

# Gathering VA Stakeholder Opinion

VA's mission statement comes from a line at the end of a speech given by Abraham Lincoln, which is engraved in stone on the Lincoln Memorial and on many VA buildings:

To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans.

VA is seeking your input on how its mission statement can evolve to be more inclusive and representative of the changing needs of all Veterans. Please answer the following survey questions to help us understand what should be considered if the mission statement were to be changed.

This survey should take approximately 3 minutes to complete.

1. What best describes your relationship with the VA? Please mark all that apply.

- Veteran
- Active Duty Servicemember
- Military Family
- Immediate Family of a Veteran or Servicemember
- Extended Family of a Veteran or Servicemember
- Caregiver
- Survivor
- VA Staff
- VSO
- Other

2. In your opinion, how important is it to preserve the connection in VA's mission statement to the quote from Abraham Lincoln, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan"?

Please respond to the following statement on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being strongly disagree, 3 being neutral, 5 being strongly agree. [1 2 3 4 5]

3. Which part of the mission statement resonates with you the most?

- To fulfill President Lincoln's promise
- "To care for him...
- who shall have borne the battle...

- and for his widow and his orphan”
- by serving and honoring the men and women who are America’s Veterans

4. The current VA mission statement accurately reflects VA's current mission and goals.

Please respond to the following statement on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being strongly disagree, 3 being neutral, 5 being strongly agree. [1 2 3 4 5]

5. The language and tone of VA's current mission statement feels appropriate for today's Veterans.

Please respond to the following statement on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being strongly disagree, 3 being neutral, 5 being strongly agree. [1 2 3 4 5]

6. I feel personally connected to VA's current mission statement.

Please respond to the following statement on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being strongly disagree, 3 being neutral, 5 being strongly agree. [1 2 3 4 5]

7. In your opinion, which qualities should be reflected in VA’s mission statement?  
Please mark all that apply.

- Specific
- Concise
- Honorable
- Historic
- Protective
- Patriotic
- Warrior Culture
- Serious
- Formal
- Informal
- Inclusive
- Inviting
- Inspiring
- Supportive
- Encouraging
- Energetic

- Action-Oriented
- Solution-Driven
- Service-Oriented
- Success-Oriented
- Veteran-Centric
- Community-Minded
- Focused on Impact/Outcomes
- Focused on Advancement/Progression
- Focused on Quality of Life
- Focused on Strength

8. What words, phrases, or sentiments do you feel are important to include in a new VA mission statement?

If you are willing to participate in an interview or focus group for VA mission statement development and testing, please contact [email address] to express your interest. We may not be able to accommodate everyone, but we appreciate your willingness to participate.