

STATE OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



September 1, 2009

A Message from Governor O'Malley

Dear Friends,

Earlier today, [I swore in Edward Chow, Jr. to head the Department of Veterans Affairs](#). After serving our nation in uniform in the U.S. Army, Captain Chow has dedicated his life to serving our nation's veterans. Captain Chow's knowledge and expertise will help guide our Department of Veterans Affairs in their mission to support Maryland's returning veterans and their families.



In April of 2008, I appointed General James Adkins as Adjunct General for the State of Maryland. General Adkins agreed to stay on as Secretary of Veterans Affairs until we appointed someone. He did this, all while overseeing the Maryland National Guard and Air National Guard, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and the Maryland Defense Force.

With General Adkins' partnership, we've been able to accomplish some very significant things for Maryland veterans in these past two and a half years. Together, we've:

- Made critical investments in reintegration programs, veterans homes, and our Veterans Service Program, where these investments allowed us to open two regional offices last year.
- Invested \$2.1 million to create a scholarship program for returning veterans so they can achieve the dreams of a college education and the opportunities that come with it.
- Created a Trust Fund to help veterans and their families, and we created a no-interest loan program to help veteran small business owners and other small businesses which employ reservists and National Guard personnel; and
- Expanded behavioral health services to help veterans once they return home.

I am very confident that Edward Chow will continue to expand our efforts on behalf of our service members. Edward understands the struggles that veterans face upon returning home from their service. He is a Vietnam veteran himself, having served in the United States Army from 1956 to 1967 and earning the Bronze Star in 1967. He comes to us with significant experience fighting for his fellow veterans both in and out of government. From 1993 through 2001, he served in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a Deputy Assistant Secretary and Senior Advisor. Currently, he serves as President of the Maryland State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, and he has also been a national leader on veterans issues, having served as National Vice President of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Captain Chow quite literally put his life on the line for his country, and we look forward to having him continue his public service at the helm of our Veterans Affairs Department.

Martin O'Malley
Governor