

## Veterans Benefits

### THE VA SEAL

How many times have you entered a VA hospital or received VA correspondence and noticed the official seal of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs? Have you ever been curious as to what the seal represents?

Creation of the new Department of Veterans Affairs on March 15, 1989, required a new official seal to represent VA. In November 1988, after the law establishing VA as a Cabinet department was signed, VA initiated a competition among employees for a seal that would give the department a "new look." The winner was David Gregory, a medical media production specialist at the Indianapolis VAMC. Following are his descriptions of the seal's key elements:

- ◆ The eagle represents the United States.
- ◆ The very faint circle of five stars above the eagle stands for the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.
- ◆ The two flags in the eagle's talons symbolize America's history from 13 colonies to the present 50 states.
- ◆ The flags are bound by a golden cord symbolic of those Americans who have fallen in service to their country.
- ◆ The eagle holds the cord to perpetuate the memory of those veterans who have fallen and sacrificed for the nation.



In 1988, VA employees submitted designs for a seal that would give the department a "new look." At left is the winner.