

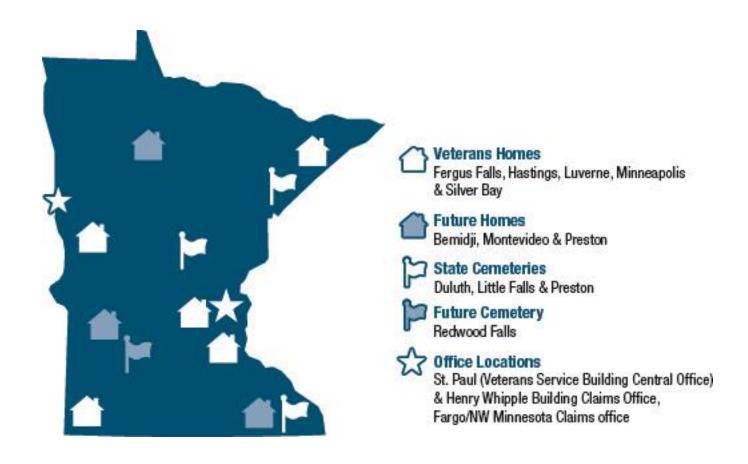
# Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

**Agency Overview** 

Commissioner Larry Herke January 9, 2023



# **MDVA throughout Minnesota**



On-campus MDVA representatives serve public and private colleges and universities across the state.





## **MDVA Mission**

Serving Minnesota Veterans, their dependents and survivors by connecting them with the federal and state care and benefits they have *earned*.





## Minnesota's Veteran Statistics

#### USDVA (VA) estimates as of September 30, 2022:

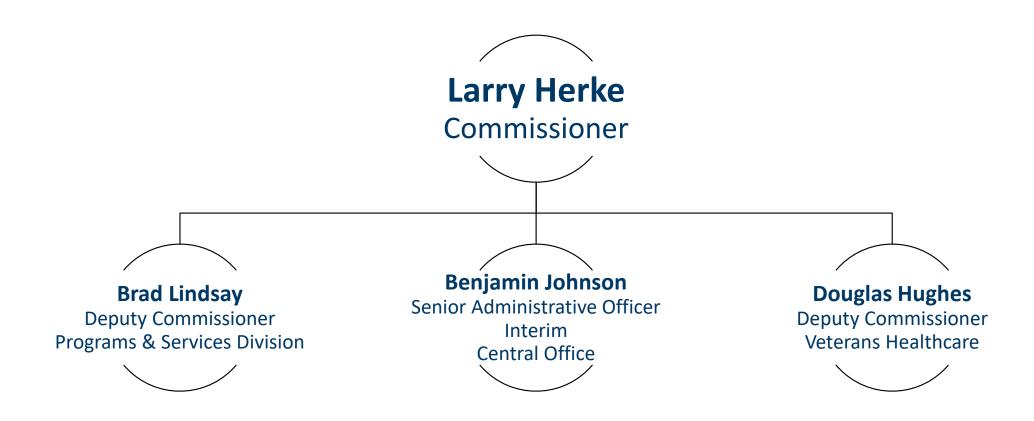
- > Total Veterans: 294,232 Veterans in Minnesota
- Gender: Male 91% Female 9%
- Conflict Service Period:
  - ➤ WWII Era = 1%
  - Korean War Era = 6%
  - Vietnam War Era = 32%
  - Gulf War Pre 9/11 Era = 13%
  - ➤ Gulf War Post 9/11 = 17%
- > 52% of Minnesota Veterans are age 65 or older
- > 3 of 4 Minnesota Veterans served during a war period
- Approximately 47% of Veterans live in the seven-county metro area







## **MDVA Senior Leaders**







## **MDVA Veterans Healthcare Division**

- Current Minnesota Veterans Homes
- New Minnesota Veterans Homes
- Veterans Suicide Prevention





## **Current Minnesota Veterans Homes**

#### Minneapolis

- 300 Skilled beds
- 50 Domiciliary beds
- 35 Adult Day Center (15-17 ADC)

