

**P R O C E E D I N G S**  
**of the**  
**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**August 19-24, 2000**  
**Reno, Nevada**

**2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

---

**COMMUNICATION**

FROM

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,  
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

TRANSMITTING

THE 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIS-  
ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 36 U.S.C. 90i AND  
44 U.S.C. 1332



NOVEMBER 13, 2000.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and  
ordered to be printed

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

67-690

WASHINGTON : 2000

U.S. CODE, TITLE 44, SECTION 1332

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENTS OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS;  
PROCEEDINGS PRINTED ANNUALLY FOR CONGRESS

The proceedings of the national encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States, Inc., the Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II), respectively, shall be printed annually with accompanying illustrations, as separate house documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted.

[Approved October 2, 1968.]

(11)

## LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

---

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
*October 30, 2000.*

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As business manager of Disabled American Veterans, and as secretary of its National Convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and the proceedings of our National Convention, held in Reno, Nevada, August 19–24, 2000, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, DC, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 186 of the 72d Congress, as amended, to be printed as a House document in accordance with the authorization of section 1332 of title 44, United States Code.

The enclosed National Convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 1999, as required by the provisions of section 3 of the Public Law 88–504, approved August 30, 1964.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR H. WILSON,  
*National Adjutant.*



# C O N T E N T S

## JOINT OPENING SESSION, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 20, 2000

	Page
Call to Order, Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.....	1
Welcoming Remarks:	
Convention Chairman.....	2
Tom Herndon, City Council.....	3
Introduction of Miss America 2000 Heather French.....	4
Introduction of National Officers.....	6
Commander's Report.....	7
Introduction of National Executive Committee.....	11
Auxiliary Commander's Report.....	12
Address, Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Hershel Gober.....	15
Presentations:	
Ford Motor Company.....	19
Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award.....	21
Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Award.....	23
George H. Seal Memorial Awards.....	25
Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award.....	27
Reading of Convention Committee Advisors.....	28
Recess.....	29

## FIRST BUSINESS SESSION, MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 2000

Call to Order, Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.....	29
First Credentials Committee Report.....	30
Adoption of Rules.....	30
Adoption of Statement of Policy.....	31
National Adjutant's Report.....	31
Membership Report and Awards.....	37
National Finance Committee Report.....	40
List of Delegates and Alternates for Convention Committees.....	63
Committee Reports:	
Hospital and Voluntary Services.....	69
Finance and Dues.....	78
General Resolutions and Membership.....	79
Recess.....	83

## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION, MONDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 21, 2000

Call to Order, Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.....	83
Report of Washington Headquarters Executive Director....	83
Written Reports:	
National Service Director.....	89
Recapitulation of Service Activities.....	99
National Director of Voluntary Services.....	129
National Legislative Director.....	137
Presentation of Employment Awards.....	150
First Reading of Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws..	152
Legislation and Veterans Rights Committee Report.....	153
Committee on Employment Report.....	185
Recess.....	192

## THIRD BUSINESS SESSION, TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 2000

Call to Order, Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.....	192
Partial Credentials Report.....	193
Introduction and Remarks, National Order of Trench Rats..	193
Second Reading of Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws..	194

Charitable Trust Report.....	195
National Service Foundation Report.....	198
Recess.....	217

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION, THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 24, 2000

Call to Order, Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.....	217
Remarks, Commanders and Adjutants Association.....	218
Remarks, Chapel of Four Chaplains.....	218
Remarks, National Order of Trench Rats.....	219
Final Credentials Committee Report.....	220
Committee on Nominations of National Officers Report....	220
Nomination and Election of National Officers.....	222
Newly Elected Officers' Remarks.....	223
Announcement of New NEC Members.....	232
Adjournment.....	233

# INDEX OF MOTIONS

MOTION	PAGE	ACTION	PAGE
Accept commander's report	11	Carried	11
Amend Rule 21	30	Carried	30
Amend Rule 23.b	31	Carried	31
Adopt Statement of Policy	31	Carried	31
Accept adjutant's report	37	Carried	37
Accept Membership report	39	Carried	39
Adopt report of Finance Committee	40	Carried	40
Admit list of delegates and alternates to serve on convention committees, etc.	63	Carried	63
Adopt resolutions of Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services, etc.	70	Carried	78
Adopt report of Committee on Finance and Dues	78	Carried	79
Adopt resolutions from Committee on General Resolutions and Membership and dismiss	80	Carried	83
Accept report of Washington Headquarters executive director	88	Carried	88
Adopt resolutions from Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights	155	Carried	185
Adopt resolutions from Committee on Employment	185	Carried	192
Adopt resolutions from Constitution and Bylaws Committee:			
261	194	Carried	194
262	194	Carried	194
263	194	Carried	194
264	194	Carried	194
265	194	Carried	195
267	195	Carried	195
268	195	Carried	195
269	195	Carried	195
270	195	Carried	195
Dismiss Constitution and Bylaws Committee	195	Carried	195
Accept Charitable Service Trust Report	198	Carried	198
Accept report from National Service Foundation	207	Carried	207
Adopt final Credentials Committee report	220	Carried	220
Adopt report of Committee on Nomination of National Officers, etc.	220	Carried	221
Discharge Credentials Committee	232	Carried	232

**NATIONAL OFFICERS 2000-2001**

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

*National Commander*

Armando C. Albarran, 10114 Ironside Drive, San Antonio, TX 78230

*Senior Vice Commander*

George H. Steese, 4186 W. Terrace Avenue, Fresno, CA 93277

*First Junior Vice Commander*

Edward R. Heath, Sr., P.O. Box 115, Mechanic Falls, ME 04256

*Second Junior Vice Commander*

Alan W. Bowers, 21 Bolton Road, Royalston, MA 01368-8929

*Third Junior Vice Commander*

James E. Sursely, 517 Spring Hollow Blvd., Apopka, FL 32712

*Fourth Junior Vice Commander*

Paul W. Jackson, 2935 Avondale Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*National Judge Advocate*

Edward G. Galian, 200 Atlantic Avenue, #1, Lynbrook, NY 11563

*National Chaplain*

Clarence Brown, PhD, P.O. Box 5205, Somerset, NJ 08875-5205

*Past National Commander*

Michael E. Dobmeier, P.O. Box 6188, Grand Forks, ND 58206-6188

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

First district: John P. Gilpin, 485 Plain Street, Rockland, MA 02370  
Second district: Carmen A. Vitale, 828 West Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14213  
Third district: Norman L. Newell, 282 Bowie Hill Road, Durham, ME 04222  
Fourth district: Salvatore LoSauro, 128 Francisco Avenue, Rutherford, NJ 07070  
Fifth district: Vincent Darcangelo, 719 Patricia Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148  
Sixth district: David L. Tannenbaum, 14830 Wood Home Road, Centreville, VA 20120  
Seventh district: Frank C. Tracy, 33343 Somerset Drive, Leesburg, FL 34788  
Eighth district: Edward G. Roberson, P.O. Box 638, Pikeville, TN 37367  
Ninth District: Richard Williams, Sr., 3725 Fairington Drive, Hephzibah, GA 30815  
Tenth district: Joseph M. Connelly, 32148 Camborne Lane, Livonia, MI 48154  
Eleventh district: Samuel E. Lanza, 614 Meadowbrook SE, Warren, OH 44484  
Twelfth district: Raymond E. Dempsey, 933 E. Forest Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018  
Thirteenth district: James S. Powers, 910 Buckcreek Road, Greenfield, IN 46140  
Fourteenth district: Henry H. Sadler, Route 1, Box 432, Madison Lake, MN 56063  
Fifteenth district: Mick Jones, 1019 Country Ridge, Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Sixteenth district: Larry A. Polzin, 13336 Aldergrove Street, Sylmar, CA 91342  
Seventeenth district: Robert E. Askew, 3183 Hillsdale Drive, West Valley, UT 84119  
Eighteenth district: Bob C. Freitas, 547 Kauhane Street, Honolulu, HI 96813-1419  
Nineteenth district: Bradley S. Barton, 4765 SW Chunut Court, Tualatin, OR 97062  
Twentieth district: Mike Baker, Route 1, Box 129, Bonham, TX 75418  
Twenty-first district: Wayne L. Douglass, Sr., 212 Charteroak, Hot Springs, AR 71901



**Armando C. Albarran**  
**National Commander**  
**2000-2001**  
**Disabled American Veterans**



**Michael E. Dobmeier**  
**National Commander**  
**1999-2000**  
**Disabled American Veterans**

**NATIONAL OFFICERS 1999-2000**

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

*National Commander*

Michael E. Dobmeier, P.O. Box 6188, Grand Forks, ND 58206-6188

*Senior Vice Commander*

Armando C. Albarran, 10114 Ironside Drive, San Antonio, TX 78230

*First Junior Vice Commander*

George H. Steese, 4186 W. Terrace Avenue, Fresno, CA 93722

*Second Junior Vice Commander*

Edward R. Heath, Sr., P.O. Box 115, Mechanic Falls, ME 04256

*Third Junior Vice Commander*

Alan W. Bowers, 21 Bolton Road, Royalston, MA 01368-8929

*Fourth Junior Vice Commander*

James E. Sursely, 517 Spring Hollow Blvd., Apopka, FL 32712

*National Judge Advocate*

Edward G. Galian, 200 Atlantic Avenue, #1, Lynbrook, NY 11563

*National Chaplain*

Rev. Alfonso Todd, Jr., 505 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Saginaw, MI 48601

*Past National Commander*

Andrew A. Kistler, 802 Grant Street, Franklin, PA 16323



#### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district: John F. Gilpin, Jr., 485 Plain Street, Rockland, MA 02370  
Second district: William Novak, Jr., 1231 Route 211 West, Middletown, NY 10940  
Third district: Norman L. Newell, 34 Blaine Road, Hollowell, ME 04347  
Fourth district: Albert E. Church, 75 Crown Street, Bristol, CT 06010  
Fifth district: Vincent Darcangelo, 719 Patricia Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148  
Sixth district: Thomas C. Johns, 4915 Ridgeview Lane, Bowie, MD 20715  
Seventh district: Frank C. Tracy, 33343 Somerset Drive, Leesburg, FL 34708  
Eighth district: Lloyd E. Helms, 5419 Foxglove Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112-4913  
Ninth District: Richard Williams, Sr., 3725 Fairington Drive, Hephzibah, GA 30815  
Tenth district: Ben Benzing, 3790 155<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hersey, MI 49639  
Eleventh district: Samuel E. Lanza, 614 Meadowbrook, SE, Warren, OH 44484  
Twelfth district: Dorothy R. Schilling, 6205 Hwy. V, Caledonia, WI 53108  
Thirteenth district: James S. Powers, 910 Buckcreek Road, Greenfield, IN 46140  
Fourteenth district: Dale D. Hafer, 161 Old Corvallis Road, Hamilton, MT 59840  
Fifteenth district: Mick Jones, 1019 Country Ridge, Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Sixteenth district: Glen M. Halsey, 3044 Wolfe Court, Antelope, CA 95843  
Seventeenth district: Robert E. Askew, 3183 Hillsdale Drive, West Valley, UT 84119  
Eighteenth district: Floyd W. Buell, 780 Fountain Hills, Henderson, NV 89015  
Nineteenth district: Bradley S. Barton, 4765 SW Chunut Court, Tualatin, OR 97062  
Twentieth district: Leonard F. Humes, 9419 Stones River Drive, San Antonio, TX 78245  
Twenty-first district: Wayne L. Douglass, Sr., 212 Charteroak, Hot Springs, AR 71901

#### PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1921-22: Robert S. Marx, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1960)  
 1922-23: C. Hamilton Cook, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1935)  
 1923-24: James A. McFarland, Dalton, Georgia (deceased 1942)  
 1924-25: Frank J. Irwin, New York, New York (deceased 1942)  
 1925-26: John W. Mahan, Bozeman, Montana (deceased 1947)  
 1926-27: John V. Clinnin, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955)  
 1927-28: William E. Tate, Atlanta, Georgia (deceased 1949)  
 1928-29: Millard W. Rice, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980)  
 1929-30: William J. Murphy, Santa Ana, California (deceased 1931)  
 1930-31: H. H. Weimer, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955)  
 1931-32: E. Claude Babcock, Washington, D.C. (deceased 1958)  
 1932-33: William Conley, Los Angeles, California (deceased 1941)  
 1933-34: Joe W. McQueen, Kansas City, Missouri (deceased 1969)  
 1934-35: Volney P. Mooney, Jr., Los Angeles, California (deceased 1945)  
 1935-36: Marvin A. Harlan, El Paso, Texas (deceased 1970)  
 1936-37: M. Froome Barbour, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1985)  
 1937-38: Maple T. Harl, Denver, Colorado (deceased 1957)  
 1938-39: Owen Galvin, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1956)  
 1939-40: Lewis J. Murphy, South Bend, Indiana (deceased 1966)  
 1940-41: Vincent E. Schoeck, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1966)  
     August 16, 1941-August 15, 1943: Lawrence R. Melton,  
     Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978)  
     August 15, 1943-September 20, 1943: William J. Dodd,  
     Jersey City, New Jersey (deceased 1957)  
 1943-44: James L. Monnahan, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980)  
 1944-45: Milton D. Cohn, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1968)  
 1945-46: Dow V. Walker, Newport, Oregon (deceased 1957)  
 1946-47: Lloyd F. Oleson, Ventura, California (deceased 1982)  
 1947-48: John L. Golob, Hibbing, Minnesota (deceased 1976)  
 1948-49: Jonathon M. Wainwright, San Antonio, Texas (deceased 1953)  
 1949-50: David M. Brown, Akron, Ohio (deceased 1982)  
 1950-51: Boniface R. Maile, Grosse Pointe, Michigan  
 1951-52: Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas (deceased 1994)  
 1952-53: Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975)  
 1953-54: Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977)  
 1954-55: Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee (deceased 1987)  
 1955-56: Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964)  
 1956-57: Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970)  
 1957-58: Paul E. Frederick, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio  
 1958-59: David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)  
 1959-60: Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas (deceased 1994)  
 1960-61: William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1990)  
 1961-62: Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977)  
 1962-63: Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado  
 1963-64: Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986)  
 1964-65: William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982)  
 1965-66: Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland  
 1966-67: John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970)  
 1967-68: Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969)  
 1968-69: Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington (deceased 1999)  
 1969-70: Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California  
 1970-71: Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas  
 1971-72: Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982)  
 1972-73: Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio  
 1973-74: John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984)  
 1974-75: Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)  
 1975-76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota  
 1976-77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York  
 1977-78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas

1978-79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado  
 1979-80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland (deceased 1993)  
 1980-81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri  
 1981-82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California  
 1982-83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York  
 1983-84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsylvania  
 1984-85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas  
 1985-86: Albert H. Linden, Jr., Camp Springs, Maryland  
 1986-87: Kenneth G. Musselmann, Huntington Beach, California  
 1987-88: Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
 1988-89: Billy E. Kirby, Clifton, Texas  
 1989-90: Vernon V. Cardosi, Saugus, Massachusetts  
 1990-91: Joseph E. Andry, Westerville, Ohio  
 1991-92: Cleveland Jordan, Washington, D.C.  
 1992-93: Joseph C. Zengerle, Washington, D.C.  
 1993-94: Richard E. Marbes, Green Bay, Wisconsin  
 1994-95: Donald A. Sioss, Miller Place, New York  
 1995-96: Thomas A. McMasters, III, Sterling Hts., Michigan  
 1996-97: Gregory C. Reed, Indianapolis, Indiana  
 1997-98: Harry R. McDonald, Jr., Crestview, Florida  
 1998-99: Andrew A. Kistler, Franklin, Pennsylvania  
 1999-00: Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, North Dakota

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT RENO, NEVADA

August 20-24, 2000

JOINT OPENING SESSION

August 20, 2000

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans and Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Pavilion of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Sunday afternoon, August 20, 2000, and was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

COMMANDER MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, we hope you enjoyed our military service medley.

