



State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Announces John McWaters as Deputy Secretary to Department of Veterans Services

Names Appointments to Veterans Advisory Board

Santa Fe - Governor Bill Richardson has appointed John McWaters as the Deputy Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services and also named his appointments to the Veterans Services Advisory Board. The Deputy Secretary and the Advisory Board were created as a result of elevating the agency to cabinet status.

“I want veterans to have an active voice in my cabinet,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “This is the next step after accomplishing my campaign promise to elevate Veterans Services to the cabinet level.”

McWaters and the Advisory Board will work closely with the Department of Veterans Services Secretary John Garcia. The members of the Advisory Board represent each quadrant of the state.

John McWaters

John McWaters is a veteran of the United States Army where he served as a platoon leader, reconnaissance platoon leader and company executive officer with the 25th Infantry Battalion. Stationed in Viet Nam, Mr. McWaters earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, two Air Medals and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Mr. McWaters worked for the Public Service Co. of New Mexico in marketing for 23 years. He holds a bachelors degree in Business Administration from Michigan State University.

Veterans Advisory Board Members

Donnie C. Kee

After graduating from Shiprock High School in New Mexico, Donnie Kee enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He went on to serve as a scout for the Battalion Scout Sniper Platoon and trained at the 1st Marine Division Sniper School. Donnie participated in Operation “United Shield” in Somalia, and was deployed twice more with the 1st Marine Regiment. Mr. Kee was honorably discharged from the Corps as a Sergeant and traded his camouflage uniform for a blue one. He currently works as a Corporal in the Patrol Division for the Farmington Police Department.

Leon Morris

Leon Morris served in Viet Nam on two occasions for the United States Marine Corps from 1965-1969. Mr. Morris volunteers his time as a Little League Coach, volunteer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Elks and Police Department. Currently he is a Captain of the Clovis City Police Department.

Charlene Scherrer

Charlene Scherrer has served in the United States Air Force since 1985 after graduating from high school. Charlene served as a Guidance and Control Specialist and Individual Mobilization Augmentee in Intelligence Applications. Charlene was also activated to support Operation Noble Eagle (ONE) and Qatar for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Hiroshi Miyamura

Hiroshi Miyamura was drafted into the United States Army in 1944 after graduating from Gallup High School. Assigned to a Japanese American regiment, Mr. Miyamura started out in a heavy weapons company. Re-enlisting in 1950, Hiroshi joined Company H, 2nd Battalion, 7th Regiment, and 3rd Division. In 1951, he was wounded and captured by the Chinese Army and held as a Prisoner-Of-War for over two years. Mr. Miyamura returned to Gallup, NM with a Medal of Honor.

Armando Y. Amador

Born and raised in Grant County, Armando Amador served with the U.S. Army and did a tour in Viet Nam from 1971-1972. Mr. Amador was awarded the “Profiles of Courage” Award by the New Mexico State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America. Mr. Amador is a graduate of Western New Mexico University and George Washington University School of Law. He is retired from Chino Mines Company and currently serves as President of Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 358) and Coach of Copper Little League.

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