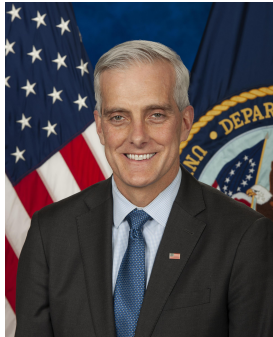

MESSAGE FROM VA'S SECRETARY



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

November 15, 2024



On behalf of the dedicated employees who work tirelessly to serve the Nation's Veterans, I am privileged to present the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA or the Department) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Agency Financial Report (AFR). This report offers financial and performance information demonstrating our commitment to fiscal transparency and responsibility as we uphold VA's mission "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

The Department maintained our steadfast focus on implementing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. Partly due to the PACT Act, VA is delivering care and benefits to more Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors than ever before. This year, VA supported over 350,000 Veterans who have enrolled in VA health care under the PACT Act and screened 1.2 million Veterans for toxic exposures. VA also increased claims processing efficiency by fast-tracking claims decisions resulting in nearly 1.1 million PACT Act claims completed in FY 2024.

In FY 2024, VA also launched the VA Servicing Purchase (VASP) program, helping Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. The program will minimize foreclosures and future redefaults on Veteran-owned homes through long-term payment relief. VA anticipates that VASP will result in a government subsidy spending reduction, making it beneficial for Veterans and taxpayers alike.

Veterans deserve world-class health care facilities, but the median VA hospital was constructed nearly 60 years ago. Our FY 2024 budget included a significant investment of \$4.1 billion for construction to begin restoring VA's aging infrastructure and providing Veterans with state-of-the-art health care facilities, as well as a \$5 billion investment in medical care funding for non-recurring maintenance to improve medical facility infrastructure.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce the Department received its 26th consecutive unmodified audit opinion from independent public accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen for the FY 2024 financial statement audit. This audit signifies that VA's financial statements are fairly presented in all material aspects. With this achievement in mind, VA continues to strive for financial management excellence, actively addressing any material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, and noncompliance identified by the auditors. Detailed remediation efforts are provided in the Management's Statement of Assurance on page 29 of this AFR.

I could not be prouder of our various teams across VA who have delivered more care and benefits this year than ever before, regardless of whether they work directly or indirectly with the Nation's Veterans. I especially offer my sincerest gratitude to VA's finance community who helps to ensure our stewardship over taxpayer dollars and without whom this AFR would not be possible.

Sincerely,

(/s/) Denis McDonough