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Governor replaces Kansas vet agency director

By **Tim Carpenter**

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Gov. Sam Brownback completed the replacement Monday of the top administrative official at the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

Retired Col. Gregg Burden, a supervisory program specialist with the Veterans Administration in Topeka, was nominated by the governor to be executive director of the state agency designed to work as advocate for veterans in Kansas. The commission's board unanimously affirmed the hiring.

"I recommended Colonel Burden for this position because of his unique combination of experience, as a veteran with an extensive business and management background. He will do a great job for the commission and Kansas veterans," the Republican governor said.

Burden was commander of the Kansas National Guard's 190th Air Refueling Wing at Forbes Field from 2003 to 2008. He worked with the VA National Cemetery Administration at Fort Leavenworth before placed with the VA's Health Resource Center outreach program to raise awareness of benefits to veterans and their family members.

He replaced Jack Fowler as executive director of KCVA. Fowler, a Vietnam veteran who served 30 years in the U.S. Army and retired from the service at the rank of colonel, was made the agency's top official in 2003 by then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat.

In other appointments, the governor named Carol Perry, of Topeka, to the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma. Perry is vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Stormont-Vail HealthCare.

K.J. Langlais, of Lawrence, was appointed to the Board of Adult Care Home Administrators. She is chief executive officer of Evergreen Living Innovations and has been a licensed administrator and manager in long-term care since 1982.

Brownback selected J. Scott Day, the Ozawkie co-owner of Day Insurance Solutions in Topeka, to serve on the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission.