

# FY 23-25 COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN



**COLORADO**  
Department of Military  
and Veterans Affairs

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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	Page
Letter From the Chair	3
Meet Your Board	4
Vision, Mission, and Values	5
Strategic Initiatives (SIs)	6-8
Conclusion and Next Steps	9

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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To my fellow Colorado Veterans,

The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs' strategic plan is our commitment to ensure that Colorado remains a healthy sustainable environment for those who have served and sacrificed for our country and for our Veterans' families. Our Board is made up of seven dedicated volunteer Veterans from across the state who are honored to serve the more than 388,000 Veterans who live in Colorado. This strategic plan contains specific initiatives and goals with key measures of success to improve Veteran services across the state. Our goal is to advocate for Veterans and their families; expand partnership and outreach; and improve the performance of the Veteran Grant Programs.

As we implement our strategic plan we will continue to advise and

consult with The Adjutant General and the Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs in the administration and enforcement of Veteran services programs and recommend changes to rules, policies, programs, or statutes related to Veterans' programs. Our strategic plan will help ensure you, our Veterans, and your families, receive the benefits you deserve as we strive to improve Veteran programs across the state.

Our Board will continue to remain trusted advocates for all Veterans and their families. We cannot thank you enough for your service and we hope we continue to make Colorado a welcome home for our Veterans.

Sincerely,

Shiela Scanlon

Colonel, USMC(ret)

# MEET YOUR BOARD

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## **Sheila Scanlon, Chair**

Sheila Scanlon is a 32-year Veteran of the United States Marine Corps with her last tour being a combat tour in Afghanistan. Sheila is also the Vice President of the Colorado CO-1, Women Marine Association, and a faculty member in the Distance Education Program, at US Army War College, Carlisle PA.



## **Sean Maday, Vice Chair**

Sean Maday served in the United States Air Force and has a 20-year civilian career in the technology sector leading digital transformation projects. He lives in Superior, Colorado with his wife, three daughters, and three dogs.



## **Lacey Golonka, Secretary**

Lacey Golonka has served over 18 years in the Army National Guard where she has four combat tours. She is still currently serving as a First Sergeant in the Colorado Army National Guard. For the last 15 years, Lacey has worked to serve military service members and Veterans having worked as a DoD contractor for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) to bring back remains of POW/MIA.



## **Frederick Korb, Board Member**

24-year veteran of the Colorado Army National Guard. Retired as Command Sergeant Major in August 2020. Senior Leader of 193rd MP BN, D Co, 1-157 IN, and 117th Space BN. Deployed in 2010-2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.



## **Jasmine Motupalli, Board Member**

Jasmine is a U.S. Army Veteran with 13 years of experience as a Military Intelligence Officer and Army Data Scientist. She currently serves as Founder & CEO of The Data Love Co. and resides in Centennial with her husband, 2 kids, and their dogs.



## **Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., Board Member**

Longinos Gonzalez is a 1992 graduate of the Air Force Academy and a retired AF Lt Colonel. An intelligence officer for 20 years, he deployed on multiple tours to the Middle East and Latin America. Longinos resides in Colorado Springs where he serves as an elected El Paso County Commissioner.



## **Raymond Taylor, Board Member**

U.S. Navy retired (1979-1999)

Naval Nuclear Power Plant Mechanical Operator and Supervisor, Radiation and Chemical Specialist. Colorado Native, raised on family ranch homesteaded in 1896 in Hinsdale County. Married with 2 children (5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades) Serving as Archuleta County Veterans Service Officer since 2011.

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# VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

## Vision

Ensure that Colorado remains a healthy environment for those who have served and sacrificed, and their families.

## Mission

Advocate for Veterans and their families to improve their quality of life throughout the state of Colorado.

## Values

Compassion, Dedication, and Integrity

**Compassion** - Understanding and caring for the needs of our Veterans in all aspects of service and assistance.

**Dedication** - Committed to advancing the interests of our Veterans to ensure they receive the highest quality of service and advocacy.

**Integrity** - Act with high moral principle, adhere to the highest professional standards, maintain the trust and confidence of all we serve.

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## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND GOALS SI 1

### - Advocate for State Veterans and Their Families

- 1.1 Understand issues and identify programs impacting Colorado Veterans and their families.
- 1.2 Study and report on the status of all state programs providing services to State's Veterans.
- 1.3 Communicate recommended changes of VA policies and procedures to the Colorado VA Director, as approved by the Executive Director of the DMVA.
- 1.4 Recommend improvements to funding, policies, programs, and training supporting Veteran Service Officers.

### Key Measures of Success...How will we get there?

- Identify gaps with policy and legislation in providing Veteran support services to Veterans in Colorado.
- Recommend (yearly) policy and legislative changes based upon identified gaps in Veteran support services to Veterans in Colorado.
- Make recommendations to the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs to improve funding, policies, programs, and training supporting all Veteran Service Officers in Colorado.

## SI 2 - Expand Partnerships and Outreach

- 2.1 Increase awareness and understanding of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs.
- 2.2 Expand Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs outreach with community stakeholders.
- 2.3 Strengthen Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs partnerships with State agencies/partners.

### Key Measures of Success

- Increase number of Veteran interactions per year while obtaining usable Veteran information from community stakeholders.
- Meet with State agencies/partners at least once per year.
- Increase the number of events board members attend per year.
- Travel to all six State DMVA Veteran Regions at least once in a two-year span with a focus on attending Veteran Events (e.g., Veteran stand downs).

# SI 3 - Improve the Performance of the Grant Programs

- 3.1 Improve Veteran Grant Programs and the policies impacting them.
- 3.2 Expand use of Veteran Grant Programs across the State.

## Key Measures of Success

- Increase the number of applicant/grantee participation and utilization, , increasing the number of Veterans served.
- Assess grantee feedback regarding effectiveness of the Veteran Trust Fund program and Veteran Assistance Grant Participation and utilization.
- Formalize and expand distribution of Veteran Grant Program best practices across the State.
- Make recommendations to increase Veteran Grant Program spending authority 10% over the next two years.
- Make recommendations to improve the process of administering grants.

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## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs remains committed to serving and supporting Colorado Veterans and their families by advocating on their behalf and providing leadership and direction on issues of importance to our Veteran community. This strategic plan was developed from insights shared in engagements with Colorado Veterans, local and state government leaders, and local Veterans Service Organizations. We have set three strategic initiatives for supporting Veterans in Colorado, and believe these initiatives are important steps towards achieving our mission and vision aspirations.

The CBVA will develop performance metrics for each of our Key Measures of Success. Over the next two years, the CBVA will use these metrics to test and assess our original assumptions and strategies; evaluate if our current strategic initiatives and goals are still relevant to the community we serve; and determine if we are meeting our measures of success. All with a goal to improve our processes and procedures to best serve our Veterans and their families.

