



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

September 7, 2022

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND
OTHER KEY OFFICIALS**

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority for Monetary Awards (VIEWS 8111764)

1. DELEGATION. I delegate authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials with equivalent levels of authority, the authority to approve up to \$20,000 for individual monetary awards, and group monetary awards up to \$25,000 (provided no one group member receives more than \$20,000) granted in accordance with [5 U.S.C. §§ 4503](#) and [4505a](#).

2. AUTHORITIES. Section 906(b) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act), which grants authority for the Secretary to establish an awards program for personnel listed in 38 U.S.C. § 7421(b); Section 909 of the PACT Act, which creates § 706 of title 38 and creates an exception to [5 U.S.C. § 4502\(b\)](#), wherein the Secretary no longer has to seek Office of Personnel Management approval of individual monetary awards until September 30, 2027. Further, the provisions in VA Handbook 5017, Employee Recognition and Awards, involving the authority necessary for approving cumulative special contribution awards, e.g., Part I, paragraph 5.a.(7), are not applicable until October 1, 2027. The policy will be modified accordingly within the next 12 months.

3. RESTRICTIONS. None. This delegation does not affect the Secretary's authority to carry out, modify or further delegate the authority delegated herein.

4. REDELEGATIONS. Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials with equivalent levels of authority may redelegate this authority, in writing, but the maximum award amount that may be redelegated is \$15,000 for an individual monetary award. No further redelegation is authorized.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This delegation is effective upon signature. I waive the 2-year expiration date required by [VA Directive 0000](#). As such, this delegation will remain in effect for 4 years from the date of this memorandum, unless otherwise rescinded, modified or superseded. Effective October 1, 2027, the delegations in VA Handbook 5017, Employee Recognition and Awards, Part I will again be applicable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DMcDonough".

Denis McDonough