#### Hastings

- 145 Domiciliary beds
- Fergus Falls
  - 106 Skilled beds
- Luverne
  - 85 Skilled beds
- Silver Bay
  - 83 Skilled beds



MVH – Minneapolis





## **New Minnesota Veterans Homes**

#### Preston

- 54 Skilled beds
- Anticipated opening June 2023

#### Bemidji

- 72 Skilled beds
- Anticipated opening July 2023

#### Montevideo

- 72 Skilled beds
- Anticipated opening August 2023











## **Veteran Suicide Prevention**



Minnesota loses approximately 100 Veterans a year to suicide.

### We are working to end this tragedy.

- September is Suicide Prevention Month
- First Saturday in October is Minnesota Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day
- How can you help?
  - Connect with at-risk Veterans.
  - Encourage Veterans to find a purpose that gives meaning to their lives.
  - Complete training offered by MDVA.







## **MDVA Programs & Services Division**

- Veterans Services
- Veterans Programs and Memorial Affairs
- Veterans Education and Employment





## **MDVA Programs & Services**

**Veterans Services** 

- Claims Office
  - Advocate for earned benefits from Federal VA
- Outreach and Tribal Operations
  - Outreach to groups of claimants who would not normally seek benefits due to cultural differences or geographic location
- Women Veterans
  - Ensure women Veterans have equitable access to Federal and State benefits and services
- Gold Star Family Programs
  - Honor the legacy of every fallen Minnesota hero, while supporting the needs of their families
- County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Training and Education
  - Statutorily responsible for "certifying" the 87 CVSOs through a structured training program and receive accreditation to present claims on behalf of MDVA and the American Legion





## **MDVA Programs & Services**

**Veterans Programs and Memorial Affairs** 

#### Benefits

- Dental, disaster relief, financial assistance, optical, special needs
- Homelessness Prevention and Assistance
  - 283 current Veterans experiencing homelessness according to <u>registry</u>\*
  - Functional zero declared in Continuums of Care outside of Hennepin and Ramsey County.
- State Veterans Cemeteries
  - Duluth, Little Falls and Preston
  - Redwood County opening summer 2023
- Minnesota Service CORE
  - Program designed to bring essential, community-based services directly to Veterans and their families across Minnesota at no cost
- Veterans Claims
  - Assists Veterans and their dependents who seek earned benefits from the Federal VA like compensation, pension, vocational or education benefits





## **MDVA Programs & Services**

**Education and Employment** 

- Higher Education Veterans Program
- State Approving Agency
- MN GI Bill
  - \$10,000 maximum benefit
  - Used for higher education costs, on-the-job training/apprenticeship or license and certification
- Veterans Employment
  - Veterans Preference
- Post 9/11 Veteran Service Bonus\*
  - Applications received: 21,466
  - Applications approved: 18,031
  - Expended funds: \$19.3 million out of \$24.8 million allocated in 183 days
  - Applications open until June 30, 2024 or until funds are exhausted

\*data as of COB January 5, 2023





## **MDVA Key Allies and Stakeholders**

- Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers
  - www.macvso.org
- Minnesota Commanders' Task Force
  - Leaders of the 8 largest Veteran Service Organizations (American Legion, DAV, VFW, AMVETS, PVA, Purple Heart, Marine Corp League, Jewish War Veterans)
  - Commissioner's informal board of directors
- US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)
  - Leading non-profit working to end Veterans homelessness
- 294,000 Minnesota Veterans and their Families
- ALL Minnesotans





## 2023 MDVA Focus Areas

- Pass Veterans Administration and MDH Surveys
  - 3 new Veterans Homes (Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston)
- Dedication Ceremony
  - 1 new Veterans Cemetery (Redwood County)
- Intense focus to end Veterans Homelessness
  - 2 Continuums of Care left to declare functional zero
- Establish Veterans Community Health Capability
  - Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention
  - Veteran Direct Care at Home (Hidden Heroes)



# Questions



