

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Confirmed



Dr. David J. Shulkin

The Honorable David J. Shulkin was nominated by President Trump to serve as the ninth Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) and was confirmed by the United States Senate on February 13, 2017.

Prior to his confirmation as Secretary, Dr. Shulkin served as VA's Under Secretary for Health for 18 months, leading the Nation's largest integrated health care system, with over 1,700 sites of care serving nearly nine million Veterans.

Before he began his service with VA, Dr. Shulkin held numerous chief executive roles at Morristown Medical Center, and the Atlantic Health System Accountable Care Organization. He also served as President and CEO of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Shulkin has held numerous physician leadership roles including Chief Medical Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Temple University Hospital, and the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital. He has also held academic positions including Chairman of Medicine and Vice Dean at Drexel University School of Medicine. As an entrepreneur, Dr. Shulkin founded and served as Chairman and CEO of DoctorQuality, one of the first consumer-oriented sources of information on quality and safety in healthcare.

A board-certified internist, Dr. Shulkin is also a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, and he completed his internship at Yale University School of Medicine and a residency and fellowship in General Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Presbyterian Medical Center. He also received advanced training in outcomes research and economics as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.

Support Blue Water Navy Veterans Legislation 2017

H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, was introduced on January 19, 2017, by Congressman David G. Valadao of California. This bill would to expand the presumptions for service connection related to exposure to herbicides containing dioxin, including Agent Orange, to veterans who served in the territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.



Veterans who served on ships no more distant from the spraying of herbicides than many who served on land are arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits of the presumption of exposure, and thereby are ineligible for presumption of service connection for herbicide-related disabilities. This legislation would correct that injustice.

H.R. 299 currently has 148 cosponsors and has been referred to the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. DAV supports this legislation pursuant to DAV Resolution No. 018, passed at our most recent National Convention, held at Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016.

Please take a moment to send the prepared e-mail to your legislators to seek their support for this legislation, which would expand eligibility for "blue water" Navy veterans.

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/1dE44p0pxCPWW9937E6SUQ>

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Winter Sports Clinic Hosted by VA and DAV

WASHINGTON – Nearly 400 injured Veterans and active-duty military members will join volunteers and leading medical and rehabilitative professionals from across the nation for the 31st National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, scheduled March 26-31 in Snowmass Village (near Aspen), Colorado.



The event, hosted by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and DAV (Disabled American Veterans), is made possible by strategic corporate partnerships, nonprofit organizations and individual donors.

“The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic is a life-changing event for the Veterans who participate,” said Dr. David J. Shulkin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “I am inspired by our Veterans and equally inspired by our staff, who coach and encourage them to dream beyond their imagination, draw from their inner strength and use this clinic to showcase their resilience and courage.”

When Veterans go back to their communities, they

bring this experience of a lifetime back to help others, while motivating themselves throughout the entire year. Often referred to as “Miracles on a Mountainside,” the clinic promotes rehabilitation through adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, rock climbing, wheelchair self-defense, sled hockey, scuba diving, and other adaptive sports and activities. Studies show adaptive sports provide participants with physical and emotional benefits, including stress relief, reduced dependency on pain and depression medications, and higher achievement in education and employment. The event has also been a starting point for numerous Paralympic athletes.

“Involvement in this event has been life changing for me,” said DAV National Commander David Riley, a past-participant and quadruple amputee Coast Guard Veteran. “This event helped me redefine the perceived limitations I had after losing my limbs. And it does the same thing for hundreds of my fellow Veterans every year.”

Participation is open to active-duty service members and Veterans with spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, and certain neurological problems and disabilities.

For more information about the winter sports clinic, visit www.wintersportsclinic.org.

**In memory of many,
In honor of all,
Thank you**



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VA Awards Grants to Develop Technology to Help Veterans, Service Members Modify Homes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the awarding of \$599,802 in Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology (SAHAT) Grants to eligible individuals, researchers and organizations to develop new technology that may enhance Veterans' and service members' ability to live in a specially adapted home.

The program was authorized by Congress to design assistive technology to expand home modification options for Veterans who apply for VA's Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) benefit. Grants of up to \$200,000 are issued to selected grantees.

"We are honored to award funding for the 2017 grant cycle. We are very excited to see how the finished assistive technology projects will enhance the residential lives of our Veterans with severe disabilities," said Curtis L. Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity. "These new technologies provide innovative solutions to help program

participants live more independently within their homes."

VA issued the SAHAT Grant program Notice of Funding Availability in January via www.grants.gov and the Federal Register. To foster competition and best serve the needs of Veterans and service members, VA did not limit the type of entity or individual eligible to apply. There was no restriction on the number of grants that could be awarded within the \$1 million funding limit.

VA administers the SAH benefit to help Veterans and service members with service-connected disabilities purchase or modify a home. Typical adaptations include ramps, wider halls and doors, or wheelchair accessible bathrooms. New technology from the SAHAT Grants will be added to the list of home modification options as they become available.

SAHAT Grants have been awarded to the following:

Grant Awardee	Technology	Funding Amount	Location
My'deas, LLC	Assistive Technology that Facilitates Independent Living for Veterans with Disabilities	\$200,000	Woburn, MA
Prehensile Technologies	RoboTable : A Robotic Overbed Table for Independent Accessing Mobile Devices from Bed	\$199,802	West Lafayette, IN
University of Pittsburgh	IoT-Enabled Home Safety Assistance for People with Cognitive Impairments	\$200,000	Pittsburgh, PA

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 29, 2017

