**VA 2020 FedHealthIT 100 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient**

**Richard A. Stone, M.D.**, executive in charge, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

Dr. Richard Stoneleads the largest integrated health care system in the United States with an annual budget of approximately $68 billion. VHA’s staff which exceeds 347,000 employees delivers care to more than 9 million enrolled Veterans at 1,200 plus facilities. Stone previously served as the principal deputy undersecretary of Health, focusing on organizational transformation, ensuring Veteran access to health care and restoring trust in VHA. He worked as vice president on military health and health care business re-engineering at Booz Allen Hamilton. Prior to military retirement, Stone served as the deputy surgeon general and the deputy commanding general of support for U.S. Army Medical Command. He has served multiple non-profit regional health care systems and owned multiple businesses during his career. He is a practicing dermatologist — with training from Wayne State Affiliated programs in Detroit and the VA Health system — and is a board-certified fellow in the American Academy of Dermatology. Stone’s other honors include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge. He was also a member of the U.S Department of Defense (DOD) Recovering Warrior Task Force from 2011-2015.

**VA 2020 FedHealthIT 100 Awardees**

1. **Michael Akinyele, MBA,** chief innovation officer and executive director, VA Innovation Center

Michael Akinyele is the chief innovation officer for VA. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service Nov.10, 2019. He is a turnaround expert, health care futurist and collaborative leader focused on implementing Section 152 of the MISSION Act of 2018 which established the Center for Innovation for Care and Payment (The Center) at VA. The Center is authorized to carry out pilot programs designed to test new innovative approaches to service delivery and payments furnished by the department.

1. **Gil Alterovitz**, **Ph.D**., FACMI, FAMIA, director, Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Gil Alterovitz has been working to advance AI research and development capabilities at VA to secure real-world impact and outcomes that ensure Veteran health and well-being. Alterovitz served as a core author of the 2019 White House Office of Science and Technology Policy “The National AI R&D Strategic Plan.” The AI-able ecosystem framework and pilot that he led and tested across multiple agencies was recently recognized via “Government Innovation Award.” Earlier this year, he was selected for the “Fed100 Award” for “Getting government ready for AI.”

1. **Dominic Cussatt,** principal deputy assistant secretary, deputy chief information officer (DCIO), OIT

Dominic Cussatt oversees the planning and operations of the $4 billion, 8,000 employee OIT department. He previously served as OIT’s chief information security officer, where he provided strategic leadership to a team of cybersecurity specialists leading various cybersecurity programs and risk management activities to ensure secure and reliable operation of VA information systems.

1. **Alan R. Constantian, Ph.D**., deputy chief information officer for Account Management, OIT

Alan Constantian is responsible for the creation and management of OIT’s Account Management Office (AMO). Constantian provides real-time, strategic leadership to the IT team, the three VA administrations and all VA staff offices regarding innovative technological tools that best support VA’s mission to the nation’s Veterans. Prior to his appointment as DCIO for AMO, Constantian served as a VHA account manager. He also served in OIT from January 2012 to August 2014 as senior advisor to the VA CIO with Customer Advocate for Health, where among other things, he was the executive sponsor for the successful VA implementation of the Affordable Care Act (phase 1).

1. **Neil Evans, M.D.,** chief officer, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Dr. Neil Evans pairs his 18 years of clinical experience and his passion for technology to bolster health IT solutions that help Veterans live better, healthier lives. With his guidance, VA is collaborating with the DOD and industry partners to ensure VA patients can seamlessly access the health care they need without the stress of carrying and disseminating their medical paperwork. Evan’s latest venture involves continuous electronic health record (EHR) transfer, and it spans the federal government and promises to bring millions of VA patients and providers a consolidated health care management tool.

1. **Kathleen Frisbee, MPH, Ph.D.,** executive director, Connected Health, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Kathleen Frisbee heads a team of thought leaders who are focused on developing innovative solutions that empower Veterans to take control over their care. Frisbee launched VA’s first cloud-based applications environment and developed both a patient portal with an online scheduling feature and a not only SQL patient-generated database. Under her leadership, the VA App Store has grown to include over 40 mobile applications that have garnered nearly six million pageviews and over one million users.

1. **Kevin Galpin, MD,** executive director, Telehealth Services, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Dr. Kevin Galpin is the architect of VA’s Anywhere to Anywhere Telehealth initiative. Under his leadership last year, VA delivered more than 2.6 million episodes of telehealth care, expanded its video to the home services by over 200 percent and established multiple public-private partnerships to help Veterans overcome the digital divide.

1. **James P. Gfrerer,** assistant secretary for Information and Technology and chief information officer, Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

James Gfrerer leads a team of more than 8,000 employees and 8,000 contractors in OIT to deliver technologies and services that improve the Veteran experience. OIT manages an IT budget of $4.2 billion in support of the VHA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and the entire $200 billion VA System. In this largest centralized IT program in the federal space, OIT executes the enterprise IT strategy, transforms the business, operates the network infrastructure and secures all applications and systems.

1. **Theresa Hancock,** director, My Health***e***Vet, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Theresa Hancock leads a team of clinicians, developers and communicators to deliver My HealtheVet to Veterans. With My HealtheVet, VA’s health portal, Veterans can access personal health records, refill prescriptions, contact their care teams with Secure Messaging, schedule appointments and more. Under Hancock’s leadership, the My HealtheVet community has grown to more than five million users, which is more than 47% of VA patients, and with her help, new features continue to expand Veterans’ access to care and information. Most recently, Hancock expanded VA online scheduling and Blue Button Medical Imaging, which gives Veterans access to their radiology reports.

