



Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Biography

Kevin Friel

Executive Director Pension & Fiduciary Service



Kevin J. Friel was appointed as the Executive Director of Pension and Fiduciary Service on December 30, 2024. He is responsible for the oversight and administration of pension, burial, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), unclaimed Veterans remains and fiduciary programs. These responsibilities include the development of policy and procedures, performance of quality reviews, creation of required training, and development of processing system functional requirements. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the pension program paid over \$3B to over 235,000 Veterans and their survivors, and the fiduciary program provided benefit protection to over 101,000 beneficiaries whose disabilities limited their ability to manage their VA benefits, which exceeded \$2.7B. Additionally, Pension and Fiduciary Service provides oversight and administration of DIC benefits, providing over \$10.6B in DIC benefits to over 519,000 eligible survivors.

During his time in Pension and Fiduciary Service, Kevin has led several automation initiatives for pension, DIC, and burial benefits. These automated processes result in an average production of 960 claims per day in FY2025. In FY2024, Pension and Fiduciary Service automated over 200,000 claims and has automated over one-million claims since automation began in 2014.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2024 – Present	Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, VBACO
2018 – 2024	Deputy Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, VBACO
2014 – 2018	Assistant Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, VBACO

EDUCATION:

2023	Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program Graduate
2019	Master's Degree in Public Administration, Capella University
2011	VA Leadership Enhancement and Development Program Graduate
2011	Project Management Professional, Georgetown University
2005	Master's Degree in Business Administration, Saint Martin's College
2002	Bachelor's Degree in Workforce Education and Development, Southern Illinois University
1994	Associate Degree in Applied Electrical Science, Community College of the Air Force