

National Chair & Director



Anthony Hardie is a veterans' advocate, former public official, and a longstanding national leader on Gulf War veterans' health, toxic wounds, and other veterans' issues. As VCS's National Chair and Director (2014-Present), he leads the organization's policy formulation and public advocacy efforts. He has served with the treatment-focused Gulf War Illness Research Program ([GWIRP](#)), part of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program ([CDMRP](#)) within the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), as a consumer reviewer with the program's managing Programmatic Panel from the GWIRP's creation in FY2006 through its conclusion in 2022, including as its Chair from FY2015-2019 and as *Chair Emeritus* from FY2020-2022. From 2014 to their conclusion in 2019, he served as Chair of the GWIRP's two External Advisory Boards for the two Gulf War Illness Consortia (GWIC) located at Boston University and Nova Southeastern University. He previously served from 2006 to 2013 on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses ([RAC-GWVI](#)). He served on the VA's Gulf War Steering Committee from its inception in 2010 until it concluded its work in 2012 to develop the first-ever VA strategic plan for Gulf War illness research.

He served with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) from 2003 to 2009 as its third-in-command, overseeing Legislative, Public, and Intergovernmental Affairs (the position has since been renamed as Assistant Deputy Secretary). In that role, he also provided legislative and other leadership work to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA).

From 1999 until joining WDVA in 2003, he served as a Congressional staff member for a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, with responsibilities including military and veterans affairs and economic development, among others.

Prior to his public service, he was an early leader of the former National Gulf War Resource Center from 1995 to 2000, including serving as a popularly-elected member of its Board of Directors, as National Secretary, and as National Vice-President. He served as a founding national officer of Veterans of Modern Warfare (VMW), including as Legislative Chair, National Treasurer, and National Secretary.

He served with the U.S. Army from 1986 through 1993, with six overseas tours of duty that included two combat tours: the 1991 Gulf War, and Somalia, including before and during the time the Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue (DADT) policies were in place. His military awards include the Bronze Star medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 awards), Army Achievement Medal (6 awards), Armed

Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, and various others.

He has testified numerous times before Congress, federal agencies, and the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences) on veterans' health issues, and has been frequently interviewed and quoted in the national media on issues related to veterans' health and benefits.

He has received numerous awards and commendations for his veterans' affairs service, including from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Wisconsin State Legislature, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and AMVETS. In June 2017, he was awarded the [Ozonoff Unsung Hero Award](#) by the Boston University School of Public Health Department of Environmental Health. In February 2020 he was awarded by the U.S. Department of Defense Gulf War Illness Research Program for chairing its programmatic panel from Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019.

He is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute and the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. Following his military service, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree with triple majors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

He is the author of [91outcomes](#), a Gulf War health and news website. He resides in Florida.