In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

In This Briefing: The Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion, No FEAR, and Whistleblower Rights and Protection Policy Statement

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

As Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), I am committed to providing our Veterans the world-class benefits and services they have earned. Accordingly, it is critical that all of us at VA reaffirm our commitment to our Mission and our Core Values – Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. Our commitment to serving our Veterans must be steadfast and unwavering. Likewise, our commitment and obligation to proactively prevent unlawful discrimination, harassment, and reprisal must be clear, convincing, comprehensive, and consistent. As such, I am committed to a VA workforce that draws from all segments of American society and that ensures every VA employee has the opportunity and access to fully contribute to VA’s important mission of serving our Nation’s Veterans.

This Policy Statement reaffirms our commitment to a fair, equitable, and open work environment, and guides us in promoting healthy relationships with a diverse, cooperative, supportive, and engaged workforce. I believe each of us must adhere to the highest standards of accountability, commitment, compassion, professionalism, and stewardship. To that end, we must all champion the principles of MyVA as a means of
orienting our workforce to being employee-led and Veteran-centric. We all have a responsibility to contribute to the well-being of our Nation's Veterans by promoting and sustaining the Department's mission and vision.

Executives, managers, and supervisors bear a unique responsibility to comply with and ensure the policies and processes outlined in the Policy Statement, which is available at http://www.diversity.va.gov/policy/statement.aspx, are given the widest dissemination and fullest measure of execution and implementation.

Thank you for your commitment, dedication, and hard work to this noble cause.

Robert A. McDonald