

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



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DEC 20 2023

President of the Senate

**Governor Tim Walz**

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**Brad Lindsay**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgement, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Commissioner**

**Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**

Effective: December 20, 2023

Expires: January 4, 2027

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed December 20, 2023.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

Filed December 20, 2023  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

Replacing: Larry Herke

# Bradley S. Lindsay

Temporary Commissioner at Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Experienced, collaborative, public sector senior executive with a demonstrated history of developing and implementing nationally recognized veterans programs and services.

## Honors-Awards

Tekne Award

State Government Innovation Award

USDVA Abraham Lincoln Pillars Of Excellence

NCHV Outstanding Member Award

Golden GOVIT Award for Service

## Experience

### Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

#### Interim/Temporary Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

April 2023 – Present (6 months)

St. Paul, MN

Serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). The position is appointed by the Governor to serve as a member of the cabinet and perform all duties of the Commissioner as detailed in Minnesota Statute § 196.05, as well as exercising all powers as authorized and necessary to carry out Minnesota Statute chapters 196, 197 and 198. This includes oversight of all programs, services and the administration of four (4) State Veterans Cemeteries and five (5) State Veterans Homes. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs' current biennial budget is \$278.5 million and the agency employs over 1,300 staff working throughout the State. Among the Commissioner's duties is the requirement to cooperate with national, state, county, municipal, and private social agencies in securing to veterans and their dependents the benefits provided by national, state, and county laws, municipal ordinances, or public and private social agencies.

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## **Interim Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Healthcare**

March 2023 – May 2023 (3 months)

Minneapolis, MN

Serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the Veterans Health Care Division of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). The Veterans Health Care Division operates five (5) Veterans Homes located throughout the State and is responsible to provide quality care services for veterans and qualified spouses. The Homes offer a wide continuum of care, including domiciliary, skilled nursing, rehabilitation, dementia/Alzheimer, and Adult Day program. Each Home is managed by a licensed Nursing Home Administrator, who reports directly to this position. The Health Care Division's current biennial budget is \$234 million; the division employs about 1,300 staff working throughout the State. During this time, the division was also in the final stages of construction for three (3) additional Veterans Homes at the skilled care level. Additional responsibilities included; motivating, inspiring, and leading people in a direction consistent with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs strategic plan and core values. Embracing resident-directed care in a quality-focused environment. Ensuring all facets of governing and regulatory compliance for five (5) Veterans Homes located throughout Minnesota. Representing the interests of Minnesota veterans and their families at the Federal, State, regional and community levels, including the U.S. Congress and Minnesota Legislature. Fostering positive working relationships with many constituent groups that touch veterans communities and with a variety of interested stakeholders. Serve as a media spokesperson for the MDVA and as an advocate for Minnesota veterans in health care-related issues.

## **Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Services**

September 2014 – Present (9 years)

St. Paul, MN

Serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the Programs & Services division of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). Provides executive oversight of all programs to include Federal VA Claims assistance, Veterans Outreach, Tribal Veterans Service Officers, State Soldiers Assistance Program, Homeless Veteran initiatives, Higher Education Veterans Programs, the State Approving Agency, Minnesota GI Bill, Veterans Preference, Women Veterans Initiatives, Veterans Employment, Recently Separated Veterans Program, Minnesota Service CORE Program, LinkVet helpline, Minnesota Gold Star Family Program, Minnesota Funeral Honors Program and three State Veterans Cemeteries. Manages legislative grants to Veterans Service Organizations, County Veterans Service Officers, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and other contracts. Serves as the primary liaison to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, the Minnesota State Commanders Taskforce, County Veterans Service Officers, State and community agencies that provide programs and services to veterans. Works directly with other state agencies, the Governor's Office and state legislature to include House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees for development of veteran policies, initiatives, legislation, agency budget and resolution of constituent issues. Coordinates and leads the development of agency strategic planning and quality initiatives.

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## **Senior Director of Programs and Services**

May 2011 - September 2014 (3 years 5 months)

St. Paul, MN

Provided executive leadership and direction for the programs associated with the Programs & Services division of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). Assisted the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner in establishing policies, initiatives and other outreach and educational programs within MDVA. Lead and oversaw the three Programs & Service subdivisions; Veterans Services, Veterans Programs & Memorial Affairs, and Veterans Education & Employment. Participated as a member of the MDVA senior management team in the development and implementation of agency goals, objectives, priorities and policies. Ensured that the agency met its statutory requirements and provided effective and efficient services to the citizens of the State of Minnesota. Conducted detailed and comprehensive studies of veterans programs so that management and stakeholder groups were well informed to assist the department in identifying future program and service requirements to better serve our veterans. Proposed solutions to resolve problems discovered during program evaluations and retained program records and files as specified by policy and state law. Represented the state at meetings with other governmental officials to ensure adequate information is communicated to both governmental officials and clients by functioning as an information clearinghouse for program questions. Testified before legislative committees and recommended appropriate action in the areas of project funding, special stipulations and program administration. Provided leadership in building partnerships with veteran communities and veteran service organizations.

