



News Release

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Contact: Amanda Jones
Office: 504-507-7621
Cell: 225-252-7122
amanda.jones6@va.gov

VA director to receive AMVETS Silver Helmet Award

NEW ORLEANS – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) is proud to announce that Fernando O. Rivera will receive the American Veterans (AMVETS) Silver Helmet Award for Civil Service at the annual AMVETS Silver Helmet Gala March 9.

“I can’t think of anything more gratifying than being recognized by the people I serve,” said SLVHCS Director Fernando O. Rivera, FACHE. “I am proud to accept this award and share it with my entire team, who work hard every day to make sure all of our Veterans receive the respect and best care anywhere that they deserve. I am honored and humbled to received such a renowned award from AMVETS.”

Known as the “Veterans Oscar,” the award recognizes excellence and outstanding accomplishment in the fields of Americanism, defense, rehabilitation, and congressional and civil service.

“This award has over the years acquired a well-deserved reputation as the most prestigious of all the awards given by Veterans organizations,” said Miles Migliara, communications manager, AMVETS. “We are honored to present and recognize Mr. Rivera with the Civil Service AMVETS Silver Helmet Award for his many years of VA leadership for Veterans and for helping rebuild the New Orleans VA Medical Center - a magnificent new facility in the heart of the city.”

Rivera is receiving the Award for Civil Service for his more than 30-year service to Veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He currently oversees a network of health care operations in 23 parishes in Southeast Louisiana, including seven outpatient clinics and a new 1.6 million sq. ft. world-class medical center that serves over 44,000 Veterans.

Rivera earned a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering and a Master’s of Business Administration Degree from the University of New Orleans and is committed to community service on many levels. He is an honorary member of the Vietnam Memorial Wall Washing Crew and has received the Military Order of the Purple Heart Distinguished Service Award, the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential Rank Award, the American College of Healthcare Executives Federal Healthcare Leadership Award and the AMVETS Leadership in Service Award. He served as Assistant Scout Master in Troop 1444 of the National Capital Region Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 64 in New Orleans.

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, Facebook at www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans or Twitter at www.twitter.com/vaneworleans.

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