And I now call to order the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

Arthur H. Wilson, national adjutant, will read the call to convention.

ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual National Convention, composed of national officers and representatives of state departments and chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Arthur H. Wilson, national adjutant, declare the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Reno, Nevada at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, August 20th in the year 2000.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Would everyone please rise. Color Guard, present Colors.

(Presentation of Colors)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Our National Anthem sung by Miss America, Heather French.

(Singing of National Anthem)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Again, I would ask you to salute and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Commander, you may dismiss the Color Guard.

Once again, join me in thanking the Department of Arizona Color Guard. (Applause)

At this time, we'll call on National Chaplain Todd for the invocation.

CHAPLAIN ALFONSO TODD, JR.: We've come this far by faith, just leaning, just leaning, just leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His Holy Word. He never failed us yet.

O God, as we walk through this valley of sorrow, and when we reflect on the men and women who have given so much in order for this great nation to stand, and not only stand, but to present to us and our future generations peace, prosperity, freedom, justice, and liberty, we say thank You.

Not only that, Lord, but we pray that You would touch the men and women who lead this great organization of Disabled American Veterans, and those men and women who have traveled to and fro. Continue to keep them in the hollow of Your hand, especially that portion of protection.

And Lord as we celebrate this 79th year, we pray now that You will bless us, as men and women who recognize the need to represent the men and women and boys and girls who are not able to recognize and voice their opinion concerning those things of what it means to be a part of veterans and their business.

Again, Lord, we thank You, for all that You've done, and all that You shall do. In His Holy Name, we pray. Amen and amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, please be seated.

If you look around you, you will see a successful convention under way. Let me assure you that a National Convention requires

countless men and women working together to ensure that our annual gathering is the most fun-filled, exciting and rewarding event of the year for all of us.

To successfully plan and accomplish a great National Convention requires wise leadership, commitment and unlimited drive and enthusiasm. Leading such a dynamic group of people is a tremendously rewarding challenge.

Meeting that challenge this year is the National Convention's chairman whose leadership style leaves nothing to chance. That kind of man is Ed Johnson.

Ed served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to '54 where he lost a leg. He's been a life member of the DAV since 1983. After living most of his life in Wisconsin, Ed and his family moved to Carson City, Nevada in 1995, where he currently serves as adjutant of Chapter 7.

Ed has been volunteering as a van driver since arriving in Nevada, taking vets to the Reno V.A. Hospital. Ed and his wife Dee have three sons, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Comrades and guests, please join me in welcoming the man behind the convention, Ed Johnson. (Applause)

MR. EDWARD JOHNSON: Commander Dobmeier and your line officers, Commander Raymond and your line officers, and delegates to the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary. Good afternoon. Half of you are sleeping.

Welcome to Reno. This is the beautiful part of Nevada. We have the four seasons up here, and they say sometimes we have them all on the same day. If any of you were out here to the convention in the middle '80s, you know you got up one morning in August and found snow on the ground.

First, I'd like to read part of a very special proclamation by the Honorable Kenny Guinn, Governor of the great State of Nevada. I will skip over most of the WHEREAS clauses and just read the pertinent parts.

WHEREAS, formed in 1920 and chartered by Congress in 1932, the million-member DAV is the official voice of America's service-connected disabled veterans, a strong, insistent voice that represents all of America's 2.1 million disabled veterans, their families, and survivors, with a membership that is open to honorably discharged veterans with disabilities incurred in war service;

AND WHEREAS, the City of Reno is proud to host the 79th Annual Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenny C. Guinn, Governor of the State of Nevada, do hereby proclaim Sunday, August 20th, 2000, as Disabled American Veterans Day, and encourage all citizens to give recognition and appreciation to the Disabled American Veterans.

End of proclamation. (Applause)

For those of you who have never been here, we have some of the most beautiful scenery you'll ever see. I want you to attend all of the meetings and seminars that you can, learn everything that you can, and take it back to your chapters and departments. But you're going to have free time, so get out and enjoy our area.

Just to the southeast of us is Virginia City, one of the most quaint little towns you'll ever see. Thirty miles south is Carson City, the state capital. And just over these foothills to the southwest is Lake Tahoe. Now you won't find any more beautiful place in the United States.

Downtown Reno, the biggest little city in the world. Lots of casinos, gift shops, and sights to see down there.

We have one of the best VA hospitals in the nation right here in Reno just a few blocks from here. And from the director on down, all they care about is taking care of the veterans that come in there. And as I they said, I drive a van over there. I'm over there a lot. And these people really work for the veterans.

Now you know how it is when you are a chairman. All you say is "You, you and you, you're on my committee. Now get out there and get to work." I have one lady on my committee that I have to recognize here, because she covered Reno like a blanket. And she's

a life member of Reno Chapter 1. And her name is Jackie Gotelli.

Jackie worked with the Convention Bureau here, and they were more than happy to help us, but when they found out we were going to have 4,000 members here, they said, "No business gives us that much from one convention. They don't come that big."

Well, what they did was they set up a table down in the registration down there, and they have got all the material on there for you to pick and choose from. And if you've got any questions about the northern part of Nevada, you ask Bob there; he's one of the most knowledgeable guys there is.

Now for the more important thing. Make sure and leave money in the machines and at the tables. We don't have any state income tax, and we want to keep it that way. (Laughter)

Now, I hope you all have a good time and come back and see us in 2004. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: I can tell you that after my first two days here you're pretty safe on the income tax thing. (Laughter)

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving a very warm DAV welcome to Reno City Councilman Mr. Tom Herndon. (Applause)

MR. TOM HERNDON: Well, Ed Johnson already stole all the good parts of my proclamation, and I know you don't want to hear the other parts. But I do have a proclamation from the mayor on behalf of the City Council of Reno, recognizing your service and your sacrifice, and declaring today Veterans Day in and for the City of Reno. So I won't bore you with the rest of that.

I'll tell you a couple little stories. One is, I have a little appreciation. I wasn't -- I don't know if I should say "fortunate enough to serve". I think looking back I was probably fortunate to not. I flunked out after a couple weeks in basic training. And they were going to operate on my back. And I said, you know, "When I can't walk, then we'll talk." I'm still walking, and we're still not talking.

They reclassified me as a 1-Y. And a lot of you out there are 4-Fs and understand that. And I understood what that would be. But I asked my draft board, I said, "What's a 1-Y?" And this lady named Gianovich on my draft board said, "That means pregnant women first." (Laughter)

But my family has a history of service. My great-great-grandfather was disabled at the Battle of Chickamauga in the Civil War. My grandfather suffered all of his life from the effects of gas from World War I. Two of my uncles landed on D-Day, one with the 82nd Airborne. He survived just fine.

The other uncle landed on Omaha Beach, and he survived all of that and got disabled in the drive to Strasbourg, France. Up until he died at age 70, every year he would go down to the Veterans Hospital, and they'd pick little bits of shrapnel out of him.

So I have some familiarity with it. And I just want to say on behalf of the City of Reno, thank you. Thank you for your service. (Applause)

The other one, on a lighter note, Mr. Johnson mentioned Virginia City and Lake Tahoe and the foothills. Well, those are 10,000-foot foothills over there. But a lot of you are probably familiar with the Bonanza TV series which was shot on location primarily at Lake Tahoe. That's where the mythical Ponderosa Ranch was. They have the actual set up there, and you can go visit it.

But picture for a minute old Ben. He leaps out of bed in the morning, pulls on his boots and pants, saddles up the horse and he heads out, and he rides 3,000 feet up from the ranch, right up the hill, about 6,000 feet down, 15 miles across the valley, 8,000 feet back up, 2,000 feet down to Virginia City to have coffee with the sheriff. (Laughter) They do a lot of things in the movies that are not believable in real life.

I am a member of the City Council. I'm also a member of the board of our convention authority. And I, too, want to thank you for bringing your convention to Reno, and beg you to please, please come back some day. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Tom, for that gracious welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to talk briefly about a very special person. She stepped into the public consciousness last

October as a national role model and veterans advocate.

As the daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran and life member of the DAV, she has seen firsthand the challenges that face our nation's veterans and knows that they often lead to homelessness. As she travels around the country, she's educating young and old alike, working to increase funding for homeless veterans' outreach programs and making sure every person in America knows the plight of these forgotten heroes.

But most importantly, Miss America 2000 Heather French is reaching out and touching the hands and hearts of homeless veterans and encouraging people like you and me to do the same.

Please join me as we take a brief look at some of her travels this past year.

(Video presentation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, Miss America 2000, Heather French. (Standing ovation)

MISS HEATHER FRENCH: Thank you. It's been an amazing year. It has. And let me just first of all thank the Disabled American Veterans and the Auxiliary for making my year as memorable as it has been.

Without your support, my family, my father would still be struggling to receive the benefits that were due to him. And because of that, my family is now leading a better life, and has a chance to lead a better future. And it's because of your work, not because of mine. So thank you for that. (Applause)

I would like to also say hi to my fellow Auxiliary members. Thank you for your work as well. (Applause)

Where do I begin? The year began, and it seemed like I stepped onto a merry-go-round that was going 60,000 miles per hour and there was no way to stop it. But I wanted to remember every moment. And on September 18th, when I gained that title, I started reflecting on the reason why I became Miss America 2000.

I remember being four years old in the Cincinnati VA, and being able to see the wider reality of what our veterans were going through every day. I remember getting to see families that were as devastated as my own. I saw other veterans struggling like my father. And I was blessed with understanding at the age of four to know that what was happening to my father wasn't his fault, because every veteran has that common denominator, serving their country.

And I was very fortunate to know the price of freedom at a young age, and to never forget that as I grew up. And when I became a college student, I started volunteering at a homeless shelter, and that was my second dose of reality. When a Vietnam veteran came into my doors and asked to sign up for a bed for the evening, he said he had been homeless for more than 20 years.

My heart broke again for our veterans because when I saw that man I saw my father, my greatest hero. And I thought to myself, in a country as wonderful as the United States is, our economic surplus astounding everyone, how is it possible that over a quarter of a million of our veterans were on the streets?

Well, my mission became clear, as a young American striving for Miss America. My mission was to ask the question "Why?" And on September 18th, I was able to achieve a platform to have a voice that would reach the nation.

I have been able to see the good, the bad and the ugly, we always say. I have been able to see veterans on the streets, hand in hand in the trenches with them, the men and women who served our country so gallantly.

I have been able to be in the hospitals with our veterans, who had no other family but the volunteers that were there to help them. And I have been able to take their stories, their voices on to our nation's capital. And it's with great pleasure that I have been able to do that.

Because 20,000 miles a month, as your National Commander will tell you, is not for my purpose. Believe me, 20,000 miles a month is not for any individual's purpose. Now the frequent flyer miles can be for that purpose. But 20,000 miles a month is for you.

It's to help a nation understand, because what I have learned this year is that our nation is disconnected from your stories. They are disconnected from your needs. But what this opportunity

gave me was to find ways to reconnect you with especially the young people of our nation: How can we better educate them and our general American population as to how we can take care of you, how we can offer you not just a handout but a hand up to a better future.

And by going to stand-downs across the nation, I have been able to see creative solutions that we can implement all over the country. We have been able to start two wonderful programs this year, because of your help, and the help of some of our nation's leaders. One of those is homes for formerly homeless veterans. We have been able to provide one home per month for a formerly homeless veteran and his or her family. That is a creative solution to permanent needs. (Applause)

We have also been able to embark upon a tour called "Fighting a Silent Enemy, Hepatitis C," creating an awareness for veterans, for you, that if you served before 1992 it's imperative that you get screened for Hepatitis C, because we want you to lead the best future possible, and that means taking care of yourself and your family. (Applause)

These programs we started were concept to creation in less than six months. That's how urgent these needs are. And with your help we were able to do that.

And in the future on October 14th, just because I pass on the crown to Miss America 2001, and although your national commander will have to give me some tips of what it's like to be a "former", I want to encourage you that just because I pass on the crown doesn't mean I pass on my voice. I will always be the proud daughter of a disabled Vietnam veteran. And I will always be very touched to be part of your family, and will continue to work for your needs.

I feel very blessed at 25 to be able to take on veterans issues as my full-time job. That is what I'm proud of. (Applause)

For those of you in the audience who knew Miss America was coming and who were disappointed when I didn't walk in with a crown on my head, I didn't want to disappoint you any further, so I brought the crown with me.

This trophy of achievement that I gained on September 18th doesn't belong to me, it belongs to you, and it's the reason I don't wear the crown; I carry it. This is to represent you, to represent your voice. (Applause)

Every stone, every sparkle represents a veteran. And I want to tell you that there are some veterans across this nation who have dared to pick out their own stones in my crown. Most of them live in Texas, if you're out there. (Laughter)

I wanted to tell you that I was really puzzled when people started picking out their own stones, because I found a common denominator in the different services that picked out which stones, and the big stones were always picked by the Marines. (Laughter) I'm not sure why that is.

But I must tell you, for the women in the audience, I was in Des Moines, Iowa, with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from 1942 to the present, and when you have three of the first female generals in the Army come up to you and demand that they get the big stones, I wasn't about to say No. (Laughter)

But one veteran said, "It would be just a honor to be the smallest stone in your crown." And I told him, I said, "On September 18th, I became a public servant for you."

So it's an honor for me to carry your stories, to go into your cities and your communities to pass on your legacy, because I realize that one day, my voice will be passed to my children and to future generations, and the question I ask myself every day, will they be ready to take on your needs?

Have I passed on the responsibility that they should be held accountable for your life? Because you are the most special population of Americans that we have and will continue to have in the future. It is your legacy that we want to leave. (Applause)

I want to encourage you with a story. Many of you I have spoken to this year, and it's so wonderful. It's like a family reunion for me, as I'm about to embark upon another chapter of my life. But I want to encourage those of you who I haven't talked



to, whose cities I have not been in.

A gentleman gave me a present. Many of you in this room have one of these. He said, "To encourage you on the days that you can't log one more mile. When you get up, and the sun isn't always shining, this is the reason you fight. This is the reason that freedom is not free. And this is the reason that makes America the greatest nation on the globe."

This gentleman so graciously handed me his Purple Heart. This goes with me everywhere. (Applause)

What I have grown to learn, in closing, is that this Purple Heart doesn't just represent the physical wounds of our veterans across the country. It represents the emotional scars that can accompany his physical wounds.

