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Contact: (608) 266-0517

Carla.Vigue@dva.wisconsin.gov

## **Secretary-designee Kolar Elected as District Vice President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs** *Selected by Peers to Serve on Executive Committee*

MADISON — Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary-designee Mary Kolar was recently elected district vice president for the Midwest District and will serve on the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs' (NASDVA) Executive Committee. She was selected by her peers during the 2019 NASDVA Annual Conference, held August 11–14, 2019 in Omaha, Neb.

“I am honored to represent Wisconsin and our strong service to veterans and their families as part of this national organization,” Secretary Kolar said. “Wisconsin is a known leader when it comes to veterans affairs. I look forward to sharing our ideas and best practices, and learning from the other states as well.”

The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs is comprised of secretaries, directors and commissioners of Veterans Affairs in each state of the U.S., as well as the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The association works with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and states to develop initiatives, advocate for, and share best practices for veterans programs, benefits and services.

NASDVA members elect their Executive Committee, which is comprised of the president, senior vice president, junior vice president and district vice presidents, representing five regions.

Wisconsin is a leader among states for providing programs, benefits and services to veterans and their families. Wisconsin offers veterans many unique benefits, such as occupational licensing fee waivers, grants for businesses that hire veterans and nonprofits that assist them, and the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, which remits tuition for veterans and their family members at Wisconsin universities and technical colleges, among others. In addition, Wisconsin oversees some of the best quality 24-hour skilled nursing facilities in the country, the fifth busiest state veterans' cemetery in the country, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, which has been named a Smithsonian Affiliate.