



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

November 24, 2020



I am pleased to present the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA or Department) fiscal year (FY) 2020 Agency Financial Report. This report provides complete and reliable financial and performance information that demonstrates our commitment to providing world-class benefits, medical and burial services to the millions of men and women who have served this country with honor.

This year, the Department responded aggressively to the unprecedented challenge posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19). VA launched into action to protect and care for Veterans, their families, health care providers and staff in the face of this emerging global public health risk and initiated a hiring campaign to attract medical professionals to work in its facilities across the country. Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Families First), VA received \$19.6 billion in funding, including \$17.4 billion allocated to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to support VA's COVID-19 response. The Department also implemented several financial assistance measures, including notifying 240,000 Veterans that VA would suspend collection of debts.

While addressing this enormous challenge, I am proud to note that VA received an unmodified opinion for the 22nd consecutive year from our independent public accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA). Despite the unmodified opinion, there are areas where we can continue to improve our financial management in FY 2021. VA is working diligently to address financial weaknesses and other areas identified for improvement. Please refer to the discussion of these weaknesses within the Management's Statement of Assurance.

Our mission, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan," is our primary focus, and I am committed to improving our financial controls and systems to support our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert L. Wilkie".

Robert L. Wilkie