

Teammates,

As we celebrated Veterans Day yesterday, and the service and sacrifices of the brave men and women who have served in our country's armed forces, I want to recognize the Department of Administrative Services' efforts to achieve Governor Ricketts' goal of making Nebraska the most military and veteran-friendly state in the country.

Throughout the Governor's time in office, Nebraska state government has made great strides toward implementing policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at supporting our [military, veterans, and their families](#). Among these have been initiatives focused on benefiting our teammates in State government including:

- Signing legislation making the Department of Veterans' Affairs a one-stop shop for both veterans' benefits and veterans' homes;
- Creating five additional Military Honor License Plates to recognize the service of members of the reserves of the armed forces;
- Providing reciprocity for military spouses all over the country by updating the language for the adoption of the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, which allows nurses to have one multi-state license;
- Starting the Veterans' SkillBridge Initiative in April 2021. Overseen by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the program creates connections between military members and Nebraska's employers during their final 180 days of service. This gives participants a chance to explore the best fit for their specific talents and interests after transitioning out of military service;
- Expanding hiring preferences at the State for military members and their spouses;

- And signing a bill allowing 100% of military retirement pay to be exempted from Nebraska income tax.

At DAS, we've worked to implement and oversee a variety of military and veteran-friendly initiatives, including:

- Launching the [Military Spouse Transition Program](#) to help military spouses moving to Nebraska identify [job opportunities in state government](#);
- Dedicating recruiter support to help veterans overcome employment barriers by continuing their careers with the State;
- And helping implement Governor Ricketts' [Executive Order ensuring the POW/MIA flag](#) will be permanently flown at certain State properties so those servicemen and servicewomen who have not returned home will never be forgotten.

Earlier this week, DAS announced our new [Teammate Military Service Recognition Program](#). This program recognizes those State teammates who have previously or are currently serving in the armed forces. Throughout the rest of this year, over 450 self-identified military and veteran teammates will be recognized and presented with commemorative [Nebraska Military challenge coins](#).

This program will be administered by DAS with teammates being recognized for their service each year. The [Teammate Military Service Recognition Program](#) is just another way the State can say thank you to our teammates for not only their service to the State and people of Nebraska, but to our country as a whole.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Veterans Day. Thank you again to our current and former servicemembers, especially those continuing their career in public service here at the State of Nebraska!

Regards,

Jason Jackson

Director, Department of Administrative Services