So I encourage everyone in the country to not just look at veterans and the veterans in need in your community, especially homeless veterans, as veterans who have outward needs, but veterans who need to be healed from the inside out. You deserve the best this country has to offer.

So let's offer a comprehensive healing for those veterans who don't need a handout but a hand up to a better way of life. You fought for that right to lead a piece of that American dream. Let's give it to them in the new millennium. Let's make sure that we never again leave a wounded man or woman behind.

Let's live up to that promise, because together we can overcome these problems. Because you veterans out there are the best resource our nation has, and it's time that we make every day veterans day. God bless you. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, it has been my honor to serve in the same period of time that Heather has served veterans, and I can tell you that about a year ago she hit the ground running.

And we have a little memento here for you, Heather. I am going to read the inscription on it. I can tell you that this veteran and this organization will never forget your service.

You are a very special person to Disabled American Veterans. While many others say they care about disabled veterans their actions do not always agree with their words. But you are different. Your extraordinary commitment to advocate on behalf of our nation's homeless veterans has made your support more than just words; you've taken action.

Through your exemplary service you provided an example of what one determined, talented and caring individual can do to help these veterans break the cycle of isolation and hopelessness, and move from the streets to self-sufficiency.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Your integrity and generous spirit have made a real difference in the lives of our nation's disabled and homeless veterans, and we believe in your life as well.

On behalf of all those who bear the scars of war, thank you for your compassionate leadership and for making our needs one of your priorities. Our best wishes go with you.

MISS FRENCH: Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: And unlike some of us old guys who are winding down now, Heather still has a busy schedule, so she's going to have to leave us. But let's give her one more DAV warm welcome. (Standing ovation)

MR. THOM WILBORN: And now let's meet your DAV national officers. At the past national commander position, the pride of Franklin, Pennsylvania, let's welcome back Andy Kistler. From Saginaw, Michigan, your national chaplain, a heavenly welcome for Alfonso Todd. From Lynnbrook, New York, the original Manhattan Mauler, National Judge Advocate Ed Galian.

Your national 4th junior vice-commander, from Apopka, Florida, let's hear it for Jim Sursely. Your 3rd junior vice-commander from Worcester, Massachusetts, let's hear it for Alan Bowers. From Mechanic Falls, Maine, a big hand for the national 2nd junior vice-commander, Ed Heath. The national 1st junior vice-commander, from Fresno, California, a rousing welcome for George Steese.

And last, but certainly not least, your senior vice-commander,

from beautiful San Antonio, Texas, please welcome Armando Albarran.  
(Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Armando C. Albarran assumed the chair.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER ARMANDO C. ALBARRAN: Each year, it's the pleasure of the national senior vice-commander to introduce the national commander for the purpose of presenting his report to the convention delegates. This year the honor falls on me to introduce the man who continues the highest tradition of this great organization, a man whose commitment to the DAV stands as an inspiring example of leadership and dedication to us all.

One year ago, the membership unanimously elected Mike Dobmeier to lead the organization as DAV's national commander, a post he has held with great honor and distinction. He is a man of purpose, a man of commitment, and someone who is unquestionably dedicated to the service and our mission of building better lives for America's disabled veterans.

It is my pleasure and great honor to present to you Michael Dobmeier, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans.  
(Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Armando, for that warm introduction. You're very generous, but many people other than people who are helping to build a new spirit in the DAV must share the gratitude you offered me. And one of those people is you.

Others include your fellow line officers, the National Executive and Finance Committees, our national staff in Washington and Cincinnati led by Rick Patterson and Dave Gorman, our chapter, department and national service officers, chapter and department leaders throughout this great nation, including our HSCs and all of our wonderful DAV and Auxiliary members, with a special note of praise for our volunteers.

A lot of credit must go to all of you. You're the ones -- the great team -- who helped the DAV become the vital organization that it is.

Clearly, as a result of your collective efforts, the DAV continues to provide the very best service to our members and indeed to our entire nation's 2.1 million service-connected disabled veterans and their families.

Let me offer a special word of thanks to the National Auxiliary commander, Paula Raymond and National Adjutant Maria Tedrow. You are great people, and you have a great organization.

My heart goes out to the Departments of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, the small but mighty 14th District, who have supported me since the beginning.

But whatever I have been able to accomplish as your national commander has been due in great part to the team spirit within the DAV. I've never considered myself to be the "Lone Ranger".

Whatever the project, there was always somebody around, many of you in the audience, to give advice, to lend support, to approve the exceptions, and to applaud the results. That outstanding team spirit is what makes success very sweet.

Finally, I wish to express my deep gratitude to National Adjutant Art Wilson for his leadership, wise counsel, and unwavering support. Art, I have the highest regard and admiration for your integrity and professionalism.

And I'll tell you why, ladies and gentlemen, because directed by Art's guiding vision, the DAV has become a model of excellence, a standard that other veterans organizations strive to equal.  
(Applause)

Fellow delegates to the 79th DAV National Convention, friends, family, honored guests: It's been a great privilege for me to serve as your national commander. I will always treasure the memories of the places I've been and the people I've met who make me extremely proud to be a part of this great organization.

Everywhere my travels have taken me, it's been a constant source of pride and inspiration to witness the caring and compassion of our members toward their fellow disabled veterans and their families.

Over the past year, I've come to understand how vitally important our volunteer activities have become. I also know that much more help will be needed in the years ahead.

During the past 12 months, DAV volunteers continued to serve this nation by providing more than 2.3 million hours of critical service to hospitalized veterans, saving taxpayers nearly \$35 million in employee costs.

When a DAV Transportation Network van takes a veteran to the VA clinic, when a chapter or department donates much-needed equipment to a VA medical center, or when one of our VAVS volunteers reads a book to a hospitalized veteran, it shows that we care.

On June 15th, the DAV's nationwide Transportation Program presented the Department of Veterans Affairs with 102 new Ford vans to provide transportation for sick and disabled veterans to medical facilities in 35 states.

This one-year contribution, provided by DAV chapters, departments and the national organization, cost more than \$2.3 million. Since the DAV Transportation Network originated in 1987, the DAV has donated 992 vans at a cost of more than \$19.3 million to VA medical centers across the country.

And by the way, over the last four years, Ford Motor Company has donated on its own a total of 50 vans to the DAV. And trust me, we are utilizing these vans in our Transportation and Homeless Veterans Programs. (Applause)

It goes without saying that our sick and disabled veterans and their families have greatly benefited from this program. But that is what the DAV does. Our mission, to build better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families, is a philosophy which every DAV member lives each day.

During the past year alone, more than 5,000 DAV Transportation Network volunteers logged more than 25 million miles providing 735,000 rides for veterans. That is an outstanding accomplishment. (Applause)

And as great an accomplishment as that is, the Transportation Network is only a part of the DAV's Voluntary Services Program. The DAV-VA National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic each year restores confidence and pride to hundreds of disabled veterans.

Held in different locations in the past 14 years, this impressive event is a unique program specifically designed to assist in the rehabilitation of veterans with spinal cord injury, neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, and other severe disabilities. It's known as "Miracles on a Mountainside" and has become the largest rehabilitation event of its kind in the world.

The DAV Celebrity Visitor Program brings such notable personalities as Major League umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne and NASCAR Winston Cup Series champion Dale Jarrett to VA medical centers to lift the spirits of hospitalized veterans.

Our DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative lives by the motto, and you heard Heather mention it, "We don't leave our wounded behind." The goal is to return homeless veterans to useful lives by restoring their pride, their confidence and their spirit.

No matter where you look, you will see a DAV volunteer taking a sick veteran to a VA medical center, spending time with hospitalized veterans, taking a homeless veteran off the street and restoring him to society, or helping a blind veteran ski down a mountainside.

They remind us all that America will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave. (Applause)

The DAV devotes its resources to the most needed and meaningful programs for disabled veterans. We are able to do so only with the continuing support of an American public that is grateful for all that our veterans have done.

As federal funding gets tighter, hospital staffs shrink, and services dwindle, volunteers will play an increasingly important role in caring for our veterans. They can expect to take on more tasks outside the duties customarily performed by volunteers. But my faith is strong, because we are caring and compassionate people.

To make certain that the DAV's tradition of service and compassion will endure, though, we must have a strong, committed and active membership. Members represent the lifeblood of the DAV,

and our chapters and departments have accepted the challenge of growing their memberships and encouraging more active participation in the DAV, both locally and nationally.

Veterans helping veterans -- working with each other to build better lives for families. What a noble calling! (Applause)

I'm tremendously optimistic that the DAV will remain a strong, vibrant veterans advocate for years to come.

As I have traveled around the country the past several years, veterans and their families have come to me and asked me for help with their benefits. And I take great pride in the fact that I have never let them down. I've promptly referred them to the nearest DAV National Service Office because I knew there would be no better place for them to get the help that they need. (Applause)

There are 260 of these men and women out there on the front lines working for you, your fellow disabled veterans, and families like yours. Last year, these dedicated professionals secured benefits for nearly 220,000 veterans and their families, accounting for more than \$2.3 billion in new and retroactive benefits. (Applause)

And we are particularly proud of the fact that since the DAV created its National Service Officer Training Academy in 1994, we've graduated 221 men and women, all veterans, disabled in military service during the Persian Gulf War and other military actions, including Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and Bosnia.

And with this new wave of DAV NSOs entering the fray, our organization is laying the groundwork to continue that fine tradition of service on into the future. And it will be a great future. These are dedicated and talented veterans advocates. (Applause)

Some people are enshrined in history for what they did, others for what they said. Yogi Berra has both routes covered. He was selected to the Baseball Hall of Fame for his exploits on the diamond. He went on to become a well-respected coach and manager.

But he has achieved another kind of fame for his utterances both audacious and profound. For example, "Anybody who goes to see a psychiatrist should have his head examined." (Laughter) Pretty hard to argue with that.

He also said, "You can observe a lot just by watching." He's certainly not wrong there either.

Still another quote that clearly applies to the current uncertainties regarding the battle with Congress to protect veterans' benefits. I'm referring to what is probably Mr. Berra's most famous statement: "It ain't over till it's over." (Applause)

The battle to protect veterans' benefits is not over, and probably never will be. The pressure to cut federal spending today is intense, and the temptation to economize at the expense of needed veterans programs is more than many politicians can resist.

The growing number of nonveterans in Congress means that we will have to redouble our efforts to educate members of Congress about veterans' issues, or risk losing VA disability compensation, survivors' benefits, veterans' medical care, and other programs that we and our families depend on. We must ensure that our elected officials understand that veterans' benefits are a continuing cost of war and a debt never to be forgotten. (Applause)

As President Lincoln pledged so long ago, to care for our nation's veterans, Congress has an ongoing national obligation to honor that solemn promise. (Applause)

I am very proud of the fact that the DAV continues to be the leader in veterans' legislation. This past year the DAV engaged in campaigns and met challenges on several fronts regarding veterans benefits programs, health care and national cemeteries. For the current fiscal year, Congress increased the medical care budget by \$1.7 billion.

And although the President's fiscal year 2001 budget proposal is better than last year's, the battle is far from over. In fact, it is just beginning. This is definitely not the time for complacency. We can't afford to take anything for granted if we are to continue having an impact on the legislative process.

Not only will we continue to push for further reform

legislation to allow the VA to provide better, more efficient health care to more veterans, but we will also be pressing for improvements in the entire benefits delivery system. (Applause)

To succeed, we need to speak with a powerful unified voice that sends the message to Congress that they must safeguard and honor America's commitment to disabled veterans and their families. And that message can't just be directed to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees either.

We need to speak to all 535 representatives and senators who vote on legislation affecting veterans' programs and services. We need to explain that a responsible fiscal policy does not require cutting veterans' benefits or reducing the level of services. We must drive home the fact that veterans' programs and services are important and unique. They are unique because disabled veterans have earned those benefits with blood, sweat and tears. (Applause)

Someone once said that if you intend to succeed beyond your wildest expectations, you have to have some wild expectations. A few people wake up every day and go out and slay dragons. Most, however, are satisfied to chase lizards. We, you and I, all of us together have our collective strength and our collective will to get the job done. Together, we are one! (Applause)

We -- you and I as individuals -- must do our part to write those letters, to make those phone calls, to make our voices heard. Because the best way to educate 535 members of Congress is the same way they all count votes: one at a time!

On election day, cast your vote for the candidates who appreciate and support veterans. And in the meantime use your influence to convince your DAV comrades, your family members, and your friends to register and vote. (Applause)

Before I go, I want to say that success does not come to organizations just because they are big, or have lots of money, or even very good products and services. It comes because of their people -- organizational resources mightier than any machine or any amount of money.

I'm reminded of the story about the old man who had many troubles. Life seemed to hand him one bad thing after another, but he faced each obstacle with a smile and a cheery disposition. A close friend finally asked him how he managed to stay so happy despite his hardships. He quickly answered, "Well, the Bible says, 'And it came to pass,' but never once does it say 'It came to stay.'"

When trouble comes our way, I know we'll come out on top because DAV and Auxiliary members here today and people like you throughout America are rising to meet the challenge. I firmly believe the future of the DAV can be just as good, or better than, the past. But to be so, we'll have to be lean, aggressive and smart, more committed to excellence, more innovative, more dedicated to our members and employees, and we must plan for the future!

Most of all, we'll need the contributions of absolutely everyone. There is no "unimportant job" in the DAV, and no unimportant people. (Applause)

The DAV depends on each of you. We need your best efforts, and the efforts and ideas of all your associates, to keep the DAV the Number 1 veterans service organization for many years to come.

Your drive to succeed and excel in building our membership and your willingness to answer the call to action in our grass-roots efforts show the level of your commitment.

It's true: The DAV is the voice of disabled veterans and their families throughout this great country.

When I leave my post as your national commander, I will do so firm in the belief that all of you share the DAV's vision of tomorrow -- a bright tomorrow that we're building together today.

With sincerity, I say it has been a great privilege and honor for me to serve as your national commander. God bless you. And God bless the DAV. (Standing ovation)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Excellent report. Commander Dobmeier, Mike, your leadership and devotion to the DAV will long be remembered. Thank you very much. (Applause)

At this time, the Chair will entertain a motion to accept the

National Commander's report.

MR. ROBERT MELCHER: Bob Melcher, NEC alternate, District 7, I so make that motion, sir.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER ALBARRAN: Do I hear a second?

MR. OLIVER Z. CROMWELL: I, Oliver Z. Cromwell from Chapter 2, San Diego, second the motion.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER ALBARRAN: You heard the motion and the second. All in favor, say Aye; all against, say Nay. The Ayes have it. The report is accepted. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Dobmeier resumed the chair.)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Now back to work. At this time I'd like to introduce your National Executive Committee. And I'm going to ask you to hold your applause until all of these gentlemen are standing.

