

Rick Surratt (Former USA)

Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission

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Date Appointed to the Commission: January 21, 2004.

Work Experience: Commissioner Rick Surratt, a combat-disabled Vietnam veteran, was named Deputy National Legislative Director of the million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at the 1998 DAV National Convention in Las Vegas.

Commissioner Surratt is employed at DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, DC. As a member of the DAV's legislative team, he works to promote reasonable and responsible legislation to assist disabled veterans and their families, as well as guarding current veteran's benefits and services from legislative erosion.

Commissioner Surratt joined the DAV's professional DAV National Service Officer (NSO) staff at the Roanoke office in 1976, working there until 1989 when he was assigned to the DAV National Appeals staff at the VA Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC. Later that year, he was assigned to the DAV office at the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals as a Judicial Appeals Representative. He moved to the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters when he was named Associate National Legislative Director in 1994. In 1996 he was appointed Assistant National Legislative Director, and served in that capacity until his current appointment.

Military Service: Commissioner Surratt enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966. In 1967, he was wounded by shell fragments in the thigh during a Vietnam combat field operation, while serving with the 101st Airborne Division. He was honorably discharged in 1969.