



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

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BRUCE RAUNER  
GOVERNOR

ERICA L. JEFFRIES  
DIRECTOR

March 31, 2015

Dear Fellow Veteran,

Thank you for your interest in State employment. Governor Rauner and his administration are fully committed to leveraging the skills and experiences of those who have served in uniform.

Please know that the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs is here to assist you during your time in the State of Illinois – and beyond. Whether you're wondering about veteran benefits, navigating your transition out of uniform, or simply looking to connect with veteran organizations in your community, there are resources available. In fact, there are so many resources available that finding the right one can be extremely challenging. We're here to help point you in the right direction to find the resources that you need.

The two most important resources available to you, in terms of navigating the veteran support world, are our IDVA Veteran Service Offices and Illinois Joining Forces:



Illinois Department of  
**Veterans' Affairs**

IDVA employs Veteran Service Officers (VSO) in nearly every county of the state. Fellow veterans themselves, our VSO's are experts in federal, state, and local veteran resources and can help you apply directly for the benefits you've earned. They're an excellent resource for in-person assistance. Find your local VSO at: ([www.state.il.us/agency/dva](http://www.state.il.us/agency/dva)) or call (800) 437-9824.



**ILLINOIS  
JOINING  
FORCES**

Illinois Joining Forces is a network of nearly 200 veteran- and military-serving organizations in Illinois – all working together to serve you better to create a "no wrong door" system of support.

At [www.illinoisjoiningforces.org](http://www.illinoisjoiningforces.org) you'll find a searchable directory of resources from these organizations, with the ability to connect directly with the right one for you – or to request help if you are unable to find what you need.

Thank you for serving your country – and for considering the State of Illinois as a possible career path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. L. Jeffries".

Erica L. Jeffries  
Director