THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

September 7, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND
OTHER KEY OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority for Monetary Awards (VIEWS 8111764)

1. DELEGATION. I delegate authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under
Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials with equivalent levels of
authority, the authority to approve up to $20,000 for individual monetary awards, and
group monetary awards up to $25,000 (provided no one group member receives more
than $20,000) granted in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §§ 4503 and 4505a.

2. AUTHORITIES. Section 906(b) of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring
our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act), which grants
authority for the Secretary to establish an awards program for personnel listed in
38 U.S.C. § 7421(b); Section 909 of the PACT Act, which creates § 706 of title 38 and
creates an exception to 5 U.S.C. § 4502(b), wherein the Secretary no longer has to
seek Office of Personnel Management approval of individual monetary awards until
September 30, 2027. Further, the provisions in VA Handbook 5017, Employee
Recognition and Awards, involving the authority necessary for approving cumulative
special contribution awards, e.g., Part I, paragraph 5.a.(7), are not applicable until
October 1, 2027. The policy will be modified accordingly within the next 12 months.

3. RESTRICTIONS. None. This delegation does not affect the Secretary’s authority to
carry out, modify or further delegate the authority delegated herein.

4. REDELEGATIONS. Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials
with equivalent levels of authority may redelegate this authority, in writing, but the
maximum award amount that may be redelegated is $15,000 for an individual monetary
award. No further redelegation is authorized.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This delegation is effective upon signature. I waive the 2-year
expiration date required by VA Directive 0000. As such, this delegation will remain in
effect for 4 years from the date of this memorandum, unless otherwise rescinded,
modified or superseded. Effective October 1, 2027, the delegations in VA Handbook
5017, Employee Recognition and Awards, Part I will again be applicable.

Denis McDoughan