

Dear friends and fellow Veterans,

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as the 8th Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and it has been an honor to call each of you a friend. We have accomplished much together, and I am so proud of how far we have come in the last two and a half years.

I have always considered the relationship between Veterans organizations and VA to be sacred. You hold us to a higher standard, consistently pushing us to do better and live up to the promise we have made to our nations Veterans. You played a critical role in developing and implementing solutions that have fueled the MyVA transformation. Your advice and counsel over the years have been indispensable to our efforts. As I have noted many times, the MyVA transformation is not my plan, or even VA's plan, but your plan. I cannot thank you enough for the support and frank conversations that have helped us better serve our Veterans.

You have likely heard the news that the President-elect has selected our very own Under Secretary of Health, Dr. David Shulkin, to be his nominee for Secretary of Veterans Affairs. David has played a critical role in our MyVA transformation, and has substantially increased access to care for Veterans. I am encouraged by this choice, and I look forward to working with him to ensure our Veterans continue to receive the high quality care, benefits, and honor they deserve.

I ask that you give David your support as he takes on this awesome responsibility. I have no doubt he will continue to share your passion and commitment to serving Veterans, their families and survivors. Sloan and I wish him the very best on this very important mission and continued success on the path to transformation.

Thank you for everything, and best of luck in all you do in supporting our nation's Veterans, their families, and survivors. I will forever be your champion.

Bob McDonald