



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Ronald E. Walters

Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

Ronald E. Walters was named the Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, effective June 23, 2014. Mr. Walters was Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs from January 2009 and Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer for the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), from July 2006.

As Interim Under Secretary, he leads 133 National Cemeteries in providing dignified burial services for military Veterans and eligible family members. His responsibilities also include: maintaining the cemeteries as national shrines; land acquisition, design, construction, and other activities relating to the establishment of new national cemeteries; overseeing other memorial programs to honor the service of deceased Veterans, including provision of headstones, markers, medallions and Presidential Memorial Certificates; and administering federal grants to help states, territories and tribal governments establish Veterans cemeteries.

In his previous position, Mr. Walters was responsible for the successful implementation of key legislative mandates including the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act and the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) within NCA. He represented NCA at congressional hearings, in briefings with members of Congress and their staff, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and advisory committees and other interested groups.

He began his career with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1985 as a Budget Analyst in the Controller's office and held various other management positions during his tenure. In October 2003, he accepted a position as the Associate Chief Financial Officer for Budget and Planning in the Office of Personnel Management. He held that position until joining NCA in 2006.

Mr. Walters received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in 2002 and a Masters in Public Administration from George Washington University in 1986. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University in 1984. He was a Rhodes Scholar finalist in Virginia and received a Presidential Rank Award in 2010. He was a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal in the Management Excellence category. Mr. Walters has taught courses in American Government at JHU and Montgomery College. He is currently an instructor at the University of Maryland (Baltimore County).

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