



SUPERIOR Service, Care, and Assistance

May 13, 2022

MVSA Announces Leadership Changes

JACKSON – Today, the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board (MSVA) announced the resignation of Executive Director Stacey Pickering and Chief of Staff Melissa Wade. Mr. Pickering has decided to retire from state government service, while Mrs. Wade will pursue other endeavors outside of MSVA. Both have an effective date of July 11th and are available to assist the Agency during its transition.

"The Board thanks both Director Pickering and Mrs. Wade for their service to Mississippi's 187,000 Veterans and their families over the last four and three years, respectively," said MSVA Board Chairman Gen. (Ret.) James H. Garner. "We want to assure our Veterans and their families that our mission will continue. There are hundreds of team members at Mississippi Veterans Affairs that you don't see every day. Still, their passion and purpose truly drive our superior service, care and assistance to America's heroes through our mission programs and resources."

Mark Smith, MSVA's current Deputy Director, will serve as Interim Executive Director while the Veterans Affairs Board begins searching for a new daily leader of the Agency.

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Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board

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- **Mark A. Smith** - Executive Director, Interim

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