

## **Interim Head of Florida's Veterans Affairs Takes Post Today**

By Bill Cotterell  
Florida Capital Bureau  
August 26, 2010

11:06 A.M. — TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet welcomed retired Marine Lt. Gen. Bob Milligan back to state government today as interim head of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Milligan, 77, served as state comptroller 1994-2000. A Republican, he endorsed Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink during her 2006 campaign and served briefly as the insurance consumer advocate, then became head of the State Board of Administration.

He succeeds former Adm. LeRoy Collins Jr., who died last month.

“Adm. LeRoy Collins was a good friend of mine,” Milligan said. “We were classmates at the Naval Academy in 1952. He leaves large shoes to fill but he did build an excellent staff.”

In his 39-year military career, Milligan became a three-star general and was commander of the Fleet Marine Force Pacific. He retired to the Panama City area and was tapped by the Republican Party to challenge State Comptroller Gerald Lewis in 1994 when he won in the Republican sweep that year.

###