1st District, John F. Gilpin of Massachusetts; 2nd District, William Novak, Jr., of New York; 3rd District, Norman L. Newell of Maine; 4th District, Albert E. Church of Connecticut; 5th District, Vincent Darcangelo of Pennsylvania; 6th District, Thomas C. Johns of Maryland; 7th District, Frank C. Tracy of Florida; 8th District, Lloyd E. Helms of Louisiana; 9th District, Richard Williams, Sr., of Georgia; 10th District, Ben Benzing of Michigan; 11th District, Samuel E. Lanza of Ohio; 12th District, Dorothy R. Schilling of Wisconsin; 13th District, James S. Powers of Indiana; 14th District, Dale D. Hafer of Montana; 15th District, Mick Jones of Missouri; 16th District, Glen M. Halsey of California; 17th District, Robert E. Askew of Utah; 18th District, Floyd "Pete" Buell of Nevada; 19th District, Bradley S. Barton of Oregon; 20th District, Leonard F. Humes of Texas; and 21st District, Wayne L. Douglass of Arkansas.

And thank you, gentlemen, for your year of service, and lady. (Applause)

Also of great assistance to me this year was my national chief of staff, Joe Litzinger, and Officer of the Day James O. Groven, both of North Dakota, and Sergeant-at-Arms Henry Sadler of Minnesota. Please thank them. (Applause)

On June 25th, 1950, in a surprise pre-dawn strike, North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea, initiating the bloody hostilities that would later be called "The Forgotten War."

Because a peace treaty was never signed, only an armistice, the unofficial war remains the longest-running war in history.

In commemoration of the Korean War's 50th anniversary, the DAV in partnership with National Productions, a film production company in Washington, D.C., is producing a historical documentary for public television on the Korean War. The title of the program is: "Remembering Korea: The Forgotten War."

This documentary is built around the unique life stories of Korean War veterans, many of them disabled veterans, to show the honor, sacrifice and courage of those who waged war on the Korean Peninsula.

Some of those interviewed for this program include astronauts Wally Schirra and Buzz Aldrin; former Secretary of State James Baker, III; U.S. Senators John Glenn and John Warner; Congressmen Sam Johnson and Charles Rangel; baseball legend Ted Williams; and our own Past National Commander Andy Kistler, as well as many other men and women who sacrificed greatly in defense of freedom for South Korea and the world.

What you are about to see now is a brief portion of the hour-long documentary that will air on PBS early next year.

(Video presentation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: By the time the truce was finally signed on July 27th, 1953, over a million Americans had fought in Korea. More than 55,000 Americans died during the war. Of those, 33,686 died on the battlefield. More than 100,000 Americans were wounded. There were 8,176 missing in action, and 7,000 prisoners of war.

By way of comparison, the Korean War lasted twice as long as the American engagement in World War I and only seven months less than the American engagement in World War II.

In the minds of many, little was accomplished at great cost. Though South Korea ended up with a modest net gain in territory,

the line of demarcation at the war's outbreak, the famous 38th parallel, was essentially the line of demarcation at its conclusion.

Large numbers of U.S. forces, up to 40,000, have been stationed in South Korea continuously for nearly half a century to guard against the threat of another North Korean invasion. There remains today an uneasy truce between North and South Korea, but the resolution in Korea now looks somewhat more positive than it once did.

Many of those American GIs who fought in Korea also battled in World War II. They were united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values: duty, honor, courage, service, love of family and country, and above all, responsibility for one's self. Approximately 1500 Americans have died in Korea defending that fragile peace.

May I ask all of those in the audience who served during the Korean War to please stand and be acknowledged. (Applause)

Thank you for your show of appreciation and, for those of you who are Korean War veterans, we thank you for your courage, honor, and sacrifice for our country. (Applause)

It is my honor once again to share the lectern with our DAV Auxiliary national commander, Paula Raymond.

During my term as your national commander, I have had the pleasure and privilege of seeing her exemplify the love, leadership and dedication that has so capably led the Auxiliary through the past year.

As my Auxiliary counterpart, Paula has impressed me time and again with her untiring dedication, her limitless compassion and her competent leadership in the Auxiliary.

Under Paula's leadership, the Auxiliary has been with the DAV every step of the way in the ongoing battle to protect earned benefits and services disabled veterans and their families count on.

Commander Paula and I have shared many travels and experiences during our terms. I can tell you without reservation that the Auxiliary was magnificently represented by this wonderful woman who has dedicated herself to helping the families of disabled veterans who sacrificed so much for their country.

Paula has been involved in the Auxiliary activities for more than 23 years and is well aware of the Auxiliary's fine heritage. She's also acutely aware of the issues facing disabled veterans and their families.

Here to deliver her report to the National Convention is my friend and a truly exceptional woman, DAV Auxiliary National Commander Paula Raymond. (Applause)

AUXILIARY COMMANDER PAULA RAYMOND: Thank you. Thank you, Mike. My greetings to all national officers, past national commanders, distinguished guests, delegates and members of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary, and to the friend of us all, Jesse Brown. (Applause)

Most of you know my theme this year is, "Once around is not enough". Since we are back again for a fantastic convention in Reno, the "biggest little city in the world", I want you to know that my theme does not apply to the roulette wheel. (Laughter)

But once around is not enough, and it's certainly never enough to tell you how honored I am to be here and to have shared this fantastic year with you as your Auxiliary national commander. Thank you.

Carl Sandberg once said: "Nothing ever happens without first a dream." Well, this year has been a dream come true for me, and it was you that made it possible. But I would be very remiss if I did not introduce to you a special group of hard-working, dedicated women who have been there to help me guide the Auxiliary so productively through the past year.

I am going to ask them to stand as I call their name and ask that you hold your applause.

Our national senior vice-commander, Carol Gray from Michigan; 1st Junior Vice-Commander Renee Jones from North Carolina; 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Linda Trulio from New Jersey; 3rd Junior Vice-Commander Virginia Bennett from right here in Reno; 4th Junior

Vice-Commander Gertrude Tidwell from Oklahoma; Judge Advocate Shelia Allred from North Carolina; our national chaplain, E. Bonita Mitchell from Missouri; our immediate past national commander Evelyn Dorsey from Washington, D.C.; our national adjutant and past national commander, Maria Tedrow; our assistant national adjutant, Judy Hezlep; and our National Convention chairman for the Auxiliary, Past National Commander Evelynne Dunn.

Thank you all. (Applause)

I would also like to introduce our National Executive Committeewomen. Please hold your applause again. And ladies, would you please stand?

District 1, Dorothy Young; District 2, Jeanne LePorte; District 3, Marie Clancy; District 4, Jennie Bizon; District 5, Jeanne Zwick; District 6, Hazel Meyers; District 7, Sunny Barzelogna; District 8, Carolyn Johnson; District 9, Ruth Koon; District 10, Betty Benzing; District 11, Judith Uetterling; District 12, Elaine Morris; District 13, Norma Zeimet; District 14, Sandy Dobmeier; District 15, Rose Mary Gallagher; District 16, Dolores Wingett; District 17, Cora Bell Crossley; District 18, Helen Parcella; District 19, Debra Mazza; District 20, Joyce Humes; and District 21, Margaret Sue Hollingsworth.

Thank you. (Applause)

And I must acknowledge another group here today who have made the Auxiliary great. In fact, I will soon be a member of those women who have brought this Auxiliary to this moment in our history. They are the past national commanders of the Auxiliary.

Ladies, would you please stand and be recognized? (Applause) Thank you.

You know, as I look out among you, I see DAV and Auxiliary members entering the new millennium side by side, two great organizations working together to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

It is an honorable and necessary task that we have undertaken. No one knows better than we do that once around is not enough in our efforts on behalf of disabled veterans and their families.

The need is great. But so too is our resolve. And from that resolve comes the strength to implement and support all of the programs across this nation every day.

Within the communities, Auxiliary members are volunteering their services in the VA hospitals and other medical facilities. They are bringing care and comfort to hospitalized veterans. Our Americanism programs touch the lives of countless youth in schools and youth programs, instilling respect for veterans and a better understanding of patriotism.

We are also at the forefront of response to current legislation regarding veterans in a continuing effort to secure and maintain benefits and services for disabled veterans and their families. And we do so very much more.

Since the establishment of the DAV Auxiliary in 1922, our work has impacted and changed the lives of countless disabled veterans, a change for the better.

In the last year, I have witnessed firsthand Auxiliary and DAV members working successfully, side by side, in community after community, making a real difference in the lives of disabled veterans.

From the snow-covered slopes of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado, to the DAV drive-away 2000 at Ford Motor headquarters, Auxiliary members joined DAV members to build better lives for America's disabled veterans. And I can tell you without reservation, the work we do each day has a far-reaching and profound effect on the future well-being of our beloved veterans, and our families.

The DAV Auxiliary has grown stronger through the years because we willingly seek out any means possible to help the families of veterans who sacrificed so much for these United States. In wars and conflicts throughout the world, our veterans met every challenge to make sure our freedoms never dimmed.

Like many of you in this room today, who have children in the military, I too have a son serving in the U.S. Navy, and just like you, I pray for his safety daily.



Unfortunately, experience has taught us that prayers are not enough. We must always be prepared and involved to ensure that our country's commitment to our disabled loved ones is never undermined, forsaken or forgotten.

Just as there has never been and must never again be a "Forgotten War", there must never again be a forgotten veteran. (Applause)

The men and women who serve this country with a sense of duty and honor deserve to be remembered. Those who were maimed in body and mind earned the benefits and services promised by our nation. They earned the right to live safe and secure lives.

It is our responsibility as an organization dedicated to disabled veterans and their families to make sure our national leaders don't forget them, not now, and not ever. Our disabled loved ones deserve the care of a grateful nation as surely as they deserve the dignity and respect for having faithfully served in the defense of freedom.

Here, this week, at the 79th Annual Convention of the DAV and Auxiliary, we will plan the future of our organizations, a future that will continue our tradition of building those lives, those better lives for America's disabled veterans. And we will assure that the future is ongoing.

Foreseeing the future is at best difficult. But this much I will tell you: The Auxiliary will always be there to lend its support to the DAV. You can count on us to never forget. You can count on us when you need a friend. You just look beside you. The Auxiliary will be there, because once around is not enough. (Applause)

This year, throughout my travels, wherever I went, the DAV and the Auxiliary were wonderful. I want to thank each and every one of you for the hospitality and the courtesies that you extended to me.

And Mike, if you would please step forward. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Auxiliary national commander with you this year. On behalf of the Auxiliary and in appreciation for your service to veterans and the support of the Auxiliary, it is my pleasure to present you with this plaque that reads:

Presented to Michael E. Dobmeier, National Commander, in appreciation for distinguished service given to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, 1999-2000.

And it is signed, Paula K. Raymond, National Commander and Maria Tedrow, National Adjutant. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you very much.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you all for making this the best carousel ride ever. Thank you. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Very well said, Paula. And she means what she says, I can tell you that.

I want to take a moment to recognize a very special friend of the DAV. Lois Pope is the sponsor of the Unsung Hero Award. She is also chairman of the Lois Pope Life Foundation and chairman of the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation which is dedicated to the effort of establishing a permanent monument on the Mall in Washington, D.C. to honor all disabled veterans.

Ms. Pope, thank you for being here. (Applause)

The Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs is not new to the VA and certainly not new to veterans' issues. Hershel Gober was one of President Clinton's first appointments. The Senate confirmed him as Deputy Secretary in 1993.

At the VA, Mr. Gober has gained a reputation for straightforward communication, and his disdain for red tape is demonstrated by his creation of the Scissors Award for cutting out unnecessary work that gets in the way of giving good service.

Mr. Gober is the architect of One VA, the sweeping program of employee empowerment aimed at breaking down the organizational and procedural barriers and forming a unified, seamless agency focused on one thing -- the veteran.

Mr. Gober currently serves on the President's Management Council, where he is actively involved in the National Performance Review effort.

Mr. Gober's 20-year military career included service in both

the Marine Corps and the Army. He earned several decorations during his two years of duty in Vietnam, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Soldier's Medal.

It is now my pleasure to present Acting Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and DAV Life Member, the Honorable Hershel W. Gober. (Standing ovation)

ACTING SECRETARY HERSCHEL W. GOBER: Thank you very much, Commander, Auxiliary National Commander Raymond, officers, national officers of the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary, my good friend, the Secretary for Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown -- (applause) -- fellow veterans and ladies and gentlemen.

Commander, I noticed earlier you quoted Winston Churchill when you were giving the award to Heather French. And I noticed Yogi Berra was quoted. My two favorite quotes about Winston Churchill, allegedly, you know, someone -- the rumor got out that he liked to have a drink every once in a while. One night he was at this party, and seated next to him was Lady Astor, and she said, "Winston, if you were my husband, I would put arsenic in your drink." He said, "Lady Astor, if you were my wife, I would drink it." (Laughter)

Another quote. Allegedly, he was at another dinner party one night, he was seated next to this lady, and he was really into his souse. And she said, "Winston, you're drunk." He said, "Lady, tomorrow I'll be sober, and you'll still be ugly." (Laughter)

It's a pleasure to be here. Now this will be my last appearance before the DAV, because everybody thinks I'm a caretaker, but I've got five months but I am going to do about two years of work in five months to leave things right, like Jesse and I want it to be when we first started out.

I never will forget the day in Little Rock, Arkansas when the President made the announcement of Jesse as the Secretary and me as the Deputy Secretary. And the President was standing there, and he was taking these questions. And Jesse, I know you remember this. Remember the lady reporter said, "How can you justify appointing two veterans advocates to that position?" Remember that?

Jesse and I looked at each other, and the President said, "How could I not appoint advocates to that position?"

But anyway, I will never forget the day. And I enjoyed -- I don't expect applause for those throwaways like that. (Laughter) I never will forget that.

And I am very honored to have had the opportunity to serve you, the disabled veterans of America. I want to thank you right off the bat. I won't go through the list of your good works because the commander did that earlier: your volunteer work, the Winter Sports Clinic, your work in every area that benefits disabled veterans.

And I want to thank you for that from the bottom of my heart. I want to thank you for your great work that you do to make sure that we have the tools and the resources to provide the care to the veterans out in the field.

And Ed, I want to thank you for the kind remarks about the hospital here in Reno.

You know, in 1993, when we first got there, we wanted to improve VA health care. We wanted to fix the benefits claim processing system. We wanted to make our national cemeteries more available and maintain them as national shrines and to make sure that the taxpayers dollars were spent wisely.

Today, I'm here to say a phrase that this year you are not going to hear much. Are you better off today than you were seven and a half years ago? The answer to that is Yes. The answer to that is Yes. And I've got some -- I want to brag a little bit about what we have done.

You know, when we came to Washington, under the leadership of Jesse Brown, we established ground rules. And the ground rules were that no regulations were written without input from the veterans service organizations.

No benefit or health care decisions were made without the VSO input. Fully staffed advisory boards of veterans and veterans advocates would be fully involved in the decision-making process, and no nonveteran would be admitted to any VA facility before every

veteran was taken care of.

We have not broken any of these ground rules. As a result, together, we have done some great things for veterans. And we had to have you to make it happen.

