



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Vietnam Veterans of America

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **VVA Applauds Selection of Denis McDonough for VA Secretary**

**Washington, D.C.**--"Vietnam Veterans of America applauds President-elect Joe Biden's selection of Denis McDonough for VA secretary," said VVA National President John Rowan. "We have full confidence that Denis McDonough will work with the Veterans Service Organizations and Military Service organizations to improve veterans healthcare and other services. Mr. McDonough has the trust of the President Elect, and he knows how to make government work."

"Denis McDonough has the knowledge and experience needed to be an effective leader of the Department of Veterans Affairs," noted Rowan. "When confirmed, we can expect Denis McDonough to hit the ground running. We firmly believe that he has the breadth of knowledge and experience to provide the effective leadership direly needed at the helm of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

"Though not a veteran, he is deeply familiar with the complex Veterans Health Administration," said Rowan. "As White House chief of staff under President Barack Obama, McDonough worked closely with former VA secretaries Robert Shinseki and Bob McDonald, as well as Congress to address the wait-time scandal, formulating Veterans Choice, thus opening the door to the private sector to augment veterans healthcare services from the VA. We believe he will lead the VA to fill all the vacancies currently impeding VA's capacity to serve veterans."

A native of Stillwater, Minnesota, Mr. McDonough graduated from Saint John's University in 1992 and Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service with an MSFS degree in 1996.

Prior to serving as White House chief of staff, McDonough served as deputy national security adviser (2010-2013) and as Chief of Staff of the National Security

Council (2009-2010). Following his time with the Obama administration, McDonough has worked for the Markle Foundation, focusing on employment and job training for Americans. His experience on Capitol Hill includes senior foreign policy advisor to Sen. Tom Daschle and legislative director for Sen. Ken Salazar

*Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's commitment to all veterans is exemplified in its founding principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*