

## 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2025

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

1983

### 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

02/16/2024

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

02/16/2026

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

38 U.S.C. 544

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 544

### 13. Effective Date

11/02/1994

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open

0

### 17b. Closed

0

### 17c. Partially Closed

0

### Other Activities

0

### 17d. Total

0

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next  
FY FY

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee accomplishes its purpose through briefings from the Secretary and Senior Leaders, annual site visits at VA facilities with large minority Veteran populations and town hall meetings in local communities. The results and findings from these combined activities translate into recommendations that advise the Secretary on issues, concerns and gaps in services that directly impact minority Veterans. The Committee's

recommendations align with and support three VA priorities: improving customer service to Veterans, increasing access to health care and improving benefits and services. Additionally, they also contribute to addressing key VA priorities, namely timely access to world class health care, timely access to earned benefits and suicide prevention. In conducting site visits to VA facilities with large percentages of minority Veterans, the Committee is able to identify potential barriers that minority Veterans may encounter when accessing health care services and also recognize service gaps. The Committee's recommendations to the Department ensure that important needs and potential gaps in service are considered when exploring options. Act. During briefings with senior leaders from VHA, VBA, NCA and program offices, the Committee members gain insights on VA's progress in addressing prior recommendations made by the Committee, as well as, obtain information regarding initiatives that are relevant to serving the needs of minority Veterans. The town hall meetings provide a forum for Committee members to listen to the voice of minority Veterans and to understand their perspective of what their experiences are when they utilize various VA services and benefit programs, thus assisting Committee members in determining appropriate recommendations that address access to care issues which is a priority of the Secretary. These recommendations are submitted in the biennial advisory committee report to the Secretary and Congress. The Committee monitors VA's progress in implementing plans of actions submitted by VHA, VBA and NCA to address the service gaps and identified needs of minority Veterans, including VA employees who are also Veterans. Therefore, the purpose and ultimate results of the combined

activities of the Committee translate into substantive recommendations that impact minority Veterans and support three key VA priorities.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Committee is balanced ethnically and geographically to include representation of all five minority groups mandated by law: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American, including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian. Committee members are members of major Veterans Service Organizations and all branches of the Armed Services (enlisted/officer) are represented.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Committee conducts at least two meetings per fiscal year. The standard operations entail conducting one local meeting in Washington, DC to receive updates from VA Senior Leaders, and one site visit to a VA facility with a high concentration of minority Veterans. In FY 2024, the Committee held two meetings: one in Washington, DC on February 20-22, 2024 and one virtual meeting September 25, 2024.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

This Committee provides a unique representation of a broad cross section of the Veteran population as a whole. The members bring varied and distinguished background and experience working with Veterans and are well connected to minority Veteran serving organizations. Some of this experience is in the fields of medicine, law, labor, community organizations, Veterans organizations

and business. All of these individuals believe there is a need for the advice and counsel they provide to the Secretary. The Committee provides an impartial and independent review of VA programs. Department of Defense demographics indicate a continually increasing minority population make up of our armed forces. Therefore, realigning policies and programs to meet the changing demographics in our Veteran population is crucial to ensuring the Department provides the best care and services in a culturally competent manner.

## **20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

The Committee meetings are open to the public. However, if the committee tours a VA facility, the meetings are closed to the public to protect patient privacy.

## **21. Remarks**

Pursuant to Public Law 117-180, section 403, the Committee has been extended until September 30, 2026. During FY 2024, effective 8/29/2024, Robert McDonald transitioned from Chair to member and Linda Singh was appointed as the new Chair.

## **Designated Federal Officer**

Mariela Roca Executive Director, Center for Minority Veterans

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Allen, Charles	10/01/2020	06/30/2025	Retired Family Practice Physician	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cooper, Irma	10/01/2020	06/30/2025	Retired Army Nurse Corp.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

DuBose, Edward	08/29/2024	09/30/2027	Business Owner	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Firmin, Lisa	10/18/2019	06/30/2025	Associate VP for Veterans and Military Affairs at Univ. of Texas-SA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
James, Danitza	08/29/2024	09/30/2027	League of United Latin American Citizens	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Johnson, Bernard	03/04/2022		Veterans Benefits Administration	Ex Officio Member
Jones, Warren	10/01/2020	06/30/2026	Former Senior Medical Director for TRICARE	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kwok, Alfred	10/01/2020		Department of Labor	Ex Officio Member
McDonald, Robert	10/02/2017	09/30/2025	Founder/Exec Dir Black Chamber of Commerce	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moy, Ernest	11/15/2021		Veterans Health Administration	Ex Officio Member
Singh, Linda	11/24/2021	09/30/2026	Business Owner	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Tilton, Nathan	11/24/2021	06/30/2026	Lab Manager at the UC Berkeley Disability Lab	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Townsend, Beth	10/01/2020	09/30/2025	Director of Iowa Workforce Development	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Yaguchi, Michael	10/01/2020	06/30/2026	Vice Chair of Armed Force Insurance	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 14**

## Narrative Description

The Committee reviews reports completed by GAO, VA OIG, and other consultants that have completed assessments of VA programs, services or benefits in order to assess how well the Department manages Veterans programs. The Committee members conducts courtesy visits to VA facilities through out country, in areas where there are indications of problems or to benchmark best business practices. The Committee ensures that the needs of minority Veterans are being addressed in the Department.

## What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Outcome Comments

NA

## What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Over \$10,000,000  
Cost Savings Other

☐  
☐

### **Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

316

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2024.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

63%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

18%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

Committee receives briefings by VA leadership on past years' recommendations. Additionally, the biennial report that the Committee provides to Congress is addressed by the Secretary in a transmittal letter which responds to all recommendations made by the Committee. These responses are shared with the Committee. VA responds specifically in writing to each recommendation made by the Committee and can be found at:  
[https://www.va.gov/advisory/advisory\\_committee\\_on\\_minority\\_veterans\\_statutory.asp](https://www.va.gov/advisory/advisory_committee_on_minority_veterans_statutory.asp)



**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Issued new regulation             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Proposed legislation              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Access Comments**

[https://www.va.gov/advisory/advisory\\_committee\\_on\\_minority\\_veterans\\_statutory.asp](https://www.va.gov/advisory/advisory_committee_on_minority_veterans_statutory.asp)