We have made great progress in providing health care to our veterans. In 1993, VA treated 2.7 million patients. This year, we will treat 3.6 million. We will have 40 million outpatient visits to them this year. Eight years ago, or seven and a half years ago when we got there, we had 182 outpatient clinics. Today, we have 690, and we are adding one more each week. (Applause) Veterans have 1200 locations across this country where they can gain access to health care.

More than four million veterans have enrolled in VA's health care benefits plan since 1998. And something that we are especially proud of -- as you recall, in 1993, in January, when we arrived in Washington, D.C., you were an A, B or C. Most of you folks are A.

But there were a lot of B and C veterans out there. Now -- and the Cs could not get into the facilities. They just weren't treating Cs across this country. Now, thanks to legislation that was passed, every honorably discharged veteran in America is eligible for the health care system, the VA health care system. Every veteran. (Applause)

I was speaking at an event last week, and a veteran came up to me, one of my heroes, a World War II veteran, came up to me, and he was almost crying. And he started thanking me for putting in a VA clinic down in his community in a southern state.

within two years the claim process will be working better, and veterans will receive the service that they so richly deserve, won't have to wait for two or three years to find out if they are going to get their claim approved or not.

Our national cemetery system had to be fixed also. Last year, 561,000 veterans died. More than 1500 a day. And unfortunately, many of them were our World War II heroes. In the last two years VA has opened three new national cemeteries, a fourth is scheduled for dedication on September 10th.

New cemeteries are also planned in Georgia, Michigan, Florida, California, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. And I would like to point out something. This is the greatest cemetery expansion since the Abraham Lincoln Administration.

And we are also on a new track to make our cemeteries national shrines, to look more like the cemeteries you see in Europe, or the Punch Bowl, or at Arlington. We want to do this because we can preserve our nation's history, nurture patriotism and honor the services and sacrifices our veterans have made.

I was glad to see Heather here today. She and I have done several events regarding homeless veterans, and she has been a great advocate, and we are going to miss her. But I have a hunch she's like a bad penny; she's not going to go away. She will be back and she'll stay on this issue because it's dear to her.

But we've worked in earnest to reduce the problem of homeless veterans. And I think we've made a start. We are making a dent. I can see it as I go across the country.

And you know when Jesse was there, we put together a program where we didn't hold the money all in VA; we gave it out to local communities, to nonprofits, to veterans organizations, or to state governments, local governments. People that were already doing the job, we gave them more resources to do it. And I think that's one reason why we've had a great amount of success.

We have made 179 grants totaling more than \$41 million to organizations in 42 states and the District of Columbia. This year, we will spend more than \$150 million in support of our own homeless programs.

Gulf War veterans. We made great strides in caring for our Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses. It's still an ongoing problem. There's a lot of money being spent; 145 million has been spent thus far on research to try to identify additional illnesses these veterans have.

Agent Orange, something I'm very, very proud of. You know, in 1993 there were only four illnesses that were service connected for exposure to Agent Orange. Today, we have 12 illnesses.

And I will always remember the day that we got a report back on prostate cancer. And it came back, it was 50-50, 49-51, or whatever. Jesse was the Secretary then. And I never will forget the look, because when they gave the report, the person giving the report said, "Well, now, if we recognize it, we will be seen as coming down on the side -- will be seen as favoring the veteran."

Jesse looked at me -- and you know that grin he gets, like the cat that just got all the cheese or something, or rat that got all the cheese -- he looked at me, and I looked at him, and I smiled, and we both said, "Well, what's wrong with that? We are for the veterans."

So we made the decision in those instances for the veteran, and went with the veteran whenever we had to.

Our One VA you heard mentioned here earlier by the commander. You know, people don't see the VA as three different entities: The health system, benefit system and the cemetery system. They see it as VA.

I have yet to receive a letter from a veteran saying, "Boy, the VHA sure messed over me" or "VVA messed over me." But I get letters saying, "Hey, the VA messed over me."

So I figured we ought to take these stovepipes that these three administrations are and kick them over and make it be one VA.

Every VA employee now gets an orientation, brand-new package. They get an orientation, and it tells them what a veteran is, and why a veteran is special, and they can watch it on their TV.

We have them also, they don't just -- when they come to work

for the benefits area, they don't just go get their briefing there and sit down at the desk and start doing business; they visit the hospitals, they go to the cemeteries, and they understand what the whole VA is. They all carry a card that let's them know when to refer a veteran for expert advice.

And here's another good deal. Before long, all of you veterans will have a card. In fact, we have the prototype I'm getting briefed on next week. But you will be able to go into a hospital, and you won't have to fill out a 1010 form every hospital you go into.

You know, if you live in California right now, and you head for the East Coast, and you have to stop at hospitals along the way, everywhere you go, you are going to fill out a 1010-M to get into that hospital.

This card, you're just going to take it in, it's going to swipe it, it's going to say who you are, you are service connected, what percent you're service connected. And you don't have to worry about that paperwork anymore. And later on it will even have your prescriptions on it. (Applause)

And I promise you, I'll have that locked in concrete before I leave here January. You're going to have that. It's going to also move the money around with VRA. It'll transfer the money from wherever you are treated to wherever your money goes. Something that we need to do.

Another thing that I'm real proud of is the way we dealt with customer service. You know, putting veterans first, and making the people that work for the VA who are great people, by the way, understand that they have one mission, and their mission is to serve that veteran that stands in front of their desk or comes to them for an appointment. That is the person they work for. All of them.

In closing, I would like to say this: I have enjoyed working with this organization, the other veterans service organizations. Next to commanding a company in Vietnam, it's the best job I've ever had. I have worked with some of the greatest people, made some of the greatest friends I'll ever have, and who will remain my friends.

But you must be vigilant, as your commander said here earlier. You must be always vigilant, because there are people that don't understand why veterans are special. There are people that don't know their history and don't realize that without the people in this audience, and scattered all across this country, all 25 million of you, there would be no freedom.

This great prosperity that we have, everybody wants to take credit for it. I give it to you. Because we wouldn't have to worry about all the boom times that we are going through if were it not for you. (Applause)

You're wonderful people. And I'm not going to fade from the scene, because I'm going to watch also. I'll be in a position where hopefully I can maybe speak out a little bit louder.

But regardless of which Administration comes in, watch them. Don't let them pat you on the head. And don't let them sell you a bill of goods.

You know, there's an old saying down in the South, "Action talks, rhetoric walks." (Laughter) I know, I cleaned it up. Thank you all and God bless all of you. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Let me take you back to July 11th, 1996, when a huge crowd gathered at DAV National Headquarters for the first DAV Transportation Network drive-away ceremony that put 141 new Ford vans on the road to drive sick and disabled veterans to VA medical centers.

Just about six weeks later, on August 20th, during a special ceremony at the Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn, Michigan, then Ford Motor Company Chairman Alex Trotman donated 11 brand-new 1996 Ford 15-passenger vans to the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network.

It was noted at the time that Ford's generosity represented more than a needed donation to a worthy cause. It was the continuation of a great tradition, a tradition and a relationship that began in 1922 when Henry Ford organized a caravan of Model Ts to drive veterans to the DAV's 2nd National Convention in San

Francisco.

Many of you will recall our Capitol drive-away ceremony in Washington, D.C. in 1998, during which the DAV's national organization and its departments donated 147 new Ford vans to the Department of Veterans Affairs. What a celebration that was!

And this past June, Ford Motor Company hosted drive-away 2000 at their world headquarters in Dearborn, where the DAV donated 102 new Ford vans to the VA to provide transportation for sick and disabled veterans at medical facilities in 35 states.

This one-year contribution represents a cost of more than \$2.3 million for DAV chapters, departments and the national organization.

Let's take a brief look back at some of the events that occurred during drive-away 2000.

(Video presentation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Since the DAV Transportation Network originated in 1987, the DAV has donated 992 vans valued at more than \$19.3 million to VA medical facilities across the country.

Since 1996, Ford Motor Company has donated -- yes, donated -- a total of 50 vans to the DAV. Yes, I said 50. (Applause) Forty-three of those vans are assigned to the Transportation Network.

And speaking of giving things away, I'm sure it hasn't escaped anyone's notice that there are several new Ford vans adorning the convention area today. Some of them are shrouded in secrecy.

Here to give us what can only be more good news is Ford Motor Company's former chief of staff, who is now chairman and CEO of Visteon Corporation, one of the world's largest suppliers of auto parts, Mr. Peter Pestillo. (Applause)

MR. PETER PESTILLO: Thank you. Thank you all. It's a pleasure to be here. But don't get your hopes up today. You've recited the long, proud relationship our two organizations have had and that's true. But as you also know for the past three or four years, I've been coming out with specific instructions to take back the vans we've let you borrow over a period of time. And I'm here to do that again, unfortunately.

But I have to tell you that they look so good in red, white and blue, so much better than any other color, that I've never yet succeeded yet in taking any one of them back.

But Jack told me this year, as I've now left the company, I can only come if I took those 12 vans back that we let you borrow last year. Jack didn't realize that when we unloaded the truck last year, another one fell off. Well, we had to leave it with you. There was no sense trying to take it back, so it was 13.

And to be safe this year, I brought 13 more to let you borrow. But I do have to have those other ones back.

So Ray Byers suggested if the color was bothering me maybe we peel them and just take them back all in white. So last night we came out and we peeled one, and frankly it looked awful. Just awful. So Ray suggested that having left the company, what else could they do?

And so you'd better keep those, too. (Applause)

That, however, leaves me in the unfortunate position of having 13 more that I brought out, because I wanted to be safe in trying to get the 13th back in case you said we could only bring 12 and take 12. So I brought 13 more. Four are for the work you are doing with the homeless. Nine more are to put in the general vehicle program. (Applause)

But as we looked at the very back of the truck, unfortunately, there was something covered. And we didn't dare look at it since we didn't know it had been assigned to us, because we did indeed bring 13. So I thought that today we might put a light on it and take a look and see what's behind the back of the truck and what's covered by that 14th cover. (Applause)

Well, there you go again. And you showed my weakness for red, white and blue. So this one's for the respite program. And you better keep this one, too. (Applause)

I think it's probably time to end the ruse. And since my successor John Rintamaki is running around with big keys and giving away things, I don't want to be upstaged, so if I could ask you and Art to come forward for just a minute.

I brought my own key. Thanks again.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. PESTILLO: John is no better than I at taking things back, so I think you will be in good hands going forward. John is an Army veteran. I couldn't find anybody from the Coast Guard to bring out here and put into office. But John will serve you well over the years.

As you know, on the 4th of July, when there's the big fireworks display, usually the explosions come in rapid fire toward the end of it. So since this is my final 4th of July, my swan song with you, I thought I might take one more chance. Having tried the 14th van and the checks and all, I've got one further thing in mind.

You've done so much good, and you have the obligation to see that this organization is strong in the future, that I want to do something on behalf of Ford to help you with the volunteer program going forward. So I thought that, being that kind of time, being this is my final affair, I brought a little something else along.

So if you'd come forward again.

(Presentation of a check for \$50,000. Standing ovation)

MR. PESTILLO: I'm very proud of the Ford Motor Company and the DAV. And I want to thank you all for all your support on behalf of the country, on behalf of all of us.

Dale Jarrett said it best when he said, "I get to race on Sunday because of what you did." And we all get to do what we do because of what you did.

There's nothing more important that I can say than simply thank you all! (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Well, I don't know about you folks, but I'm overwhelmed by Ford's generosity.

On behalf of the more than one million members of the Disabled American Veterans, please accept our heartfelt thanks for providing eight of these beautiful vans to our Transportation Network, and four to the DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative program.

And by the way, Van Number 14 will be heading north to the land of the midnight sun, to the great state of Alaska, where it will be put to good use at the VA clinic in Anchorage. (Applause)

And Pete kind of got ahead of me with this check here. As you know, the DAV created the National Commander's Youth Scholarship Award for deserving young men and women who've donated their time and compassion to help sick and disabled veterans in VA medical centers.

I'm proud to acknowledge Ford has recognized their valuable contributions and the significance of the DAV scholarship program. This generous donation will help advance the program and ensure that valuable scholarships are available to the deserving young volunteers in the future.

And Pete, I'm going to ask you to come back up here with me. On behalf of the DAV, and in grateful appreciation for all you have contributed to the cause of helping disabled veterans, it is my pleasure to present you with this customized 1-24th scale model of the now famous Ford Windstar DAV Transportation Network van. (Applause)

He asked me if it was a loaner. No. (Laughter)

And there's another little secret. The instrument panel of the van came from Visteon. (Applause)

Our Homeless Veterans Initiative gives lasting meaning to its credo, "We don't leave our wounded behind." These four new vans will allow the DAV to reach out to homeless veterans, to bring them the help they need, and to offer the services they require.

As National Adjutant Art Wilson has declared, we can save our homeless one at a time. That's our goal and our dream. Ford, through its generosity, is helping us reach that goal to realize that dream, to end the tragedy of homeless veterans in our nation.

It is now my pleasure to honor those four departments selected to receive one of the specially designed Ford vans in recognition and support of their DAV homeless programs. I'm confident that your success will strengthen the DAV's commitment to our promise that "We don't leave our wounded behind."

Will the following department commanders please stand as your

name is called: Dick Giese, commander, Department of Florida; Greg Holmes, commander, Department of Maine; Robert Pegenau, commander, Department of Michigan; and Charles Craft, commander of Virginia. (Applause)

I want to challenge every department, every chapter, to look around your hometowns, your neighborhoods, and find ways to help homeless veterans. They must no longer be the invisible person, mostly ignored by our citizens and government. The homeless veteran must be, and rightly so, a priority for all of us, and this initiative creates a program in which all of us can help. Thank you.

The Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year represents an individual who has overcome personal, social and sometimes enormous physical barriers to excel in life as an example to all.

The Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 2000 is all that and much more. A combat-disabled Marine from the war-torn jungles of Vietnam, he's recognized as a life-long advocate for veterans and their families.

Moreover, he's a man of class. What do I mean by class? Let me read a few lines from an old newspaper article entitled: "What is class?" The author is unknown.

Class never runs scared. It is sure-footed and confident in the knowledge that it can meet life head on and handle whatever comes along.

Class never makes excuses. It takes its lumps and it learns from past mistakes.

Class is considerate of others.

Class can walk with kings and keep its virtue and talk with crowds and keep the common touch.

I think we can all agree that the Honorable Jesse Brown fits the description of class.

Please join me now in a special film, which I believe will bring you some insight into this extraordinary human being.

(Video presentation)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me a distinct honor and pleasure to join National Commander Dobmeier to introduce my friend, your friend, the one and only, Secretary for Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Jesse, if you don't mind, I'd like to read this award:

The Disabled American Veterans proudly presents the National Commanders' Award to the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, the Honorable Jesse Brown, for conspicuous and meritorious effort in overcoming severe service-connected disabilities, to the end that you have achieved success and a high order of accomplishment in your vocational effort of choice.

Further, that such consistent and noteworthy accomplishments will ever serve as an inspiration and a challenge to your comrades.

