



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz ***Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning***

Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz was confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning by the Senate on September 16, 2014. In this role she oversees the Office of Policy and Planning's mission to serve as VA's principal advisor on all matters of policy and organizational strategy; providing VA decision makers with the advice, counsel, and support necessary to fulfill the VA mission.

Prior to her confirmation, she served as State Veterans Affairs Commissioner of Connecticut since 2003 and was known for her strong advocacy for Homeless Veterans, Veteran Suicide Prevention, and Women Veteran issues.

Dr. Schwartz served during the Vietnam War, was a member of the United States Air Force (1967-1986) and served on Active Duty and as a Reservist. She retired in 1986 after sustaining injuries in an aircraft accident while serving as a USAF Flight Nurse. After her military service she earned a Masters in Nursing from Yale and went on to achieve a Doctorate in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine through the VA Vocational Education Program.

Dr. Schwartz led several major research initiatives and served seven years on the VA Scientific Advisory Committee Vietnam Veterans Longitudinal Study. From 1989 to 1998 Dr. Schwartz served in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on several subjects including Veterans Mental Health and Women Veterans issues. She has been elected to the National Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. She was also elected to the American Academy of Nursing in 2001.

Dr. Schwartz was instrumental in the construction and 2008 opening of the John L. Levitow Health Center in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, which provides care to Veterans with chronic diseases. Her many honors include the National Commendation medal of Vietnam Veterans of America for Justice, Integrity, and Meaningful Achievement; the Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains; and induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