## **Olmsted County Minnesota**

**Veteran Services Director**

July 2005 - May 2011 (5 years 11 months)

Rochester, MN

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Counseled and advised veterans, their relatives, dependents or survivors regarding benefits availability and eligibility. Assisted veterans/dependents in preparing appeals of denied claims for benefits to the local VA Regional Office, the Decision Review Officers, or the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington D.C. Prepared applications for temporary financial assistance from the State Soldier's Assistance Program for veterans and dependents when appropriate. Interpreted and assessed State and Federal programs and legislation to ensure division personnel were aware of regulations and procedures in order to appropriately serve clients. Collaborated with community/veteran groups and media; made presentations to communicate and market changes in programs or new programs. Planned, directed and implemented the Veteran's Transport Van Program to include the Veteran's Transport Van Fund. Lobbied elected government officials and advocated for legislation beneficial to veterans and their dependents. Attended meetings with County Board to communicate caseloads, trends or factual information; met with other supervisory personnel to coordinate services. Developed and presented the annual budget for Veterans Services for the approval of the County Board of Commissioners. Prepared grant applications to State and Federal agencies for special projects and equipment. Evaluated and recommended program needs and projects need for additional resources and human resources. Monitored staff compliance to ensure application procedures are followed as required. Supervised the maintenance of office records, including file generation, data privacy provisions and retention policy and standards. Recommended and authorized hiring, transfer, suspension, promotion, discharge,

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assignments, rewards and discipline of employees, direction of the work and adjustment of other employees' grievances on behalf of the employer.

## **Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**

4 years 9 months

### **Veterans Claims Representative**

January 2005 - July 2005 (7 months)

St. Paul, MN

Responsible for preparing and verifying all medical, social, financial and personal evidence necessary in the presentation of a claim. Presented, on behalf of veterans and their dependents, claims for benefits to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Obtained required evidence of disability through personal interviews with claimants, physicians, veterans' families, other involved persons, or through correspondence, or analysis of official records. Informed claimants of the facts which must be established before compensation, insurance, hospitalization, out-patient treatment and similar assistance could be granted. Consulted with physicians and other medical authorities with respect to medical disabilities claimed by veterans. Prepared appeals for our clients before the local Rating Board, the local Decision Review Officer, the Committee on Waivers and Compromises, and the Board of Veterans Appeals.

### **Financial Guardianship Advisor**

November 2000 - January 2005 (4 years 3 months)

St. Paul, MN

Served as the designee for the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in all matters pertaining to the veterans placed under the guardianship or conservatorship of the Commissioner. Managed the funds of assigned wards in accordance with state law federal regulations and budgetary guidelines. Prepared annual accountings to the local court of jurisdiction, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration as appropriate.

### **Veterans Assistance Coordinator**

January 1999 - November 2000 (1 year 11 months)

St. Paul, MN

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Determined eligibility for financial assistance under the State Soldiers Assistance Program by identifying,

collecting, and accessing relevant information; adjudicating and managing cases; advocating and educating clients so eligible veteran's and their dependents can navigate critical life events. The position required specialized knowledge of federal and state legislation relating to benefits for veterans and their dependents, other benefits available through human service agencies, and the symptoms and occupational consequences of diseases and disabilities. Required interpretive problem solving within the guidelines of substantially diversified procedures and specialized standards. Responsible for evaluating medical and financial information and approving or disapproving benefits, making a decision on whether the disability is of a temporary nature or permanent nature, and determining if it prevents gainful employment.

## **United States Army and Army Reserve**

### **Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer**

July 1988 - October 2004 (16 years, 3 months)

Various locations

Performed law enforcement, physical security functions and combat support missions in various countries throughout my years of both Regular (4 years) and Reserve (12 years) service. Deployed for service in Panama, Jordan, Japan, Germany, Kuwait and Iraq. Served as an advisor to newly formed Panamanian National Police during Operation Promote Liberty from March 1990 to August 1990. Led a squad of twelve soldiers in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 15, 2003 to April 7, 2004. I earned multiple military awards including the Combat Action Badge, the Army Achievement Medal and two awards of the Army Commendation Medal.

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## **Education/Training**

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- |           |   |                         |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|
| 2006-2018 | National Association of County Veterans Service Officers<br>National VA Accreditation Training and annual Continuing Education Units<br>Various Locations | President of the Senate |
| 2005      | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs T.R.I.P. Training<br>(Training, Responsibility, Involvement and Preparations of claims)<br>Ft. Snelling, Minnesota    |                         |
| 2005      | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs<br>Rating Veterans Services Representative (RVSR) Course<br>Ft. Snelling, Minnesota                                   |                         |

1988 U.S. Army Military Police School  
Ft. McClellan, Alabama

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1988 Jefferson City High School  
Jefferson City, Missouri

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## Veterans Organization Service and Accreditations

- Life Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Post #7 1st Vice Commander 2004-2005
- Life Member, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) – Chapter #28 Service Officer 2006-2011, Department of Minnesota's Jr. Vice Commander 2010-2011
- Member, American Legion – Department of Minnesota's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee 2006 – 2011
- Voyageur, La Societe Des 40 Hommes Et 8 Chevaux (40&8)- MN Voiture #327
- Member, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Alumni, Wounded Warrior Project
- Past President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers (MACVSO) 2008-2009
- Board member and co-host, "Vets Visits on TV", cable access veterans' educational program 2005-2011
- Member, National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO)
- Member, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA)
- Accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, to represent claimants on behalf of the American Legion, VFW, DAV, AmVets, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, the Marines Corps League, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

## Professional Honors and Awards

I accepted the following awards as Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of my team:

- Abraham Lincoln Pillars Of Excellence Award, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023
- Golden GOVIT Award for Service, Fusion Learning Partners - 2022
- Outstanding Member Award, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) - 2018
- NASDVA recognized Minnesota's Veteran S.O.A.R. program as a "Best Practice" - 2017
- Tekne Award, Minnesota High Tech Association - 2015
- State Government Innovation Award, Humphrey School of Public Affairs and the Bush Foundation - 2015