

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

June 1, 2020

Dear Governor DeSantis,

It is with a heavy heart filled with gratitude that I submit my resignation as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, effective June 18, 2020.

My gratitude begins with the men and women who wear the uniform. They are the best of us and deserve the best from us. In that regard and so many others, they get that every day from you and your administration. My thanks to you for the faith you put in me to serve those who gave so much. You not only care for our veterans, but as a veteran yourself, your concern for their well-being was evident in every interaction I had with you during my tenure as Executive Director.

Veterans have a friend in the Governor's mansion, and they deserve to know that. Your charge to me was always to "be bold in service to those who served." Those were my orders and I hope I never let one veteran down.

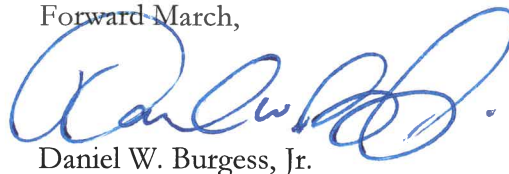
I would be remiss if I did not thank my FDVA family. They all answered the call to be there for Florida's veterans and military families. This outstanding team of dedicated professionals will continue to carry the torch long after I am gone and sustain our noble mission.

I will remain an advocate for veterans - from the battlefield, to their homecoming and beyond. At this time, I believe I can best continue to serve my country, my state, and my brothers and sisters in arms as a member of the Florida Senate. I look forward to resuming my work to serve those who served us through the legislative process, should I have the honor to serve.

But those discussions are for another day. Today, I want to thank you, my Governor, for your leadership in calm and in crisis. I want to thank the Florida Cabinet - CFO Patronis, General Moody, and Commissioner Fried - for their trust and confidence in approving my nomination to this post. I want to thank my team and all at FDVA who put service before self. And to the people of Florida who always step up in courage when the going gets tough.

Under your leadership, Florida leads the way. I hope to serve her and work with your administration again. Until then, I remain forever grateful.

Forward March,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel W. Burgess, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Daniel W. Burgess, Jr.

cc: Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis
Attorney General Ashley Moody
Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried