



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, District of Columbia — On November 8, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs appointed new members to the Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor Advisory Committee. This Federal advisory committee reports to the VA Secretary through the Executive Director, Caregiver Support Program, Veterans Health Administration. The Committee will make recommendations to the VA Secretary before July 1, 2024, that will address the needs of families, caregivers and survivors.

The 20 Committee members are comprised from various sectors and organizations. Six of the members had renewed tenures. Four VA Ex-officio members were selected.

- Chair: Lee Woodruff, Bob Woodruff Foundation and Author
- Vice Chair: Colonel Rebecca Porter, Ph.D., U.S. Army (Retired), President and Chief Executive Officer of Military Child Education Coalition
- Members (by last name alphabetical order)
- Meredith M. Beck, Senior Policy Advisor and Consultant, Elizabeth Dole Foundation and for Government Leader
- Cairistiona "Caira" Benson, Caregiver, Author and Policy Strategy Consultant on Veteran and Caregiver Issues
- Melissa Comeau, Caregiver and Director of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network of the Red Cross
- Holly Ferrell, Caregiver, Veterans Advocate and Executive Director of Veteran Warriors
- Colonel Gregory D. Gadson, U.S. Army (Retired) American Actor and Motivational Speaker
- Stacy Greathouse, Caregiver, Nurse and Volunteer with Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- Lisa A. Hallett, Surviving Spouse and Executive Director of Wear Blue: Run to Remember
- Linda Kreter, Caregiver and Founder/Chief Executive Officer, WiseHealth, Inc.
- Shawn Lopez, Caregiver and Co-Founding Board Director, Atsugi Incinerator and Committee Chair of Veteran Families for Education and Awareness
- Mary Chi Michael, Vice President, Patient Advocacy and Stakeholder Management for Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.
- Laura Monk, Surviving Spouse and Member/Peer/Mentor, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- Captain Jonathan D. Pruden, U.S. Army (Retired) Special Advisor to the Chief of Staff at Wounded Warrior Project
- Andrea B. Sawyer, Caregiver and Advocacy Director/Advocacy Navigator, Quality of Life Foundation

- Cheryl “Tori” Seals, Former Caregiver and Deputy Director, Advocacy Operations/Legislative Advocate at Veteran Warrior Advocacy
- Chelsey Simoni, Caregiver, Licensed Healthcare Provider and Executive Director, Hunter Seven Foundation
- Robert Thomas, National President and Chairman of the Board, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Lauren N. Trosclair-Duncan, Caregiver and Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority – LA METRO
- Maggie Hall Walsh, Gold Star Mother and Operations and Engagement Communications Manager/Executive Director Institutional Initiatives, Colorado State University
- Ex-officios (by last name alphabetical order)
- Jill Debord, LCSW, Executive Director, Care Management & Social Work Services, Veterans Health Administration
- Scotte R. Hartronft, M.D., M.B.A., FACP, FACHE, CPE, Executive Director, VA Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care
- Catherine McVeary Kelso, M.D., M.S., Deputy Executive Director, Geriatrics and Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration
- Jennifer Koget, M.S., LCSW, BCD, National Director, Social Work, Fisher House & Family Hospitality and Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Programs, Care Management & Social Work Services, Veterans Health Administration