

## **Mr. Martin J. Caraway**

**Associate Member and National Partner  
National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs**

**County Veteran Service Officer  
Redwood County, Minnesota**

Mr. Martin Caraway is a former Marine, with multiple combat tours in Iraq, serving from 1999-2005. After his discharge from the Marine Corps he continued to serve with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MNDVA) until 2007. In 2008 he was appointed as the Redwood County Veteran Service Officer in southwestern Minnesota, where he continues to serve his fellow Veterans.

At the National level he has been a staunch advocate for America's Veterans as a frontline partner in collaboration with National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). He is frequently called on by the President and leadership of NASDVA to assist with issues "on the ground" that affect America's Veterans every day. Most recently, Mr. Caraway served as a key member of the working group including NASDVA, VA, Veteran Service Organizations and advocates that developed the framework for an improved disability and compensation appeals process for our Veterans.

As County Veteran Service Officer, he has enhanced the services to Redwood County veterans, and beyond. Mr. Caraway was named the 2014 *Redwood Gazette Person of the Year* for his efforts in providing service as well as dramatically increasing awareness of combat traumas to the community. He was also a recipient of the 2014 Veterans' Voices "*On the Rise Award*" for making an outstanding impact in his community and beyond. In 2014 Martin was awarded the *Upper Midwest Emmys Board of Governors Award* for his assistance in developing MNDVA's *Battle Field to Homefront* series.

Mr. Caraway began serving on the Executive Board for the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) in 2010, where he has focused on developing new meaningful relationships with strategic partners to enhance the ability for service officers to work seamlessly with other agencies to better serve NACVSO's membership and the Veterans they serve. In 2016 he was elected as NACVSO's 1<sup>st</sup> vice President, and remains committed to ensuring success of Veterans' advocates in their quest to make a difference in each veteran's life they touch.