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**Subject:** HAVE YOU HEARD?  
**Date:** Friday, March 14, 2014 1:30:23 AM

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VA's seal turns 25 tomorrow. President Ronald Reagan signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Act Oct. 25, 1988, to establish VA as an executive department. The legislation called for it to take effect March 15, 1989. With the elevation to cabinet level, a new seal was needed to replace the old Veterans Administration seal, and it needed to be done in only four months! VA employees nationwide were asked to exercise their creative skills to submit designs that best represented VA. In response, 187 entries were submitted. A 10-member panel reviewed them and selected a winner – David Gregory, a medical media production specialist at Indianapolis VA Medical Center. His design was sent to the Institute of Heraldry, the government's overseer of official seals, decorations, medals, and other items authorized for official display or wear by government personnel or agencies. The heraldry made just two changes. It added the five stars above the eagle and spelled out United States of America at the bottom of the seal, instead of USA. For his winning entry, Gregory, who died in 2004, received a cash award and a trip to Washington, D.C., where he was honored by Edward J. Derwinski, the first secretary of Veterans Affairs.