



LARRY SHELLITO, COMMISSIONER

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs



Retired Major General Larry Shellito was appointed as the 17th Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) in January 2011.

As commissioner, Shellito is charged with assisting the state's 380,000 Veterans and their families. He also represents the Department at hearings before the Minnesota Legislature and United States Congress, and maintaining close working relationships with the Veterans' organizations of Minnesota.

His responsibilities as Commissioner include oversight of Minnesota's five State Veterans Homes in Minneapolis, Hastings, Fergus Falls, Luverne and Silver Bay. He also oversees all MDVA's Programs and Services; including Claims, Outreach, Benefits, Veterans Preference, the State Veterans Cemetery, the Minnesota Veterans Higher Education Program, the State Approving Agency and the Minnesota C.O.R.E. Program.

Commissioner Shellito recently retired as the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. During his seven years in that position, Major General Shellito helped build a national reputation for the Guard, which is the nation's fifth largest with more than 14,000 members in 63 facilities across Minnesota. He was instrumental in establishing the nation-leading "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program" in Minnesota to reintegrate service members following deployments.

Before accepting the post of Adjutant General, Commissioner Shellito served as President of Alexandria Technical College in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Commissioner Shellito began his military career in 1968 when he enlisted in the United States Army, where his active duty service included serving in Vietnam as a Mobile Advisory Team Leader. In 1973, he joined the Minnesota Army National Guard, where he served for 37 years until his retirement in 2010. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge among many others.

Commissioner Shellito holds an Education Doctorate from the University of Minnesota, and a Master's and two undergraduate degrees from Moorhead State University. He is also a graduate of the US Army War College.

He and his wife, Evonne, live in Woodbury, MN. They have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.
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