1. **Shawn Hardenbrook,** director, Web and Mobile Solutions, Office of Connected

Care, VHA

Shawn Hardenbrook began his work at VA in 1993 as a master social worker in mental health at the Dallas VA Medical Center. He quickly moved into IT-related roles, implementing automation and creating software used to perform and expedite Compensation and Pension exams, and his Compensation and Pension Record Interchange application has been in use for more than 15 years. Hardenbrook has been the recipient of the AL Gore Hammer Award and a Secretary of VA Scissors Award. He has a background in Privacy Informatics and is a certified project management professional.

1. **Leonie Heyworth, MD, MPH,** director, Synchronous Healthcare, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Dr. Leonie Heyworth partners her clinician experience with her research and dedication to telehealth expansion for the six million Veterans who rely on VA for health care. Heyworth has been instrumental in creating and expanding the “Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations” initiative, a program that establishes local video telehealth access points for Veterans in their communities through federal and non-federal partnerships. Additionally, she has been a driving force behind VA Video Connect expansion, VA’s tablet program implementation, and the Telehealth Emergency Management initiative, a program to integrate telehealth into VA’s disaster relief operations. Heyworth is ushering in the future of telehealth care at VA and currently practices Primary Care at VA San Diego.

1. **Bill James,** former deputy assistant secretary, Development and Operations (DevOps), OIT

Bill James oversaw the OIT’s largest organizations, (Enterprise Program Management Officer and IT Operations) to deliver enterprise-wide IT products and services while effecting a cultural transformation in how OIT produces outcomes for Veterans and VA’s business customers: VHA, VBA, NCA, Veterans Experience Office and VA Corporate offices. He helped shift the culture to a DevOps approach — a focus on the customer through innovation, agile principles, cloud and modern tool sets — so that OIT could roll out better IT services at a faster pace to Veterans and those who serve Veterans.

1. **David “Drew” Myklegard,** executive director, Demand Management Division (DMD), OIT

David “Drew” Myklegard provides a consolidated set of enterprise-wide services that enables VA to capture business needs, architect, engineer, monitor performance, ensure program alignment and provide cloud solutions in support of VA IT modernization. Under Myklegard’s leadership, DMD is the “gateway” for IT initiatives throughout the VA IT enterprise, helping VA improve solution delivery and provide better outcomes for Veterans. His work also empowers developers to build mobile and web apps using standards-based software development kits and application programming interfaces designed to serve Veterans.

1. **Camala Price**, chief of staff, DOD/VA Interagency Program Office (IPO)

Camala Price directs daily IPO activities to enhance health data interoperability and coordinates VA’s adoption of and contribution to national health data standards, ensuring seamless integration of health data between VA, DOD and private healthcare providers. She enables transparent interaction and communication among the departments, standards development organizations and other public and private sector stakeholders, as they work together to advance EHR modernization efforts. Her contributions support VA’s objectives of providing improved healthcare delivery to service members, veterans and their families.

1. **John Short,** chief technology officer, Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM)

John Short, a U.S. Army Veteran, successfully led the migration of more than 105 billion VistA health records of 23.7 million Veterans to VA’s new EHR solution as of November 2019. This migration of information enables advanced data analytics that will drive stronger connections between military service and health outcomes. Short previously led VA’s legacy health record system, known as the VistA Evolution program, as well as efforts in cybersecurity, architecture, EHR interoperability and joint DOD/VA management and implementation.

1. **Paul Tibbits, M.D.,** executive director, Office of Technical Integration, OIT

Dr. Paul Tibbits has 18 years of experience leading change management, process re-engineering, and IT initiatives that support federal health care programs. He developed and implemented two worldwide medical record systems, restructured IT management, and regularly represented IT projects to senior executives and Congress. Tibbits began his career with VA in December of 2006, where he served as DCIO for Enterprise Development, DCIO for Architecture, Strategy, and Design, and program executive officer for the Financial Management Business Transformation Program.

1. **Lauren Thompson**, **Ph.D**., executive director, DOD/VA IPO

Lauren Thompson ensures the seamless integration of health data between the departments and private health care providers. She leads DOD and VA efforts to implement national health data standards for interoperability and guides the IPO as the single point of accountability for identifying, monitoring and approving clinical and technical data standards and profiles. Thompson is dedicated to advancing health information technology and transforming health care delivery for service members, Veterans and their families.

1. **John H. Windom,** executive director, OEHRM

John H. Windom leads VA’s effort to improve the delivery of Veteran health care by creating an interoperable EHR solution across VA and DOD. This new EHR solution facilitates the secure transfer of active-duty service members’ health records as they transition to Veteran status, improving data analysis capabilities and leading to better health outcomes. Prior to his work for VA, Windom was a program manager for the Navy’s Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Transformation. He developed and implemented an acquisition strategy to transform the Navy’s 55 legacy human resource (HR) management systems to a state-of-the-market commercial HR solution/product. Before that position, he served as Defense Healthcare Management Systems Modernization program manager, where he led his team in the acquisition, testing, integration and deployment of new EHR system to replace DOD’s legacy EHR in support of over 9.6 million military service members and other beneficiaries.

1. **Charles Worthington, acting** chief technology officer, OIT

Charles Worthington is a software developer and product designer who has been helping the government adopt modern digital service delivery best practices since 2013. Worthington leads efforts to improve the experience Veterans have when interacting with VA online, streamline benefits processing, increase health data interoperability and help OIT adopt modern DevSecOps best practices.