

Colonel (Ret) Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Colonel (Ret) Stephen G. Abel was appointed as Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs in November 2004. In this capacity, Commissioner Abel administers five Divisions: the Division of Veterans Healthcare Services that oversees the operation of the state's three long-term care veterans' homes and respite care program; and the Division of Veterans Services that is responsible for the oversight of the nation's busiest State Veterans Cemetery, located in North Hanover Township, the operation of the state's Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing program, the State Approving Agency, which is responsible for certifying the VA funded educational and training



programs, the state owned monuments and memorials, Veterans Service Offices, Veteran's preference determinations, veteran's status determinations, and the blind and catastrophic veteran pension entitlements. Additionally, Commissioner Abel oversees the Department's, Fiscal Division, Human Resources Division, Information and Administrative Services Division, as well as the Affirmative Action Office.

His civilian honors include being named by the Jewish War Veterans as the New Jersey 2006 Citizen of the Year, being named the National Aide-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2006-2007, receiving The VFW Department of New Jersey Distinguished Silver Medal (the VFW's second highest award) in 2007, and being named the National Deputy Chief of Staff by the current Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 2007-2008. In addition to these honors, Commissioner Abel has received numerous plaques and commendations from the American Legion, Marine Corps League, Jewish War Veterans and Sampson WW II Veterans.

Commissioner Abel's military career with the United States Army took him around the world from Fort Riley, Kansas, to Korea, Hawaii, and back home again to the States. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, and six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon with numeral three-device, and the Army Staff Badge.

Commissioner Abel is a member of the Association of the United States Army, the National Guard Associations of New Jersey and the United States, the Field Artillery Association, Military Officers Association of America, the Elks, the Marine Corp League, and is a lifetime member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Catholic War Veterans, Korean War Veterans, Military Order of the Cooties, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.