

Colleagues:

Earlier this month, I participated in [the ribbon cutting](#) for the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home (ENVH) Honor Neighborhood expansion with Governor Pillen and Director Hilgert of Veterans Affairs. The DAS State Building Division was responsible for working with the architect to design the 24-room expansion of the Veterans' Home and managed the overall construction of the building. This new expansion will allow the ENVH to serve more Nebraska Veterans, especially those with special needs. Appropriately, the ribbon cutting was held on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

Working on the ENVH expansion is just one way that DAS continues to support Nebraska's veterans. Over the past several years, the State has implemented several programs and policies designed to support our [military, veterans, and their families](#) in a continued effort to make Nebraska the most military and veteran-friendly state in the Union.

At DAS, we've worked to implement and oversee policies that benefit military families and veterans and that connect them with leadership opportunities in the workforce. We have:

- Supported the merger of the DHHS Division of Veterans Homes with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to create a one-stop shop for all veteran services.
- Launched the Military Spouse Transition Program to help military spouses moving to Nebraska identify job opportunities in state government.
- Expanded hiring preferences at the State for military members and their spouses.
- Dedicated recruiter support to help veterans overcome employment barriers by continuing their careers with the State.
- Created the [Veterans' SkillBridge Initiative](#) which creates connections between military members and Nebraska's employers during their final 180 days of service. As seen in [this video](#), this program has already had a significant impact for both veterans and the State.

We also have led a number of efforts aimed at supporting our military and veteran public servants. Our team is excited to be leading the [TRICARE Insurance Incentive Program](#). Under this program, military retirees who become public servants with the State and choose to retain their TRICARE coverage will receive a monthly stipend in lieu of state health insurance benefits. Additionally, we launched the [Public Servant Military Service Recognition Program](#). Under this program, DAS annually recognizes public servants who have served in our nation's armed forces or are currently serving. These self-identified public servants receive a commemorative Nebraska Military challenge coin.

I am proud of the work that DAS staff does to help support Nebraska's veterans and their families and will continue to look for opportunities to do so.

Regards,

Jason Jackson

Director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services