



# News Release

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## **New Orleans VA medical center receives Louisiana's first award**

NEW ORLEANS – For supporting not only those who serve Veterans, but those who continue to serve our country through the Guard and Reserve, The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve presented the Extraordinary Employer Support Award to the New Orleans VA medical center, making it the first time this award has been given in Louisiana.

This award is the second highest award that DOD presents to an employer and this is one of only 15 given annually in the United States.

“SLVHCS’s long history of support to Veterans and Guard & Reserve personnel earned them this award. This is the first time any employer in the state of Louisiana has received it,” said ESGR Louisiana State Chairman John Pugh. Employees of SLVHCS that are National Guard and Reserve service members have nominated SLVHCS many times to recognize the support they receive to be able to perform their military duties. And now, Veterans have a brand new medical center in New Orleans to take care of their medical needs.”

“We are so honored to accept this award,” said Medical Center Director Fernando O. Rivera. “Our Guard and Reserve staff are our future Veterans and it’s important that we support them because they will be using their new Veterans medical center for years to come.”

For more information about the new Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website [www.neworleans.va.gov](http://www.neworleans.va.gov), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans](https://www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/vaneworleans](https://www.twitter.com/vaneworleans).



VA Acting Under Secretary for Health Poonam Alaigh, VA Secretary David Shulkin, ESGR Louisiana Committee Vice Chairman Larry Jones, ESGR State Chairman John Pugh Jr., SLVHCS Medical Center Director Fernando O. Rivera, ESGR Louisiana Committee State Special Projects Ken Demarest

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