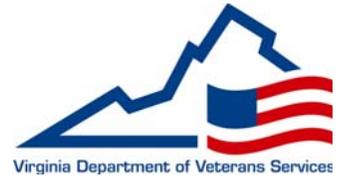


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department of Veterans Services staff receive Meritorious Mast

ACCOMAC— Wendy Ainsworth and Jamie LeCates were each awarded a Meritorious Mast from the United States Marine Corps for providing professional excellence and outstanding service on behalf of the Virginia Department of Veterans Service. Ainsworth and LeCates received this honor for the help they provided to Michael T. Mitchell.

According to Mitchell's son, Travis C. Mitchell, Ainsworth and LeCates assisted his father in filing a claim with the VA for disability benefits resulting from his exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam. They continued assisting Mitchell's father throughout the claims process and up to the time of his burial following his death from cancer. The younger Mitchell, serving in the U. S. Marines, was deployed to Afghanistan and was unable to assist his father with the claims paperwork.

Travis Mitchell said, "They were always glad to see us and absolutely willing to assist in any way." In the Meritorious Mast both Ainsworth and LeCates are cited for their friendliness, initiative, and devotion to their jobs. Captain G. A. Lusk, UMC, issued the Masts.

A Meritorious Mast gives official recognition for a job well done and recognizes enlisted members and others who perform beyond the usual requirements of duty, display exceptional judgment or initiative.

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Serving those who served.