



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

James S. “Hammer” Hartsell



Retired Marine Corps Major General James S. “Hammer” Hartsell was appointed Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs by Gov. Ron DeSantis during the May 4, 2021 Cabinet Meeting. Florida’s three Cabinet Officers also approved the appointment.

FDVA is a 1,500-member constitutionally chartered State Veterans’ Affairs department with a \$160 million annual budget responsible for serving the nation’s third largest veteran population. Operating as the premier point of entry for Florida’s 1.5 million veterans, FDVA operates a network of seven state veterans’ homes and provides outreach to connect veterans with their earned services, benefits and support. Two additional state veterans’ homes will open in the second half of 2021. The agency’s veterans’ claims examiners play a major role in the direct infusion of more than \$21.1 billion annually for Veterans into Florida’s economy through federal compensation, education and pension benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ medical services and military retired pay.

General Hartsell served with honor for 37 years of active and reserve duty, beginning as an enlisted Marine in 1981 and completing a distinguished and highly decorated military career as a Major General.

His 22-year civilian career in the Healthcare Industry included serving in Marketing, Product Management, U.S. and Global Business Development, Hospital Administration and Healthcare Leadership. Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, he moved back to his home state of Florida and joined the Pasco Sheriff’s Office, where he stood up the Future Operations Division.

Appointed as deputy executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs in April 2019, he had been performing the duties of Agency Head since June 2020.

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