 224-3898
www.hmrveteranservices.com

PATRIOT REHAB SERVICES FOR VETERANS

THE PATRIOT PROGRAM is a Veteran/Military residential treatment program specifically tailored to meet the needs of our nation's veterans consistent with VA guidelines.

Our goal is to provide a recovery-oriented approach to high quality comprehensive treatment for our nation's heroes. We focus on their individual strengths and giving respect, honor, and hope back in order to facilitate a transition back into their communities, families, and duty.

THE PATRIOT PROGRAM is available to all branches of the US military, male and female, all ages, and is tailored to meet the unique mental health needs of veterans. Our program provides dual treatment tracts targeting the most common issues veterans face:

- Addiction Tract / Dual Diagnosis
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) / mental Illness Tract

By providing extensive medical and mental stabilization as well as long term treatment, we aim to provide returning military personnel with the keys to unlock their future. This is a no-cost to the Veteran program.

Process for Veteran Referral:

Contact PRS Referral line 1-337-608-8130 Ext 1

Facility Representative will walk you through the VA Referral Process

*If the veteran is in crisis, please call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255



Patriot Rehabilitation Services
532 Jefferson Terrace
New Iberia, LA 70560
337-608-8130

LEADERS IN VETERANS BENEFITS LAW

A distinguished national legal practice singularly dedicated to advocating for disabled veterans in their appeals for VA compensation.

GANG&ASSOCIATES
VETERANS DISABILITY INFO ★★★★★

www.VeteransDisabilityInfo.com
888-878-9350



We Are Honored
To Serve Those
Who Have Served
Our Country

Massage Therapy for Pain Management

Zeel is the leading and largest provider of in-home medical massage as a non-opioid treatment for pain. Veterans can experience pain relief and better quality of life without drugs, side effects, or even travel. We're proud to support Veterans' health through the Community Care Network.



PERSONALIZED CARE THAT CATERS TO VETS

Therapists provide treatment in the comfort and privacy of home. In many locations, office-based treatment is also available.



MODERN, STREAMLINED SCHEDULING

Vets, caregivers, or clinicians can book online or by calling our dedicated Patient Care Coordination team.

*To learn more, contact **Amy Wegel**, VA Relationship Manager at (407) 694-2993 or amy.wegel@zeel.com.*

Group NPI
1679197123

Care Provider
ZEEL IN HOME MASSAGE THERAPY

Thank you to our 2024 Annual Training Conference Vendors!



PatientPoint™



qualtrics™^{XM}

TELEMYND
MENTAL HEALTH IS OUR MISSION

TransUnion™^{tu}

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Experience Office



WICHE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM





NASDVA

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

*Serving America's Veterans
and their Families for over 75 years*

