



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald



VA: A Higher Calling





AGENDA



- **VA's 3 ADMINISTRATIONS**
- **MISSION & VALUES**
- **CLIENTS**
- **FACILITIES**
- **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- **RESEARCH**
- **PARTNERSHIPS**
- **PEOPLE**
- **INCENTIVES**





VA's Three Administrations



- **Veterans Health Administration (VHA)**
 - Healthcare for almost 9 million enrolled Veterans
- **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)**
 - Administers benefits (disability, pension, education, insurance, loans, rehabilitation)
- **National Cemetery Administration (NCA)**
 - Honors Veterans & families with final resting places & commemorates their service and sacrifice.



Mission



“To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”

Abraham Lincoln, 2nd Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

- **Approximately 750,000 soldiers died during the Civil War—an average of 514 deaths per day, every day, for 4 years.**
- **The war began our Nation’s 150-year journey towards better, faster battlefield medical treatment; a world-class healthcare system to deal with the aftermath of battle; benefits for those who fought; and a cemetery system to honor the fallen.**
- **Today, VA still provides benefits to one child of a Civil War Soldier**

We have the best, most inspiring mission and the greatest clients of any healthcare system in the world.



Values

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Advocacy
- Respect
- Excellence





Our Clients



Almost *9 million* Veterans are enrolled for VA healthcare—from the 19-year-old Veteran of the Korangal to the 38-year-old Veteran of Kuwait, from the 60-something Veteran of the Ia Drang valley, Vietnam, to the 76-year-old and 89-year-old Veterans of Chosin reservoir, Korea, and Omaha Beach, France, in WW II.





Heroes . . .



Facilities



- **150 VA Medical Centers**
- **820 Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)**
- **300 Vet Centers (Readjustment Counseling), 135 Community Living Centers, 104 Residential Rehabilitation Treatment**
- **Outreach and mobile medical clinics to serve the most remote rural Veterans—all tethered to one of our medical centers**





Accomplishments



- **3 Nobel Prize recipients in Medicine or Physiology: 7 Lasker Award recipients**
- **VA pioneered and developed electronic medical records**
- **Veterans receiving VA's inpatient and outpatient care give VA higher satisfaction ratings than patients at private hospitals.**
- **>70% of all U.S. doctors have received training at VA.**
- **VA facilities train 62,000 medical students and residents, 23,000 nurses, and 33,000 trainees in other health profession fields—each year.**
- **240,000 outpatient visits—each day—90 *million* visits in 2013.**



Research



Among other contributions, VA researchers:

- **Developed the implantable cardiac pacemaker;**
- **Conducted the first successful liver transplants;**
- **Created the nicotine patch to help smokers quit smoking;**
- **Crafted artificial limbs that move naturally when stimulated by electrical impulses from the brain;**
- **Demonstrated patients with total paralysis could control robotic arms using only their thoughts—a revolutionary system called “Braingate” and the subject of a 2012 60-minutes story;**
- **Identified the genetic risk factors for schizophrenia, Alzheimer’s, and Werner’s syndrome;**
- **Groundbreaking use of telehealth and personal-assistance technology, including iPads, to better deliver care to Veterans;**
- **And a VA nurse designed the use of bar-code software for administering medications to our patients.**



Partnerships



VA is affiliated with over 1,800 educational institutions & partners with myriad organizations on hundreds of initiatives & research projects.





People



- 340,000 employees, 1/3 of them Veterans
- We need the best people, who want to serve in a values-based organization, to join us in fulfilling our exceptional mission—Caring for those who “shall have borne the battle,” and for their families.





Incentives



You've worked hard. At VA, we know that, and we want to help you as you choose a career path in healthcare.

- **Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP):** Loan reimbursements up to \$120,000 over 5 years.
- **Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP):** Pays lending institution student loans of up to \$10,000 per year, with a lifetime cap of \$60,000.
- **Employee Incentive Scholarship Program (EISP):** scholarships to employees for degrees or training in select health care area—covers tuition & related expenses for a service obligation.
- **Comprehensive pay & compensation packages commensurate with education, clinical experience, and market.**
- **Recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives to increase clinical providers for rural/highly rural hospitals / clinics.**
- **Currently working on salary increases to make us more competitive with other employers.**



Let's talk about it