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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Donald Overton Appointed to BVA Executive Director Post

The National Board of Directors of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) has announced the appointment of Donald D. Overton, Jr. as the organization's new Executive Director at its Alexandria, Virginia headquarters. The appointment is effective June 18, 2020.

Donald will direct the Association's efforts to represent and serve blinded veterans, both in the Nation's Capital and throughout the United States. He will be responsible for the work of BVA's National Headquarters staff and its veterans services program, the development of its legislative programs, and the building and cultivating of relationships with BVA's key stakeholders that include the organization's members, financial supporters, public and private sector partners, volunteers, and the media.

"Don brings a tremendous skill set to this key BVA position that includes a wealth of experience and knowledge in the areas of government relations, development, human resources, and strategic planning," said National President Dr. Thomas Zampieri. "We are certain that our BVA membership will share in the Board of Directors' enthusiastic support of Don's appointment."

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Donald entered active duty in February 1988. In August 1990, he deployed with the Advance Party of the 82nd Airborne Division to Saudi Arabia in preparation for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was wounded in combat in March 1991 and subsequently medically retired from the military in June 1992.

As a 100 percent service-connected blinded veteran, Donald went on, following his recovery, to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from East Carolina University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. His occupational background includes positions held at the federal, state, and local levels of government, not-for-profit leadership, and extensive volunteer experience with more than 29 years of active service and leadership within multiple veterans service organizations to include positions as executive director, director of policy and government relations, national officer, national board member, post and chapter command, and veterans claim representative.

Donald has been recognized for his work on behalf of veterans with awards and commendations from the Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Modern Warfare, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, the North Carolina Veterans Council, and East Carolina University.

The congressionally chartered Blinded Veterans Association is the only Veterans Service Organization exclusively dedicated to serving our Nation's blinded veterans. Established in 1945, the Association recently commemorated its 75th anniversary on March 28.

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