

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



JOEY STRICKLAND  
SECRETARY

Joey Strickland was appointed Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs by Gov. John Bel Edwards on Jan. 13, 2016. In this position, he is responsible for overseeing five veterans homes; five veterans cemeteries; 74 benefits and claims offices; 32 college and university campus veterans centers; the Military Family Assistance Fund; the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Program; and a myriad of outreach initiatives serving veterans service organizations, including homelessness and suicide prevention, women veterans and incarcerated veterans programs.

His responsibilities include advocating on behalf of Louisiana's more than 283,000 veterans and their families to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Strickland is no stranger to veterans affairs, having served under five Louisiana governors. He is currently the longest-serving state veterans affairs secretary in the nation, and has served in that position in both Louisiana and Arizona.

At the national level, Secretary Strickland most recently served as chairman of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials. He also served as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans and as president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) from 2003-2004. As NASDVA president, he testified on behalf of veterans before the U.S. Congress.

Secretary Strickland served 30 years active duty in the U.S. Army, including two tours of combat duty in Vietnam. In 1994, he retired as a lieutenant colonel and was later appointed colonel in the Louisiana State Guard by Gov. Mike Foster while serving on the Governor's Military Advisory Board.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> award), Air Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> award), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 7 battle stars, Airborne Medal and Overseas Ribbon, among others.

Secretary Strickland is married to Leila Hiestand Strickland, an "Army brat." They are the proud parents of three sons, all Army soldiers, and twin daughters, one who is an educator and one who followed her father's Army footsteps and serves in the Louisiana Army National Guard.