



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067



Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner
Ph. 860-616-3684

November 1, 2019

Dear Governor Lamont;

As you know I am a member of the Army Reserves and, with your support, I have volunteered for an active duty mobilization and will begin a six month quasi-leave of absence from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Friday, November 15, 2019 returning fulltime in mid-May 2020.

As this is a domestic mobilization to a post in NY State, I will be able to maintain contact with DVA staff via email and phone and, using military leave, should be able to visit the DVA Campus in Rocky Hill while on leave one day every few weeks. During my day to day absence, I will hold weekly conference calls with DVA senior staff and the DVA Board of Trustees Chair and Vice Chair. Staff meetings will occur when I am able to return to the DVA Campus in order to keep the DVA on a steady course forward with ongoing updates to our Healthcare, Residential and Advocacy programs and continued improvements to our State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

In my absence, day to day operations will be overseen by two senior DVA managers: Mr. Michael Clark (Fiscal & Business Manager) and Mr. Joseph Danao (Dir. of Projects and Operations). However, my Executive Administrative Aide, Darlene Deschaine, will serve as the first point of contact for most inquiries which she will refer to the appropriate senior staff member for a response/action. One exception is that my Community Outreach/Legislative Liaison, Tammy Marzik, is the primary contact for all legislative and Inter-agency matters.

I am thankful to have a great team of dedicated DVA staff, volunteers, community-based partners, and veteran service organizations who will continue the collective mission of 'serving those who served' without interruption during my leave of absence.

Thank you for your support and please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Saadi".

Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner