

After over 37 years of combined military and federal service, my wife and I decided it was time to retire. Earlier this year, as this administration began its second term, I discussed my transition with the Secretary and agreed to ensure a smooth transition and to set the conditions for an interim Chief of Staff, which will be completed by March 31.

Over the last four years, I have had the tremendous honor to serve the Nation's Veterans, their families, and survivors as VA's Chief of Staff. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that the Secretary afforded me. After a long career in the Army, and after four years of balancing my dedication to the department with my other responsibilities, it is time for me to shift my focus.

I have had the great pleasure to work side-by-side with you, the most professional and dedicated public servants I have ever served with. I will miss working with you, every single day, to improve the lives of Veterans and their families and survivors. I know that you, the men and women at VA, will continue to make progress towards excellence, to continue to be advocates and improve our efforts for Veterans, and to accomplish the high standards and goals that we have established. You model our values of ICARE and will succeed.

To all of you, thank you for truly caring and making important, positive contributions to so many Veterans - you are changing lives. What you do each and every day is important, and it has been an honor to serve with you.

Most respectfully,

John

John R Gingrich  
Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs