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Former WDVA Secretary Raymond Boland receives NASDVA honor

(MADISON) — The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) recently honored its Past President and recently retired Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary Raymond G. Boland as the association's "Advocate of the Year".

Boland, a retired Army colonel and decorated Vietnam veteran, was honored in a ceremony hosted by NASDVA in Washington, DC during the group's March annual legislative conference.

Nominations for the award are made by other state directors, the federal VA, and other veterans service organizations. Boland is the first state director to be so honored.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Chief of Staff Nora Egan spoke at the event, praising Boland for his exceptional service to veterans.

Presenting the award was Col. (Ret.) Joey Strickland, current NASDVA President and Executive Director of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs. "There was no one in any of the veterans service organizations who was as tireless as Ray Boland," said Strickland, "I can't think of anyone any more deserving of this award."

Boland served as WDVA Secretary from 1992 until his retirement in September 2003, and as NASDVA President from 2001 to 2003.

He continues to serve as an appointed member of the VA's Capital Asset Realignment for the Enhancement of Service (CARES) Commission.

"With his continual advocacy, and his constant trips to Washington to work on veterans issues, sometimes even at his own expense, we were very proud to make him our first state director as Advocate of the Year," said Strickland, "which is a testimony to his work that was far above and beyond what was called for."

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