August 21st, 2000. (Standing ovation)

MR. JESSE BROWN: That was very tough on me. I had promised myself that I wouldn't cry. It was just so moving. (Applause)

Secretary Gober, National Commanders Mike Dobmeier and Paula Raymond, National Adjutants Art Wilson and Maria Tedrow, officers and leaders of our great organization, my dear friends on the DAV staff and members of the DAV and Auxiliary: Thank you so much. (Applause)

It is an honor to be here today. The DAV is a great organization. Its members are special. In spite of our injuries, we are very fortunate to have this passion to help disabled veterans and their families. Our work gives us so much pleasure and so much satisfaction.

There are many DAV members who deserve this award much more than me. Many of them are right here in this room. And that is why I accept this award on their behalf.

I am going to, however, take advantage of this opportunity to say "thank you" to the DAV and Auxiliary members who stood with me all of these years.

I have been so fortunate to have a wonderful wife, a caring



mother, a great sister, two outstanding children, and one beautiful grandchild. My wife, my mother and my sister are here with me today, and I would like to introduce them to you. Will you please stand? (Applause)

Clearly, my friends, I am a man whose family has been at his side, cheering him on. I have been blessed with many friends. Among the stars in my constellation, no one shines brighter than Mrs. Pope. Mrs. Pope has told me on many occasions it is not how long you live, but how you live your life, that really matters.

And many examples can be seen in her life. She works hard to end adult abuse, bring clean water to the children of Guatemala, to find a cure for paralysis, to send disadvantaged children to summer camp, and to build a memorial to disabled veterans on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

I am so lucky to have a friend like Mrs. Pope cheering me on. I would like to ask her to stand again so that we can recognize her. Mrs. Pope. (Applause)

I have my family, my friends, and I have the DAV. Because of the DAV, I have lived a life that most people only dream about. The members of the DAV and Auxiliary shaped my dreams and fired my life. Any light that shines on me is a light that reflects directly on them. You are part of the foundation of who I am. I am a man who has one million friends cheering him on.

Our lives have been interwoven for over 30 years now. Think about it. As a DAV National Service officer, I was given an opportunity to work for disabled veterans and their families. To me, that was an honor. To me, that was happiness.

You know, most often we try to think about the things that we have in common. One always comes to mind first, and that is death. But there's another one that is equally important and that is the pursuit of happiness. We go about that in our different ways, trying to find happiness in our lives. Because of you, I have known happiness in my life.

As the years went on, you in the DAV gave me greater and greater responsibility. And when I became the executive director of the DAV's Washington Headquarters, you were there, cheering me on.

When I was asked to serve in the President's cabinet as the Secretary for Veterans Affairs, I will never, never forget that you were there, cheering me on. And because you were there, it was a proud time when they took my travel allowance away from me because I was fighting to get more money for the veterans. (Applause)

It was a proud time for me when I was accused of being the fox in the hen house (laughter), accused of allowing the DAV to run the VA. But that didn't bother me one bit, because it was good public policy. What is good for disabled veterans and their families is good for America. (Applause)

With the help of Art Wilson and the membership of the DAV, we modernized the VA's medical system, made the VA's benefits system more responsive to our needs and expanded our VA cemeteries so that we could bury our veterans with dignity.

I will always remember, if my life has any meaning, it was because you were there, cheering me on.

And I know that you will be there as I begin this journey of uncertainty. As you saw in the film, I am ill, very seriously ill. There is no cure for lower motor neuron syndrome, at least not yet, though I'm hopeful about the research that is being done. I do want you to know that I search the Internet every night. (Laughter) I think I know more about motor diseases than the experts. And I think the reason why I do is simply because of my training as a DAV National Service officer. (Applause)

To repeat what was in the film, this is very much like ALS or what is known as Lou Gehrig's disease. But it moves slowly. What I have is similar to what the famous physicist, Stephen Hawking, has. It's fatal, but it can take years. Unless there is a cure, as time goes by, I will become more and more like Stephen Hawking. My mobility will be taken from me bit by bit, until it is gone.

But I am not afraid, nor am I bitter. I have too much to be thankful for. I have enjoyed tremendous opportunities in my life, and they have come to me because you were at my side, cheering me

on. In this audience, I've seen men and women who have gone on before me, who have shown that disability is not the end, that it can be a new beginning.

Your lives show great determination. They stand as beacons, guiding the way to hope. I am so inspired by your devotion to the core principle of the DAV: One disabled veteran helping another disabled veteran.

Each of us walk our own destiny, and we have progressed through life with our fellow disabled veterans at our sides. We have done more than rebuild our own lives. We have brought light and hope into the lives of others. We have simply been there for each other.

Our lives are useful and productive, because we are resolved to live life to the fullest, and because we are a team, because we are a family. The teamwork of the DAV family is an engine in the life of each and every one of us. It has powered us through times of puzzlement and piercing pain. It will carry us to better things tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow.

As I leave here today, there will be a little limp in my gait, my speech a little slurred. But as I start my journey on the road to uncertainty, I am not worried, my friends, because DAV members will be there, cheering me on. (Applause)

Like so many times in the past, you will be on both sides of the road hollering, "Come on, Jesse, come on!" and for that, I am so thankful.

Thank you so much for this award. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: I think that as Jesse faces this new challenge, he will be doing what Jesse always does, inspiring the rest of us to do the best that we can do.

At this time I'd like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Paula Raymond to come forth for a special presentation.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER RAYMOND: Each year, the Auxiliary past national commanders give an award to an Auxiliary member. Here to present that award is Past National Commander Barbara Hicks. (Applause)

MRS. BARBARA HICKS: National Commander Dobmeier and National Commander Raymond, National Adjutants Art Wilson and Maria Tedrow, national officers, NECs, distinguished guests, delegates, and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary: It is an honor and privilege for me to stand before you today as the representative of the past national commanders of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary to present the Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Award.

This year's recipient truly exemplifies dedication and service, not only to our Auxiliary and parent organization, but also contributes with her achievements in her community that broaden the goals of our Auxiliary.

After a lengthy illness that rendered her disabled for 11 years, she overcame her disability and was determined to dedicate her life in helping the disabled and service to others.

She is a charter member of Unit Number 63 in Mine Hill, New Jersey, and present member of Unit Number 47 in Lakewood, New Jersey, which she started last year, and now the unit has over 50 members.

Her eligibility is through her husband Vito, a veteran of the Second World War.

She is a master of the art of Tai Chi and teaches on a regular basis. One of her accomplishments includes the coffee hour at the James J. Howard Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Brick, New Jersey. This coffee hour is held every Thursday morning, and after the coffee hour she holds Tai Chi classes for the post-traumatic stress disorder patients, their spouses, and any veterans at the clinic on that day. These classes help to relieve stress and provide relaxation techniques.

She also provides a class for the Alzheimer patients in her community on a weekly basis.

She is a regularly scheduled volunteer at the Lions VA medical center in New Jersey, and is writing aide for the HIWP Writing Project.

She helps DAV Chapter 20 in her community, which does not have

an Auxiliary. She coordinates the collection of clothing for the homeless and needy, as well as for the handicapped and hospitalized children.

Last year, she originated the program HAT, which stands for Hands Across Time.

In conjunction with some of the chapter members and her community members, she presents patriotic programs on holidays to children in schools for special education.

She is a part of Benefits Protection Team and writes over 15 letters per month to her legislators regarding veterans legislation, and attends the Midwinter Conference in Washington, D.C.

She is the district leader in her community, coordinating field questions for presentation at board meetings, and is involved in the production and coordination of annual entertainment in the assisted living center.

Some of her outstanding awards for the year include a plaque from Chapter 20 for her service to them, a resolution from New Jersey Assemblyman Al Zito for service to veterans and her community, an award from the New Jersey Italian-America Police Society for service to her fellowman, an award from her mayor, Mayor Joseph Scarpelli and certificates of appreciation from numerous nursing homes.

It is now my honor to call to the podium for the purpose of presentation of the Past National Commanders Award the DAV Outstanding Member of the Year, Dorothea Campanelli. (Applause)

Dorothea, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure to present to you the award which reads:

DAVA Past National Commanders Award to the Dorothea Campanelli, Outstanding Member of the Year, 1999-2000.  
(Applause)

MRS. DOROTHEA CAMPANELLI: Thank you, Past National Commander Hicks.

Jesse, you're a hard act to follow. But let me just say this: miracles do happen. (Applause)

Commander Raymond, National Commander Dobmeier, past national commanders, national officers, delegates and guests: Good afternoon. It's been a long afternoon, and I'm nervous.

It is indeed an honor to be here today to accept this award. And I know there are many, many women out there in the audience today, Auxiliary members, that are more deserving than I. But I'd like to tell you a short story on how I made this journey to this award.

When I was a child in my parents' home, my father, a veteran -- and he was a member of another veterans organization -- sat me down and explained to me what the Bataan death march was. He wanted me to understand the injuries suffered by these soldiers. Because some of them were recovering in our home, at a veterans hospital near our home, and they were going to be coming to our home for socials.

My father said to me some profound words. He said to me: "It is your duty to read to those who were blinded, to listen to those who want to talk, and to play the piano for those who want to sing." And for one year, I read, I listened, and I played the piano. And I remembered how grateful these veterans were.

The words "it is your duty" were suppressed for quite a while. I became a teenager, a woman, started a career, married, and became a mother. And then at my best years of my life I was stricken with an illness that was life-threatening, that left me house-bound for many, many years.

But like all events in our lives, we learn lessons. And I learned what it was like to be disabled, to be despondent, to be depressed.

And when a veteran says to me, "Dorothea, I can't see very well," I say to him, "I know." When he says to me, "I can't talk, I can't breathe, I can't swallow," I say, "I know." When he says, "I'm too weak to walk," I know.

And I also understand a little bit about PTSD, for I wake up each day, and I am in fear that I will come out of remission.

And so those words that were suppressed for many, many years

came back into my conscious mind when I became an Auxiliary member, and I took my initiation oath, and I understood what my father was telling me.

Those words have guided me through my Auxiliary years and are the catalyst for my program with our children. Because if we do not tell our children your story, it will die and will be forgotten.

I would like to thank the past national commanders for honoring me today. I shall remember this day always. And I think my father is looking down on me and saying, "You done good, kid." (Applause)

I would like to thank my sponsor, National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Linda Trulio. Thank you, my dear friend.

My husband, I think he is off the machines. He better be out there. I thank him. He's my Number 1 cheerleader, my staunchest supporter.

I thank the women in the State of New Jersey, the Auxiliary members who befriended me and helped me along the way.

I know I have so many people to thank, I'd better check.

I would like to thank the State Department of New Jersey for their help.

And all of you who sent me cards and letters and congratulations.

Above all, I thank God for restoring me to my health so that I could serve.

And I thank you, veterans, for your sacrifices. God bless you. And God bless America. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Each year, we recognize the commitment of DAV and Auxiliary members through the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy. This special tribute is given to one DAV and one DAV Auxiliary member who best epitomize the volunteer spirit of our organization through their selfless work with hospitalized veterans under the VA Voluntary Service Program.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year's George H. Seal Award winners are Jay Jones from Prescott, Arizona, and Edna Robinson of Lexington, Kentucky.

Mrs. Edna Robinson, a member of DAV Auxiliary Unit Number 1 in Lexington, Kentucky, is a dedicated volunteer assisting hospitalized veterans and demonstrating the importance of volunteering through her own active participation.

She served as a veterans' volunteer for 25 years and has donated 5,264 hours as a volunteer. Mrs. Robinson cheerfully accepts all of her volunteer assignments with the attitude that she wants to help wherever sick and disabled veterans need her.

She serves as a recreation volunteer, planning monthly birthday parties for Alzheimer's patients, and monthly bingo games for patients in a psychiatric unit. She also volunteers in the surgical waiting room to provide emotional support for families of patients who are undergoing surgery, and serves as a liaison between the families and the medical staff.

Whenever there is a need for volunteers to assist on a program or project or to help solicit donations to benefit hospitalized veterans, Mrs. Robinson can be counted on to do everything she can to help meet those needs.

The DAV is fortunate to have Mrs. Robinson as an exceptionally dedicated volunteer who exhibits the spirit and compassion of the George H. Seal Award each day. Mrs. Robinson brings honor to the DAV and Auxiliary, distinguishing our organization through her volunteer work to help sick and disabled veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2000 DAV Auxiliary member recipient of the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy, Mrs. Edna Robinson. (Applause)

MRS. EDNA ROBINSON: Well, what can I say after all of that? I don't think I'm me even.

I have a few people that I would like to thank. First, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jay Jones, because he has put in, I think I read, 40-some thousand hours. Makes mine look sick.

But anyway, I have enjoyed every minute of my volunteering. And I just wish that every person out there could volunteer. I really and truly look forward to my alarm going off in the mornings

so that I can get up and go volunteer. I thank God I have all these years, and I still feel like going and volunteering.

I had one man tell me -- I didn't mean to tell this but I will -- one of our veterans -- I'm going to make this short, I really am -- one of our veterans came up as I was leaving the hospital one day, and I was waiting for the elevator, and he walked up and said, "May I say something to you?" And I said, "Oh, yes, of course." And he said, "You know, I know you're not going to be able to be around much longer to do this." (Laughter)

And he said, "I just hope that when you do have to quit that they will get someone as nice as you are to take your place." And I cherish that remark. I think that's the nicest thing that's ever been said to me.

Now I'm going to thank some people. I'd like to thank Commander Dobmeier for calling on May 1st to inform me that I had been selected to receive this award. I've been on Cloud 9. I felt like queen for a day, you know. I felt like that all these four months.

I would like to thank our director of voluntary service, Greg Anderson, for nominating me. And I'd like for Greg to stand, if you will. Would you mind, Greg? (Applause) He's one of the best directors of voluntary service that anyone could ever have. And I've been there so long that I've lived through two others. (Laughter) And they were good. They were good, really. But he is great.

And I want to thank Mr. Steelman for the wonderful letter that he wrote congratulating me.

I would like to thank the George H. Seal Memorial Award Committee for selecting me to receive it. I'm sure they had a horrible job, because it's hard to select people for things. And I don't think I deserve it. But I'll take it. (Laughter)

And let me see. I want to express appreciation to our wonderful VA hospital. We have, from the administrator on down to the maintenance people -- when they see you, they always express their appreciation for what you are doing for the hospital. Makes you feel good, you know. Sort of helps to be appreciated.

And I want to thank my Lexington Chapter 1 and my Unit 1, my three deputies, because they cooperate 110 percent. I never have to wonder if they are going to show up and do what they are supposed to do. I just ask for it and there it is. And they have been that way for the ten and a half years that I have been representative.

They are the reason really that I'm standing here today. They deserve to be up here more than I do.

Now my heartfelt thanks -- I get sort of choked up on this. But my heartfelt thanks to all of our veterans of the past and of the present, because without them, none of us would be here today.

And I want to leave something with you, a little thought. When I graduated from high school, we had a motto, and I sort of like it. And I hope that you all like it, too. "It's so much to do, so little done." And that's the way I feel every time I leave the hospital, that there's still a lot more to do; I still haven't done enough.

