

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



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JAN 3 2022

President of the Senate

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Larry Herke

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

Commissioner

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Effective: January 2, 2023

Expires: January 4, 2027

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed January 2, 2023.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Reappointment

Filed on January 2, 2023
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State,
Steve Simon

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LARRY J. HERKE
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Phone (651) 757-1555
larry.herke@state.mn.us

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President of the Senate

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Seasoned Army Commissioned Officer with over 30 years of experience in leading soldiers and civilians in continental United States and several overseas locations. Adept in training and supervising personnel in the decision-making process, budgeting, manager responsibilities and project management. Results oriented professional with highly effective communications skills and a proven track record of sustained superior performance. *Areas of Expertise:*

- Public Affairs Engagements
- Transition Management
- Local Government Support
- Guaranteed Energy Savings Prog.
- Strategic Planning
- Agency Sustainability Plans
- State Capital Bonding Submissions
- Inter-agency Coordination
- Public Private Partnerships
- Facility Condition Assessments
- Risk Management & Safety
- Renewable Energy
- Budget Prep & Execution
- Capital Replacement Plans
- Leading & Mentoring Staff
- Grant Submissions
- Environmental Compliance
- Behavior Programs

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science (BS) in Accounting** (1985)
Minnesota State University at Mankato, Minnesota
- Master of Arts (MA) in Public Administration** (2002)
Minnesota State University at Mankato, Minnesota

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Jan 2019 - Present
State of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota

Responsible for providing support to 304,000 Minnesota Veterans and their families to ensure they receive the care and benefits that they have earned. Serves as a member of the Governor's Cabinet for all matters relating to Veterans and their families.

- Direct activities of 1300+ agency staff members through a healthcare division, programs/service division and a central staff.
- Responsible for five state Veterans Homes and three additional state Veterans Homes currently under construction and scheduled to open in the summer of 2023.
- Responsible for three state Veterans Cemeteries with one additional state Veterans Cemetery under construction and scheduled to open in August 2023
- Direct plans for Minnesota to be the fourth state to achieve functional zero for Veteran's homelessness
- Developing plans to reduce and eventually eliminate Veterans deaths by suicide in Minnesota.
- Ensure that military service members transitioning to Veteran status have the tools and support to be successful members of their community.
- Support Veterans and their families as their needs change throughout their post military service lives.

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Aug 2016 – Dec 2018

**Director, Office of Enterprise Sustainability
State of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota**

Responsible for assisting 24 cabinet level state agencies to develop sustainable plans to meet existing Executive Orders and Statutes. Areas of focus include fleet, water, solid waste, greenhouse gas, energy, and procurement.

- Directed the development of the first ever State of Minnesota Enterprise Sustainability Annual Report for 2017.
- Developed enterprise Sustainability Reporting Tool (SRT) to provide transparency.
- Supervised the first ever Enterprise Fleet Action Plan to outline a road map for successful transition of agency fleets to reduce fossil fuel emissions.

Construction and Facilities Management Officer

Jan 2014 – Jul 2016

Department of Military Affairs, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, Minnesota

Responsible for the real property management, operations, and replacement of over 5 million square feet of facilities to include 63 Armories, six Field Maintenance Shops, two Aviation Facilities and a 53,000 Acre Training Site at Camp Ripley. Expanded staff capabilities to allow facilitate in house design while saving money.

- Reported directly to the Commissioner of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) twice monthly, during special topic briefings at least monthly and during emails inquiries.
- Accountable for an annual state and federal combined budget of over \$70 million to operate 530 existing buildings while supervising 20-30 renovations and 3-5 new construction projects.
- Developed Sustainable Infrastructure plans for reduction of energy, water, and waste.

Deputy Construction and Facilities Management Officer

Nov 2011 – Dec 2013

Department of Military Affairs, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, Minnesota

Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and repairs associated with Armories, Field Maintenance Shops and Aviation Facilities with a budget of six million dollars.

- Supervised seven branch chiefs responsible for 129 employees located throughout Minnesota.
- Directly responsible for the life cycle component replacement, preventative maintenance, and repair of all Department of Military Affairs facilities.
- Review and approved position descriptions, lead staffing studies, chaired hiring boards and represented management positions at periodic meetings with bargaining units.

Mobilization and Readiness Officer

Feb 2008 – Oct 2011

Department of Military Affairs, St. Paul, Minnesota

Supervised a 12-person mobilization preparation staff and a \$35 million dollar training and logistics preparation budget. Responsible for pre-mobilization training certification, personnel readiness validation and equipment augmentation to meet mission requirements. Managed staff of 42 support personnel monthly to process up to 700 Soldiers during a weekend to validate individual readiness.

- Managed staff of 42 support personnel monthly to process up to 700 Soldiers during a weekend to validate individual Soldier Readiness.
- Managed staff of 16 trainers to responsible for validating individual training task required to be completed prior to mobilization.
- Consistently delivered units to mobilization stations with less than 3% non-deployable rates which was the best in the entire Army National Guard.

**Brigade Executive Officer, 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division
Minnesota Army National Guard, Tallil, Iraq**

Oct 2005 – Jan 2008

Brigade Chief of Staff responsible for the logistical and maintenance activities associated with a 5,200 Soldier Brigade forward deployed with a mission of transportation of food and fuel throughout Iraq. Additionally responsible for protecting several forward operating bases and radio operating outposts located along major supply routes.

- Directly responsible for the supervision of 48 staff officers and non-commissioned officers.
- Increased force protection capabilities at all locations through rebuilding exterior defense and hardening facilities to survive incoming mortar and rocket attacks.
- Improved the tactical fleet operational readiness rate from 54% to 97% operational vehicles in less than 90 days due to intense maintenance management of materials and labor.

TRAINING

Captains Career Course, United States Army, Fort Leavenworth, MO Apr-Jun 1992
Command and General Staff College, United States Army, Fort Leavenworth, MO Sep-Dec 1994
Air Defense Pre-Command Course, United States Army, Fort Bliss, TX June 2005

CERTIFICATIONS

Federal Contracting Officers Certification, National Guard Bureau (2011)
Construction and Facility Management Officer Certification, National Guard Bureau (2012)
Federal Fiscal Law, National Guard Bureau (2012)
Security Clearance, Department of Defense (2015)

AWARDS

Legion of Merit (2016) and Bronze Star Medal (2008)
Star of the North Team Award, Department of Administration (2018)
Finalist for State of Minnesota Governor's Better Government Award (2018)

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