

NEWS RELEASE

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Disabled Veterans Recognize Outstanding VA Employees

NEW ORLEANS—Three Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees will receive the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee awards from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at the organization's 90th National Convention at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, in New Orleans, La. The awards will be presented by National Commander Wallace E. Tyson on Aug. 7.

Shelly A. Mullins, an Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Nashville, Tenn., VA Regional Office, was selected as the Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee for her efforts to deliver VA benefits to more than 500,000 Tennessee veterans and their families throughout the state's 95 counties. The Nashville VA Regional Office oversees approximately \$1.1 billion in annual federal benefits and programs that include compensation, pension and vocational rehabilitation and employment. "Mullins plays a key role in leading the Nashville Regional Office in attaining outstanding results in the delivery of compensation and pension benefits and services to veterans and their families and survivors," said National Commander Tyson. "She is extremely deserving of this award for her service to disabled veterans."

Margaret "Peggy" Lehman, recipient of the Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee Award, is the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Supervisor at the Cincinnati, Ohio, VA medical center. She directed the transformation of the Recreation and Creative Arts therapy program to focus on veterans becoming active participants in their lives, instead of being passive patients. "Peggy Lehman has expanded the range of services available and improved the physical environment for veterans," Tyson said. "Her qualities and accomplishments embody the values and mission of the DAV. She has earned the respect and admiration of all who work with her."

The National's Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration employee will be presented to John Shilling, foreman of the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Mich. He ensures that last honors for deceased veterans are performed with the dignity and respect they and their families deserve. "Shilling and his workers ensure that final disposition of veterans is correct in every respect," Tyson said. "He is an example of excellence, compassion, hard work and results within the National Cemetery Administration."

"Without question, the recipients of the VA employee awards deeply care about those they serve," said Tyson. "They provide the highest quality service to disabled veterans and their families and take what they do very seriously."

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation's disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization's Web site, www.dav.org.

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