

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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R. JAMES "JIM" NICHOLSON, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; education: graduate, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, 1961; M.A., Columbia University; J.D., University of Denver; military service: paratrooper and Ranger-qualified Army officer, U.S. Army; Vietnam War veteran; military awards: Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and two Air Medals; professional: founded Nicholson Enterprises, Inc., 1978; owner, Renaissance Homes, 1987–present; chairman, Republican National Committee, 1997–2000; U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, 2001–04; married: Suzanne Marie Ferrell; three children; nominated by President George W. Bush to become the 5th Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on January 26, 2005.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

753

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