



**Cherissa Jackson, RN (USAF, Ret.)**  
Chief Medical Executive Officer  
AMVETS National Headquarters

AMVETS National Headquarters, February 1, 2019 – Cherissa Jackson, a registered nurse and retired Air Force combat clinician, with 23 years of active duty service, deployed three times during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as a battlefield clinician. Cherissa is the author of “At Peace Not in Pieces,” a bestselling memoir that outlines her principles of coping with the challenges of PTSD as a combat veteran and nurse. She was named one of PTSD magazine’s “25 Individuals of Influence,” as well as recently named to the “HillVets 100” class of 2019.

Cherissa spent most of her nursing career assisting service members suffering from visible wounds, and now, the signature injury of today’s wartime era, the ‘invisible wounds’ demands priority from AMVETS and those looking to heal American veterans. This position allows Cherissa to reach those with opioid addiction, issues accessing adequate healthcare, and who suffer in silence after bravely serving their country.

Cherissa heads AMVETS National’s HEAL Program, which strives to confront the risk factors that lead to crisis and veteran suicide. She leads AMVETS’ efforts to address issues related to women veterans and champion legislation that improves access to quality healthcare. AMVETS formed the HEAL program in February of 2018, which consists of a team of clinical experts with experience in eliminating barriers to access in healthcare for veterans nationwide.

*HEAL, which stands for healthcare, evaluation, advocacy, legislation, encompasses all necessary steps the team will take to intervene directly on behalf of veterans, service members, families, and caregivers to reduce veteran suicide, unemployment, homelessness, and hopelessness as it relates to mental and physical wellness, particularly for those who are affiliated with AMVETS and utilize Polytrauma/Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) centers and mental health services within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and community healthcare facilities.*