And with all these wonderful DAV people, please keep on volunteering. And get the volunteers, get the youth into it. We need some young people. We are getting older. And the older -- I see those volunteers pushing wheelchairs, and they look like they need to be riding in them. (Laughter) Well, it's true.

Oh, there's something else. This is the last thing I'm going to say. See, I just had this little note here. But I want to tell you, I work in the surgical waiting room. And my admiration goes out to all of you wives of the veterans who have to sit in those waiting rooms and wait and wait, because your husband -- he's under anesthetic, he doesn't know what's going on, but you do.

And you're sitting there waiting. You're just waiting to hear the doctor. And sometimes you don't want them to come down too soon because you know the news is not good. But I'm always there, and I'm always trying to do the best I can to make them comfortable, to give them coffee and donuts and tell them where everything is in the hospital, take them to the chapel, just get

them a blanket if they are cold, just whatever I can do I'm there. And I hope that I can continue a few more years. And I hope I haven't kept you too long. And thank you so much. Thank everybody. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: With an attitude like that, I figure she's good for two more directors. (Laughter)

Jay Jones is an exemplary volunteer who has literally devoted his life to sick and disabled veterans. He exhibits the spirit and dedication of all DAV volunteers and can be counted on to do his best for veterans. Mr. Jones is a member of DAV Chapter 16 in Prescott, Arizona, who volunteers six days a week at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System.

He served as a volunteer for 18 years, amassing a remarkable 40,882 hours of volunteering. He spends 54 hours a week volunteering at the Prescott VA Medical Center. He's worked as a VAVS representative, escort, information and guest services care ambassador.

He's famous for bringing the fresh fruit to patients and cooking up fresh popcorn for the staff. His popcorn is so popular that he's created his own currency. He makes up volunteer bucks that are green and feature the voluntary service logo and a photo of himself. The bucks are good for free bags of popcorn and are awarded to people who do something special for a veteran.

Mr. Jones visits every veteran in the hospital daily and is known throughout the medical center for his caring and giving attitude. His quiet dignity and generosity personify the true meaning of giving, uncompromising dedication and loyal friendship to America's veterans.

Unfortunately, Jay Jones could not be with us today. I've got a sneaking hunch he's making popcorn. But we'll see that he receives his award immediately following the convention. (Applause)

This year we have a new program. A special scholarship program was created this year to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service Program.

The Disabled American Veterans has selected three outstanding youth volunteers to receive the first annual DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship Awards.

The first-place scholarship of \$10,000 was awarded to Daniel Merced, age 17, of Miami, Florida, who contributed 1727 hours of service at the VA Medical Center in Miami last year.

The second-place scholarship of \$5,000 went to Philip Nodhturft, age 16, of Temple Terrace, Florida, who donated 251 voluntary hours at the VA Medical Center in Tampa, Florida. The son of a disabled veteran and a VA nurse, Mr. Nodhturft plans to use his scholarship to major in journalism at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

The third-place scholarship of \$3,000 went to Martha Ann Zink, 14, of Eagle River, Alaska, who's donated 380 hours of volunteer service at the Alaska VA Health Care System and Regional Office in Anchorage, Alaska. Ms. Zink, the daughter of a Navy veteran, plans to obtain a degree in nursing or even possibly become a doctor.

Our first-place winner, Daniel Merced, is with us today to receive his award. Daniel graduated from both high school and community college with honors. He's volunteered at the Miami VA Medical Center for more than four years with assignments primarily in ambulatory care clinics. He works directly with patients and is noted for forming warm relationships with veterans.

Danny has been greatly motivated by his father who is a disabled veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to Mr. Danny Merced. (Standing ovation)

MR. DANIEL MERCED: Thank you. National Commander, distinguished guests, officers and members of the Disabled American Veterans: I sincerely thank you for awarding me the DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship.

I'm sorry, this is a little emotional. I greatly appreciate your selection of me for this prestigious award. The funds are needed, as I will start college in the fall at the University of Florida as a second semester junior. And I thank you.

Like he said, I'm currently a volunteer at the VA Medical

center in Miami, Florida, where I started volunteering at the age of 12. It is my honor to serve the men and women who have given so much for our country and our freedom.

I was born into a military family when my father was on active duty. He served our country proudly for 20 years, retiring after having fought valiantly and being disabled in the Persian Gulf War. As an Army brat, I lived in several countries and encountered many different cultures and languages. But most importantly I developed a standard of excellence.

When my father left the military we moved to Miami. I wanted to still have contact with people I had grown up with, so I went to volunteer at the VA. When I initially became a volunteer, my job was that of patient escort. My main duties included taking patients to and from their appointments and then basically taking them wherever it was they wanted to go. This job also showed me the many areas of the hospital that, if I had not been an escort, I would have never seen.

Now this has significance because seeing places such as the nursing home, the emergency rooms, the operating rooms, has opened my eyes to the reality of why we have VA hospitals in the first place.

The job also allows me to have patient contact, which in turn allowed me to develop and condition my communications skills, which is a skill that is always valuable to have perfected.

My duties then switched to helping the Primary Care Red Team in Clinic Number 1. I was taught how to take blood pressure manually and electronically, take the veterans's temperature, their pulse rate, height, and many other things. I then accurately recorded the vital signs.

I worked with patients, nurses, doctors, pharmacy, and all the labs. Part of my job also included talking to and listening, really listening to what the veterans had to say. If they had a complaint or just wanted someone to talk to, I was always there with an open ear and a warm smile.

Volunteering in the clinic has matured me, because on a daily basis I encounter many veterans who have varying amounts of illnesses. This became one of the strongest reasons why I volunteer, to help out the many veterans who, because of their service, had given me so much, yet because of their unselfishness had rendered them ill.

This award means so much to me. I wanted to volunteer and help the veterans just to do my part. While I'll never be able to truly appreciate the anguish that your afflictions cause you, living with a disabled veteran, I know the hardships you all go through on a daily basis.

Most people would probably just give up, if they had to endure the pain and suffering you all go through trying to live as normal a life as your disabilities will allow.

In the beginning my volunteer experience, I didn't understand how it was possible for you all to live the unforgotten lives that you all lead. It wasn't until later that I realized that you all share at least two common characteristics: resilience and the ability to endure.

It truly is an amazing feat you all have accomplished. And while I stand here and gratefully accept this generous award, I will walk away knowing that it's each and every one of you who deserves an award. You are the true heroes of this great nation. I salute you. Thank you. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: There's a living, breathing example of why this National Commander's Volunteer Award is such an important program. And why I want to thank you again, Pete Pestillo, for making a donation to make sure that it continues. (Applause)

I'll now ask the adjutant to read the names of the convention committee advisors that I've appointed and who received approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Committee advisors. Credentials, Michael Walsh and Edward Galian. General Resolutions and Membership, Rick Surratt. Legislation and Veterans Rights, Thomas L. Tomlinson and Joseph Violante. Constitution and Bylaws, Kenneth Musselmann and Fred Bristol. Finance and Dues, Thomas Johns and Richard

Patterson. Employment, Paul Jackson and Anthony Baskerville. Hospital and Voluntary Services David Goliver and Jerry Steelman. Nomination of National Officers, Gene Murphy and William Leach.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, if you will please rise, I will ask the chaplain to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN ALFONSO TODD: Lord God again, we come to the close of another session. We pray that as we leave this place that we continue to be protected by Your Spirit of care. We pray that You will give us a mind to continue to look forward, not only into this millennium, but into a new year as DAV members reaching out to those who are hurting, touching those whose pains are excruciating.

And Lord, let us be the advocates for those who are not able to speak for themselves in building better lives. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: The convention stands in recess until 10:00 Monday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 4:33 o'clock p.m., August 20, 2000.)

#### FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

August 21, 2000

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 79th National Convention convened in the Pavilion of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Monday morning, August 21, 2000, and was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

COMMANDER MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, would you please take your seats?

At this time the convention will come to order. In opening the First Business Session of the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, it is fitting and proper that we render respect due to the flag. Please join me in the pledge of allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you.

Chaplain Todd, would you please lead us in prayer?

CHAPLAIN TODD: Well, God, we come before Your throne of grace this morning, thanking You for the energies that You have granted unto us to not only have our right mind but the activities of our limbs.

We pray now that as we press towards the mark of our higher calling as DAV members and Auxiliary members, that our minds and our spirits will be solidified towards progress, towards strategic planning, towards knowing that we are the voice for those who are hurting within our nation.

We thank You for this opportunity. In His Holy Name, we pray. Amen and amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Be seated, please.

In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. The delegate must state his name, chapter number, and the state he represents.

At this time, we'll call on the Credentials Committee chairman for his report.

MR. JAMES N. OLSON: Thank you, Commander. James Olson, Chapter 2, Department of Minnesota. Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on August 20th, 2000, by the advisors, Michael J. Walsh and Edward G. Galian.

The first order of business was the election of a Credentials Committee chairman. James Olson was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, James Olson was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Sloan Hoopes was nominated and elected as secretary.

The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Sierra 1 Room at the Reno Hilton Hotel. Roll call showed 1,464 delegates and 49 alternates present. This is a partial report, informational



purposes only, and reflects the registration at 4:00 p.m. on August 20th, 2000.

At the present time, we have 577 chapters, 44 departments, 8 national officers, 21 National Executive Committeemen, 12 past national commanders, for a total of 1,464 delegates and 49 alternates, for a total vote of 10,571.

This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Jim. That is a first report, so there's no motion required.

However, you should know that the Rules are a continuing part of our Bylaws. They are part and parcel of Article 3 and remain in effect continually. They are subject to amendment as provided in the Bylaws.

Mike 2.

MR. KENNETH G. MUSSELMANN: Mr. Commander, Ken Musselmann, past national commander. I'd like to propose two amendments to the Rules of the Convention at this time.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Go right ahead.

KEN MUSSELMANN: The first amendment is to amend Rule 21 which is on Page 14, the fifth line thereof to add preceding each committee the following words, "after the first meeting." I'll read what the whole sentence will read after the amendment:

After the first meeting, each committee secretary shall notify all committee members, the Committee on Assignment and Coordination, and the national adjutant as of the time and place of each meeting.

The reason behind this amendment is that the secretary is not elected to the committee until the first meeting. Therefore, it would be impossible to notify everybody at the first meeting.

I move for the adoption of this rule change.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Ken. Is there a second?

MR. ALBERT H. LINDEN, JR.: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Further discussion? All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

MR. MUSSELMANN: The second amendment is to amend Rule 23.b. the fifth line thereof to add preceding "on the last day of the convention" the following words, "no later than 10:30 a.m." So that sentence shall read:

The final report of the Credentials Committee, the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers and the election of national officers as designated in Article 7, Section 7.1 of these Bylaws, shall be in that order no later than 10:30 a.m. on the last day of the convention.

The reason for this amendment is that it restores the language back to the way it was prior to our convention last year in Orlando where we had to alter this rule because of the shortened schedule.

I move for the adoption of this rule change.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Ken. Mike 2.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Further discussion? All those in favor say Aye; opposed. Carried.

I'll now ask the national adjutant to read the DAV Statement of Policy.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting approved the following resolution on DAV Policy and recommends the adoption by the convention.

The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:

1. High-quality hospital and medical care administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with disabilities, incurred in or aggravated by service in America's Armed Forces.

2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.

3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful

employment.

4. Enhance opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.

5. Adequate compensation to the widows and survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service connected under the laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people respect the needs of these veterans that these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

It therefore follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for dependents and survivors which is based upon other than wartime service-connected disability. We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

While our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, their dependents and survivors, we shall within the limits of our resources assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits.

Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded, and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans.

COMMANDER DORMEIER: The chair will entertain a motion for the adoption of the DAV Statement of Policy. Mike I.

MR. DENNIS A. JOYNER: Dennis Joyner, Chapter 104, Florida, makes the motion.

COMMANDER DORMEIER: Thank you. Is there a second?

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DORMEIER: Thank you. Further discussion? All those in favor say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families. This is the DAV's mission. It is first, last, and always a mission of service.

For more than 34 years, Art Wilson has dedicated himself to serving disabled veterans and their families, first as a DAV National Service officer -- the first Vietnam veteran to enter the DAV's National Service Program -- moving up through the ranks of our NSO corps to supervisory positions, then on to the National Appeals Office at the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington.

And since Art's appointment as national adjutant in 1994, his steadfast leadership and uncompromising commitment to the organization's ideals resulted in a phenomenal rebirth of the DAV.

Recognizing that the 21st century will present both enormous challenges and breathtaking opportunities to the DAV, Art in 1998 commissioned a team of select DAV managers to begin work on the Strategic Plan to ensure the continued viability and vitality of the DAV well into the future. This Strategic Plan is a blueprint for the DAV to remain the greatest veterans service organization in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, here to give his report to the National Convention is my friend and your friend, our national adjutant, Art Wilson. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. Good morning. Did I wake you up? Commander DORMEIER, national officers, invited guests, all of our delegates, our friends, our guests, and to you our members all assembled here today: Let me add my welcome to the 79th Annual Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

When I say good morning to you, I hope that you have been enjoying yourselves, renewing old acquaintances, making new friends, for we all know that's what being at a DAV National Convention is all about.

One note of personal preference. What did you think of yesterday's opening session? (Applause) I'm glad you liked it because for me it was a very, very special and moving experience, something that I'll long remember.

But before I begin my remarks this morning, I would like to share with you a very brief video of my recent trip to the Republic of Korea. I was honored to lead the DAV delegation of Past National Commanders Andy Kistler and Harry McDonald, as well as Roger Gallagher, who accompanied me as we returned to Seoul, Korea, to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

(Video presentation)

ADJUTANT WILSON: It's hard for me to explain the feelings I had being with so many distinguished people, not ever having been to Korea, and to understand the sacrifices that our Korean veterans made to preserve the democracy and the freedom of South Korea was nearly overwhelming.

It was my honor and privilege to be part of that ceremony. And I give my best wishes to all Korean veterans and let you know the DAV is there for you. (Applause) That's not necessary.

You know, one of the best parts of my job, a privilege, if you will, is having to work with our national commanders year after year. And to celebrate and to help celebrate all of our wonderful accomplishments in fulfilling DAV's mission of service and hope to disabled veterans and their families from all around this great country.

Commander Dobmeier, I can't tell you what a pleasure it's been. You are certainly among the most inspirational leaders of our organization. And I thank you for making this one of our best years ever. (Applause) Mike, it's people like you who make everything that we do such a rewarding part of our lives. Thank you, sir.

I also want to express my sincere thanks to your line officers, Armando Albarran, George Steese, Ed Heath, Alan Bowers, Jim Sursley, Ed Galian, and, of course, Reverend Todd.

I also want to express my sincere thanks to another great leader, Auxiliary National Commander Paula Raymond, National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, our National Executive Committee, our National Finance Committee and our national interim committees.

And I especially want to express my sincere gratitude to those absolutely amazing men and women from all across the country who touch the lives of our nation's disabled veterans and their families every single day in so many, many wonderful and different ways.

