

JOHN M. GARCIA
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

John Garcia is a native New Mexican, appointed by Governor Bill Richardson in 2003 as the first Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services. Previously, he was President of Garcia & Associates, a business consulting company specializing in business development, marketing, and business relations, which he started in 1995. Secretary Garcia was appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff by Governor Bruce King and was also appointed Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Economic Development Department by Governor Bruce King, and served in that capacity from 1994 to 1995.

Secretary Garcia is a graduate of West Mesa High School in Albuquerque, attended the University of Albuquerque and the Chamber Institute at Stanford University. Garcia was a member of the United States Army from 1969 to 1971, and served in the Central Highland of South Viet Nam from 1969-1970. While attached to the 4th Infantry Division, he received several citations and was honorably discharged in 1971 as an E-5. He is a founding member of the Vietnam Veterans of New Mexico. He served as the National Deputy Director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Washington, D. C. from 1983-1985. The Secretary was actively involved in the dedication of the National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, D. C. He was also the State Director of the Vietnam Veterans of New Mexico Program. He served as a Commissioner of the New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission for twelve (12) years.

Mr. Garcia is a member of numerous boards, committees and task forces, and has been recognized by numerous organizations including the De Colores, Inc. for the New Mexico Hispanic Businesses Leadership Award, and has received the National Hispanic Leadership Award from the Mexican-American Foundation, the American Center for International Leadership Award. He is listed in Who's Who Among Hispanic Americans and has received the Profile of Courage Award from the Vietnam Veterans of New Mexico, and most recent, the New Mexico Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year Award by the New Mexico Small Business Administration.

Secretary Garcia is married to the former Yolanda Luciani of Albuquerque. They have three children.

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