



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

For Immediate Release
April 11 2024

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Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs **Awarded Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award** *Awarded for the Veterans Red-Carpet Welcome Home Program.*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 9, 2024) – In February, the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) was awarded the 2024 Department of Veterans Affairs Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award for the innovative Veterans Red-Carpet Welcome Home program.

The “Red-Carpet” program, initially created by Radcliff Veterans Center (RVC), is an initiative designed to welcome new veteran residents to RVC and to ensure the veteran has a seamless transition to his or her new home.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis Richard McDonough presented KDVA Commissioner Whitney Allen the award at the 2024 National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs Mid-Winter Conference in Arlington, Virginia.

“This is a phenomenal accomplishment and showcases our commitment to our veterans in the Commonwealth of Kentucky,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “I’d like to highlight that this is the fourth Pillar of Excellence that KDVA has been awarded, and it is well deserved for their exemplary care of our veterans across our great state.”

“It’s a pleasure to see this program get recognized as our veteran center staff literally roll out a red carpet to greet our new incoming veteran residents,” said Commissioner Allen. “It’s a sight to see our incoming veterans and their families set their minds at ease as they are being welcomed into their new home’s community.”

“What I am most proud of is not so much the award, but the ongoing commitment and passion that our team members demonstrate in serving and honoring our veterans,” said Mark Bowman, executive director of the Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers. “What a spectacular way to welcome someone into their new home. A rolled-out red carpet, smiling and compassionate staff

and fellow veterans lined up to say, 'We are glad you are here.' It is truly a moving experience and one that you won't soon forget."

KDVA's previous Pillars of Excellence Awards were conferred in 2023 for the Annual State Commanders Conference, in 2022 for the Kentucky Veterans' Songwriting Project and in 2021 for the Homeless Veterans Trust Fund.

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