



## STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



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Melony Butler  
Eagles healing nest  
Sauk Centre, Minnesota

March 2, 2017

Melony, please accept my sincere apology for not being with you at the Eagles Healing Nest as you show the work that you have done in caring for others.

You have always set high standards and expectations of those under your care. In the times I have visited the Eagles Healing Nest I have always been in awe of your achievements. Most recently when you had the Vietnam Wall replica on campus, you showed me the grounds and more importantly the work and achievements of those under your watchful care.

As we, as a nation, start our evolution of the 'Baby Boomers' entering retirement and the needs they bring with them, we, as a nation will experience a major generational change. Eagles Healing Nest is a special niche in that market, uniquely located in a rural region of our state. Location is just one of the many factors we must address in order to enable people to stay close to home while also receiving the care they need.

As we go way back in time, I fondly remember you saying 'here's what I'm going to do.' And as I walked the grounds of the Eagles Healing Nest, I often chuckled to myself saying she did it. Your passion and concern for past and present service members is truly remarkable. Even more remarkable has been in how you transformed a former juvenile detention center into a place that those in need can call 'home'.

The need will continue and most likely grow. Hopefully your model will be adopted and replicated throughout our great state and nation. The need to care for those in need will not go away, and like you, I anticipate that it will continue to grow exponentially.

Wishing you the best!

Larry Shellito  
Commissioner

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

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