



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE VETERAN ADVOCATE
50 BRAINTREE HILL OFFICE PARK, SUITE 108
BRAINTREE, MA 02184

September 9, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

The Hon. Maura Healey
Governor of Massachusetts
Maura.Healey@mass.gov

The Hon. Karen E. Spilka
President of the Senate
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The Hon. Michael J. Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Comm. on Ways and Means
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The Hon. John Velis
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The Hon. Ronald Mariano
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The Hon. Aaron M. Michlewitz
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The Hon. Joseph W. McGonagle Jr.
Chair, Joint Comm. on Veterans & Federal
Affairs
Joseph.McGonagle@mahouse.gov

Re: Office of the Veteran Advocate Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Report

Dear Governor Healey and Legislative Leaders,

I am pleased and honored to submit the enclosed Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Report for the Office of the Veteran Advocate (OVA) as required in Chapter 115B of Massachusetts General Laws. This report covers the OVA's first complete year as a fully operational agency.

In this report, we highlight a quick review of veteran population data, focus on the agency actions supporting the veteran community, and sharing the OVA's assessment of key issues related to the veteran community in Massachusetts.

OVA annual reports are augmented by special reports and investigations released throughout the year and we expect to release a Strategic Plan in the next few weeks.

The team of experienced professionals at the Office of the Veteran Advocate brings broad, diverse and personal perspectives on military and veteran issues. Along with government and community partners, we are focused and committed to improving the lives of veterans and their families in Massachusetts.

We are available as a collaborative partner providing information and assistance in addressing issues. Please let us know if you have questions on any items covered in the enclosed report.

Sincerely,



Robert Notch
Veteran Advocate

Enclosure as stated

CC (by email):

The Hon. Kim Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
The Hon. Andrea Campbell, Attorney General
The Hon. Dianna DiZoglio, Auditor
The Hon. Bruce Tarr, Senate Minority Leader
The Hon. Bradley Jones, House Minority Leader
The Hon. Michael F. Rush, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Jeffrey Turco, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. James Arena-DeRosa, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Shirley Arriaga, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Michael D. Brady, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Nicholas P. Collins, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Patricia Duffy, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Ryan Fattman, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. John Gaskey, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Patrick Kearney, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Mark C. Montigny, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Estela Reyes, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Alan Silvia, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Joshua Tarsky, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Justin Thurber, Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs
The Hon. Joanne Comerford, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Kip Diggs, Assistant Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. David Biele, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Michael Chaisson, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Brendan Crighton, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. John Cronin, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Manny Cruz, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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The Hon. Paul Feeney, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Judith Garcia, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Adam Gomez, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
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The Hon. Jim Hawkins, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Natalie Higgins, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Russell E. Holmes, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Kristin Kassner, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
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The Hon. Meghan Kilcoyne, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Paul W. Mark, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. John Marsi, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Joseph McKenna, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Rita Mendes, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Liz Miranda, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Sam Montano, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. John Moran, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Patrick O'Connor, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Jake Oliveira, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Steven Owens, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Pavel Payano, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Kelly Pease, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Orlando Ramos, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Lindsay Sabadosa, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Margaret Scarsdale, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Todd M. Smola, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Priscila Sousa, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Alyson Sullivan-Almeida, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Chynah Tyler, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Marcus Vaughn, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
The Hon. Steven Xiarhos, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Micahel D. Hurley, Clerk of the Senate
Timothy Carroll, Clerk of the House of Representatives
Stacy Debole, State Librarian, State Library of Massachusetts