



## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

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### **WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION FUMING OVER ‘GOLDEN PARACHUTE’ GIVEN TO FORMER TOMAH VA HEAD**

#### **Reaction from Commander Laurel Clewell, WAL state commander**

(Portage, Wis.) – USA Today reported yesterday, the former director of the Tomah VA Medical Center – Mario DiSanctis – was allowed to resign in 2015 and given a six-figure settlement after allegations that the hospital administered dangerous doses of painkillers. DeSanctis challenged his dismissal and eventually succeeded in striking a deal in which the VA allowed him to resign and secure a \$163,000 payout for himself and his attorney, according to USA Today.

“This is an abomination and a high insult to veterans, their families and the good people who work in our VA hospital system. Incompetence and, one could argue, willful neglect should not go rewarded with a corporate-style golden parachute.

“The Wisconsin American Legion has been working for years to hold the US Department of Veterans Affairs accountable and address what seems like an endless litany of problems at Tomah VAMC – over-prescription of opiates, improper dental procedures placing patients at risk and the sexual assault of female veterans by staff. This ridiculous payout to DiSanctis, as reported by USA Today, is yet another slap in the face for veterans. Our veterans deserve and demand better.”

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