



## Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, D.C.

### **John W. (Jack) Nicholson**

Brigadier General John W. “Jack” Nicholson (Ret.) was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs on January 9, 2003. He was confirmed by the Senate on April 11, 2003, and administered the oath of office by Secretary Anthony J. Principi on April 16.

As Under Secretary, General Nicholson directs the National Cemetery Administration, a system of 120 national cemeteries providing dignified burial services for military veterans and eligible family members. He is responsible for land acquisition, cemetery construction, operation of the 120 national cemeteries, and for maintaining them as national shrines.

General Nicholson also oversees other memorial-related programs for veterans, including providing headstones and markers, administering federal grant programs to establish state veterans cemeteries, and issuing Presidential Memorial Certificates to survivors of honorably discharged veterans.

Nicholson retired from the U.S. Army as a Brigadier General following 30 years of active duty. He is a 1956 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he received the General MacArthur Leadership Award for his class. He is an airborne ranger combat infantryman. He served two and one half years with infantry units in Vietnam. Other overseas assignments included duty in Germany, Korea, Lebanon and Switzerland.

During his military career, General Nicholson taught strategy and tactics at West Point, served on both the Army Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, and commanded the U.S. Army Training Support Center. General Nicholson served as a President Ronald Reagan appointee to Strategic Arms negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1982 to 1984. He has received several U.S. and foreign awards and decorations for service and valor.

Nicholson was a Federal Executive Fellow in Foreign Policy at The Brookings Institution and, following retirement from active duty, has served on the board of directors for several associations. He currently serves as President Emeritus of the International Society of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Veterans and as a Trustee of the Virginia War Memorial Commission. General Nicholson holds a master’s degree in public administration.



**Under Secretary for  
Memorial Affairs**