

Vietnam Veterans of America supports President-elect Trump selection to head the Department of Veterans Affairs

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

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VVA Applauds President-elect Trump: Dr. Shulkin is a Terrific Choice as Next VA Secretary

(Washington, D.C.) -- "Vietnam Veterans of America fully endorses President-elect Trump's intention to nominate David Shulkin as the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs," said John Rowan, VVA National President. "Dr. Shulkin has done terrific work over the past year-and-a-half years as Under Secretary for Health; he has assembled a gifted staff to integrate community care into VA health care, enabling the VA to live up to the challenge of providing the best care available.

"All veterans ought to applaud Mr. Trump's decision," Rowan said. "Dr. Shulkin, a board-certified internist, is intimately familiar with the challenges facing the VA, including the urgent need to improve access to VA healthcare services. As Dr. Shulkin noted in an interview with NPR, 'The first responsibility that we have to our veterans is to make sure those that need urgent care are getting care on time.'

"Five weeks ago, Vietnam Veterans of America sent a letter to the President-elect's transition team, urging that Dr. Shulkin be re-nominated as Under Secretary for Health," Rowan said. "In the course of his career, Dr. Shulkin has been named as one of the 'Top 100 Physician Leaders of Hospitals and Health Systems' by Becker's Hospital Review; and as one of the '50 Most Influential Physician Executives in the Country' by Modern Healthcare and Modern Physician.

"Dr. Shulkin came out of the private sector less than two years ago. He has been relentless in his pursuit of improving medical care for veterans, working to increase timely access, all the while holding managers and other VA staff accountable. He continues to lead by example, practicing medicine and seeing patients on an ongoing basis,' not only in Washington but also in New York City.

"The President-elect has done us one better in selecting Dr. Shulkin to succeed Bob

McDonald," Rowan said. "We will do everything we can to assist Dr. Shulkin in his mission to right the wrongs in the VA, to improve veterans' access to health care, and to remedy the unacceptably long time to resolve claims and appeals for disability compensation."

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."