



(October 14, 2015)

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

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In This Briefing: MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF
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**VA EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVED A THANK YOU NOTE
DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2015 FROM THE
SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY
FOR PROVIDING VETERANS OUTSTANDING CARE AND/OR SERVICE**

The Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and I continue to receive emails and letters from Veterans who express how pleased they are with the care and services provided by our employees. We want to recognize those who demonstrate the core values of I CARE, through their actions and behaviors. Every employee in VA plays a critical role in supporting our commitment to caring for and serving our Nation's Veterans, their families, and their beneficiaries. I encourage everyone if you see a peer demonstrating VA's core values to consider nominating him or her for the [Honor Award for I CARE](#).

Austin Financial Services Center

Patricia Kyles, Voucher Examiner
Sara Luna, General Clerk
Debra Zuniga, General Clerk

Birmingham VA Medical Center

Angela Monger, LPN, Audiology Technician

Veterans Crisis Line, Canandaigua

Tracy Thompson

Veterans Benefits Administration Central Office

Mark P. Ledesma, Public Affairs Specialist

VA Regional Office, Detroit

Daniel Austin, Assistant Coach

VA Health Care System, East Orange Campus

Michael Benson, MD

David H. Dershewitz, MD

Mary Beth A. Wetzelberger, NP

Kansas City VA Medical Center

Katonya K. Richard-Jackson

VA Health Care System, Long Beach

Noel Garcia, RN

Manchester VA Medical Center

James A. Whitlock, MD

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Debbie K. Ferrell, Echo Technician

Paul Schurmann, MD

VA Regional Office, Oakland

Mary Markey, Veterans Service Center Manager

Phoenix VA Health Care System

Mashal Batheja, MD

Chrystal N. Cleary, MSA Outpatient

William F. Gabbert, MD

Kenneth Goetz, Medical Assistant

San Francisco VA Health Care System

Bonnie S. Graham, Director

VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven Campus

Laura Ludington, Registered Dental Hygienist

Sangeetha Raghavendra, DMD

VA Regional Office, Winston-Salem

Jeffery L. Beinke, Rating Veterans Services Representative

Robert L. Nabors II

**PLEASE PRODUCE LOCALLY FOR ALL THOSE WHO DO NOT ROUTINELY
ACCESS EMAIL DUE TO THEIR SPECIALTIES.**