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Veterans Health Administration
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News Release

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Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System Director Receives Prestigious Public Service Award

(BALTIMORE, MD) Jonathan R. Eckman, P.E., director of the **Veterans Affairs (VA) Maryland Health Care System**, is this year's recipient of the American Veterans (AMVETS) 38th Annual PNC A. Leo Anderson Memorial Free State Award of Excellence. Presented annually, the Free State Award of Excellence was designed to recognize a Maryland citizen who has "exemplified themselves with excellence in performing outstanding public service to the state of Maryland."

For the past 38 years, the AMVETS has been recognizing Maryland citizens such as former Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer; former Senator Barbara A. Mikulski; and former Representative Helen D. Bentley; among others for their selfless dedication to making improvements throughout the state. This year, Eckman is the recipient of the award for "performing admirably, not only meeting the needs of the pandemic crisis, but building a forward-looking system for veterans' health care across the state of Maryland."

Composed of American veterans who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during and since World War II, AMVETS was established to, among other things, maintain friendships and associations among veterans, preserve the fundamentals of democracy, and to safeguard the principals of freedom.

"It's an honor to receive this recognition and be counted among so many amazing Marylanders," Eckman said. "Providing my fellow veterans with the top-notch health care that they have earned is satisfaction enough for me, but this award is a welcomed bonus."

Eckman, who was named as director of the VA Maryland Health Care System in 2021, served as the health care system's associate director for operations in 2020 and the associate director for finance in 2017. Prior to his leadership roles at the VA Maryland Health Care System, Eckman served as the executive assistant to the deputy network director for the VA Capitol Health Care Network, as well as the acting deputy network director from 2016-2017. He also served as the associate medical center director at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in Coatesville, Pennsylvania from 2012-2016. From November 2013 through June 2014, he served as the acting medical center director at the Coatesville VA Medical Center.

(more)

Eckman began his VA career in 2008 as a project engineer at the Perry Point VA Medical Center. In 2010, he was promoted to the Project Section supervisor, followed by the appointment as the executive assistant to the associate director for finance for the VA Maryland Health Care System.

In his role as director of the VA Maryland Health Care System, Eckman is responsible for the management and oversight of three medical centers and five community-based outpatient clinics located throughout the state. In this capacity, he oversees the delivery of health care services to more than 57,000 veterans annually by a dedicated team of over 4,100 clinical, technical, administrative, and support personnel who are specially trained to service the unique needs of Maryland's veterans.

Eckman, who is a U.S. Army veteran, earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Drexel University and a Master of Engineering in Project Management from the University of Maryland. He lives in Harford County with his wife and family.

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*The VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS) provides a broad spectrum of medical, surgical, rehabilitative, mental health and outpatient care to veterans at three medical center and five outpatient clinics located throughout the state. More than 57,000 veterans from various generations receive care from VAMHCS annually. Nationally recognized for its state-of-the-art technology and quality patient care, VAMHCS is proud of its reputation as a leader in veterans' health care, research and education. **It costs nothing for Veterans to enroll for health care with the VA Maryland Health Care System and it could be one of the more important things a Veteran can do.** To apply for VA health care, call 877-222-8387 or visit www.va.gov/health-care/.*