



## PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **VVA Commends President for Creation of VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection**

**(Washington, D.C.)** – John Rowan, VVA National President, released the following statement in response to President Trump’s executive order, establishing the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Office at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

“Today, the President signed an executive order, establishing the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection within the VA, an office first proposed in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), in response to the Phoenix VA crisis.

This necessary step will assist the VA Secretary in identifying “the barriers that might exist to removing bad employees from the VA,” furthering the ability to hold accountable those who fail to uphold the mission of the VA and those who fail our veterans and their families, making it easier to remove, demote, or suspend a VA employee for misconduct or poor performance.

“We are especially pleased to see improved protections for whistleblowers. Those brave men and women who have stepped forward in defense of our veterans should never, ever have been victimized for telling the truth. We hope that this new office within the VA will go a long way toward ensuring that those who have stood up in defense of the Constitution receive the care and respect they have earned.”

*“Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation’s only congressionally chartered veterans’ service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA’s founding principle is “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”*