And I'm talking about the leaders of our chapters and our departments, our dedicated HSCs, our department and chapter service officers, and to every one of those outstanding VAVS volunteers who give so much of themselves to help our veterans. Thank you so very, very much for everything that you do. You are the ones that bring decided credit to the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

Let me also say how proud I am of our DAV staffs in Washington and Cold Spring, as well as that very special group of professionally trained and dedicated individuals, your entire corps of National Service Officers.

And ladies and gentlemen, from the National Service corps, would you please stand and accept the recognition you so richly deserve? Everybody in the room. (Applause) Thank you.

Our thanks to Dave Gorman who leads our D.C. staff and his team; Ken Wolfe, and the staff of the National Service Department; our entire group of support staffs at both headquarters; and those staffs around the country; Joe Violante and his team in our National Legislative Department; Jerry Steelman and the National Voluntary Services staff; and likewise a special thanks to Rick Patterson who heads our National Headquarters staff, including Max Hart from the Fund-Raising Department and his staff; our legal staff of Bob Gushee and Chris Clay; our comptroller, Anita Blum, and the entire Accounting Department staff; Greg Jackson and his staff in Human Resources; Mike Walsh and everybody in the Membership Department; and Gary Weaver and his innovative team in the Communications Department; and, of course, Nancy O'Brien, who administers our charitable programs.

And, of course, a real special thanks to all of our employees nationwide for everything that they do in continuing to make the DAV such a fine and very, very successful organization. (Applause)

That staff comprises of nearly 650 employees, ladies and gentlemen. And they work hard every single day for you.

And on a final note let me offer my very deep gratitude to everybody in this audience, and all the DAV and Auxiliary members that you represent. I salute you. We salute you, for all that you do to fulfill our mission of building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. You are a very special and caring group of people.

And thanks to all of you, I'm pleased to report that the DAV continues to be the nation's leading veterans service organization, and that we continue to do more than anyone else to make sure that America honors its commitment to veterans. (Applause)

And what makes that possible for us to continue holding the high ground in veterans' affairs is the DAV's very successful service programs. We provide the very best service to America's veterans and their families, thanks in large part to the strong public support from our donors to whom we are very, very grateful.

But doing well financially only means one thing to me. It means that we can continue to be the very best at serving our nation's veterans, and that says it all. (Applause)

Our continued success in meeting our financial goals stems from one simple fact. We are working smarter, and we are working more efficiently than ever before to ensure the viability of our operations in providing services to disabled veterans of this country. And this puts us in the ideal position as we prepare for the new century.

And speaking of which, I'd like to give you just a brief update on DAV's Strategic Plan, the plan that we initiated last year and implementation plans for those goals and strategies. These plans include specific actions, time lines, and accountability measures that will allow us to track our progress toward our goal.

You will be able to get more details during the various workshops this week, but I want to take this opportunity just to touch on a few of the exciting things going on, and there will be many, many more as we break new ground.

We will, of course, remain true to those core values of service, quality, integrity, and leadership. As I've said so often, these core values have been our guiding compass throughout our past, and will continue to guide us well into the future.

As you know, we have set six goals for our organization. Well, we've not only begun to put in place the business plan to meet those goals, but we have already started to see some results of our efforts. And we continue to make progress toward meeting our objectives as we look further ahead.

The first goal is to build a stronger and active membership, to help reinvigorate recruitment efforts. We already have some new incentives for recruiters and are rolling out a package of exciting new membership packages and services as well.

As a matter of fact, we will begin to launch a massive by-mail recruitment program very soon and are extremely optimistic about the potential results.

And to meet our second strategic goal, we have taken some very important steps to make sure we continue to be the Number 1 provider of top-quality professional service and advocacy in volunteer programs for this nation's veterans.

They include enhancing our service programs through better training, and taking advantage of new technology to help us do our jobs better, as well as bold and new outreach efforts such as the mobile office service program and our out-based transition program.

This also includes some new volunteer opportunities for our members, in their local areas as well as the rural communities where veterans live, as well as in hospitals and clinics and nursing homes which have been the traditional base of our volunteer programs for so many years.

Our third goal involves the use of new technology and business practices to enhance all of our operations programs and our services.

We are in the midst of a very comprehensive overhaul of our information systems. A redesign of our Internet web site is well

under way, and we are using advanced technology to help us refine aspects of our fund-raising operations, just to name a few.

Believe me, the investment we are making in these areas has enabled us to streamline much of our operations and will have even a greater impact on how we do things in the future. The results are really amazing.

With regard to our goal to attract and retain and develop effective leaders and staff and volunteers throughout the organization, we have been providing professional development and leadership training for our employees and have made a significant investment in computer and information technology and training designed to help us do our jobs more effectively and efficiently.

We are also working on a leadership development program on the fraternal side of our organization where, as you know, this will have the biggest payoff in our chapters and our departments and our volunteer programs in communities all across the country, where the rubber really hits the road in fulfilling our mission of service and hope for disabled veterans and their families.

Speaking of starting at the local level, our department and chapter organizations are where the roots take hold in our efforts to build government and public support and awareness of important issues affecting disabled veterans and their families. That's Goal 5 in our Strategic Plan.

And as part of our ongoing strategy in this area, we have been resolved to be more proactive in influencing public policy regarding veterans' issues. And we have already begun to reap the benefits of increasing member participation in our grass-roots legislative efforts.

Your efforts so far have begun to pay off. The Congress and the Administration now pay attention to veterans' issues.

And thanks in large measure to our active and vocal membership in a very vigorous grass-roots campaign that you helped wage, the President's budget plan for the first time in a number of years actually called for an increase in funding in veterans health care, and much needed staffing to speed up and improve the claims processing adjudication system. (Applause)

That's your applause. Thank you for those letters to Congress, those personal visits to Capitol Hill, your phone calls, your e-mail messages supporting adequate funding for health care and other vital programs.

And with your efforts in this year's successful voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaign, you are really making the system work the way our founders of our great nation intended it to work, a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

As for the final goal of our Strategic Plan, refining our fund-raising operations -- and I've already touched on how we are making better use of today's technology. But I also want to stress how important it is that we never lose sight of our vision and our values.

The Disabled American Veterans is committed to fulfilling our mission of building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families through service, quality, integrity, and leadership, particularly in representation and advocacy services now and well into the future.

Having said all that, I'm going to deviate a little bit here and take a privilege, if you don't mind, Commander.

Last year, at our National Convention, when I spoke, I did a similar thing and recognized a very special man in Boniface Maile. Boni is not with us today. He's home. He's a little bit under the weather. He's doing fairly well. Ironically, just yesterday, I received a note from Boni. I thought I might share it with you. His note reads:

I know how much I would like to be with you at Reno. My friends encouraged me to send greetings to you. And I took these steps to make it possible. This is the first National Convention I've missed since joining the DAV in 1949. And that time was because I was out of the country on DAV business.

Throughout my years as a DAV member and officer, I've not

only been inspired by the importance of our purpose as an organization but by the sterling qualities so common in our members. I congratulate you all on the spectacular success the DAV has achieved and benefits won for the war disabled and their dependents. I congratulate each of you on the dedication and long-term commitment it took to write the benefits into law.

May these convention sessions continue to advance our DAV cause and the goal to keep our organization always a vital force in the protection of the war-disabled. God bless you.  
Boniface Maile, National Commander, 1950-1951.

(Applause)

I read that of course to make the comparison, that this is a gentleman who, as I said last year, was national commander 50 years ago, and he's still serving veterans of this country. And he's well into his 80s, a little bit under the weather, and took the time to send you all a message. A very, very special individual.

This morning, I thought it would be appropriate for me to recognize another individual, a very special man to all of you, and to me personally. This gentleman was born in 1921. He's been a DAV member for 57 years. He joined after 5 and a half years serving the United States Army. He became active in DAV and joined the DAV National Service Officer Program in March of 1945, and he graduated from Class 3 at American University.

He served in many supervisory positions in various National Service Offices around the country. He served as your National Service director in 1960, as an assistant national adjutant in 1961, became national adjutant in 1962, and 26 years later, 1988, retired after 43 years of active employment.

He was rehired in 1993 as national adjutant, went on to be the assistant national adjutant and assistant to the inspector-general, retired again in 1996, has no less than ten life memberships in DAV, served the National Service Foundation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the list goes on and on and on. A very special man.

He's with us at this convention. Unfortunately, he had a little bad dinner last night and is suffering from it this morning, so he's not in the room. But I want you just to express your appreciation along with me for Denvel D. "Dale" Adams for the many, many years of great service to this organization. (Applause)  
Thank you.

I want to talk just briefly about a couple of things that have been on my mind and the minds of others for some time. Have you ever thought what DAV is going to look like in 10 or 15 years? What's our membership going to be made up of?

Is it going to be primarily Persian Gulf veterans? Will there be a few of us old Vietnam veterans left? A few of you younger Korean veterans left? And a few of those forever young World War II world war veterans left?

But the cold hard facts of that is that veterans are living longer today. What does that mean for us? What that means is there will be a greater need than ever for service to veterans of this country by the premier provider of service in this country, the Disabled American Veterans.

Results? Results will be tremendous. But all of this results in a greater attention and activity in an organization called the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary. That's what our Strategic Plan talks about, what we talk about every single day: taking care of veterans of this country.

You might ask the question, "In 10 or 15 years, will there be improvement in the legislative atmosphere in Washington?" Personally, I don't think so. I think we are going to have to continue to fight. You heard it yesterday. The fight goes on and on and on.

So what do we do? We continue that very, very important influence, because we can, you can make a difference, and you do.

We will always have new members. There will always be eligibility, unfortunately. So the service program needs go on forever.

Our NSOs, however, will have to be smarter, they will have to know more about technology, they will have to know more about

medical breakthroughs. We, as leaders in this organization, will have to enhance their skills so they can provide that top-quality service and representation and continue on the tradition that DAV survives on, and that's providing hands-on, face-to-face service to veterans.

What about our meetings? Will they be smaller but necessary? They will be necessary more than ever, because there will be more people to serve. Maybe we'll conduct our national meetings less often, or do them by video or tele-conference. Perhaps we will only have to meet face to face only when absolutely necessary.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's an exciting time. And that moves you right into, what about our fund-raising? Do we have concerns? How will we raise the funds to pay for the programs to provide the service?

Will the mail system as we know it today still exist? Perhaps not. Will we be raising funds through the Internet? Probably. But where will the funds come from? Will we all be working from home?

I throw all these things out because there are thoughts that go around in my mind and perhaps many of you. And some of these thoughts could very well be scary. But it's not too early to think about the future of our organization, what we are going to look like, and how we are going to operate.

Someone once told me that this is the last men's club. And I figured, well, maybe I'll be the last one. As I look around this room, that isn't going to be true. And I'll bet there's nobody in this room that's going to be the last one. That would be nice. But there's always going to be a need for the Disabled American Veterans.

So it's up to us to prepare for the future. We must prepare, we must be ready. And when I say us, I mean you, and me, everybody in the organization. You know, these ten little two-letter words that go, "If it is to be, it's up to us."

I lay that out for your consideration. Think about what we are going to look like 10 years, 15 years, 25 years, still serving this nation's veterans. But I can assure you that we will maintain the highest ethical standards as a charitable organization through which our society can express its gratitude to the men and women who continue to pay the price of our nation's freedom.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for everything you do. And thank you for allowing me to serve as your national adjutant. Thank you. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Art.

And I think you all understand that this is a gentleman that goes to sleep every night and wakes up every morning wondering how he can make the DAV just a little bit better.

And at this time I'd like to entertain a motion to accept the national adjutant's report. Mike 2.

MR. GEORGE R. LePORTE: George LePorte, Chapter 30, Syracuse, New York, the city where Art Wilson served us as our National Service officer, is more than proud to put forth that motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, George.

MR. JOHN E. GOODMAN: Comrade Commander, John E. Goodman, life member of DAV Chapter #26 in the great state of Texas, would like to have the honor of seconding that motion with a tremendous standing vote of thanks to Art Wilson and the team that does such a tremendous job for all of us.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you very much. (Applause)

Further discussion? All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

And at this time I'd like to introduce National Membership Director Michael Walsh for his report and presentation of the Membership Awards.

MR. MICHAEL J. WALSH: Thank you, Commander Dobmeier. Good morning, everyone. It really is a pleasure to be here and come before you today for the purposes of the membership report and to present the Membership Awards for the 1999-2000 membership year.

As usual, I remain amazed at the tremendous efforts leading to the successful results our recruiters achieve in pumping new blood through the heart of this organization. Without a doubt, without

people like Prospero Sodano, Coy Hennis and many others, the DAV would not have had the successful year that we did.

Every time that we process a new membership application at National Headquarters, I'm reminded of the important role members have in building better lives for America's disabled veterans. During my travels, and in speaking to many of our recruiters during the past year, I find that these individuals are among the most dedicated DAV members.

There are many potential members out there just waiting for that one invitation to learn more about the DAV, who we are, and what we do. You're the ones that can tell them and deliver that message.

And I still remain convinced that our recruiters sign up new members or go after the partial paid members and track down inactive members, not for prizes or incentives, or any other kind of individual, local, state or national honor, but because they believe the DAV is the only veterans service organization that walks the walk and talks the talk.

During the past year, we have made some significant changes to the way the DAV's Membership Department does business. From the inception of the Strategic Plan to the implementation of the business plans to make it work, we have remained true to the DAV's mission and goals.

The leadership and vision of our national adjutant, Arthur Wilson, continues to make the DAV this nation's best veterans service organization. And with our continued success, the DAV will take its rightful place in society.

Very briefly, a few of the major changes we have implemented during the past year are: Members who become inactive, those who do not have sufficient funds for distribution, are not being dropped but will be transferred into the department at-large chapters.

Regarding dues notices, we will reduce our quarterly dues notices to one time per year for these inactive members. At the same time, we are working on a new marketing tool that will hopefully encourage these people to continue paying their dues.

Per capita distributions. We will no longer make monthly per capita distributions to chapters and departments but will do so biannually in July and in January.

And finally, all departments and chapters are now required to have their funds distributed from the national organization directly to their financial institutions.

As we move forward, we will continue to review other programs and policies, to keep the DAV on track and ensure that we will be there for the next generation of disabled veterans.

Commander, if you will permit me, I would like to recognize those special individuals who worked so hard during the past year in signing up over 100 new members. And they are: Robert Sinclair, Kerry Baker, Daniel Parker, Stephen Combs, Kevin Grantier, John Roberts, John Parker, Gary Burns, Ronald Burke, Jerry Lowenstein, Bruce Kaplan, Sharon Pace, Wayne Blue, Jeanette Genevise, Andrew Edwards, Thomas Tucker, Michael Mastrean, Wally Tyson, Prospero Sodano, Daniel Berry, and Ken Musselmann.

And this year DAV crowns a new recruiter of the year in Mr. Coy Hennis of North Carolina. (Applause)

Coy has always been near the top in recruiting every year, and this year he surpassed everyone by signing up 638 new fully-paid members. Please join me in congratulating Coy on this tremendous achievement. (Applause)

MR. COY HENNIS: Art said just a few. He knows I love to talk. But it's an honor. And I get a kick of signing people up anywhere I go. It's for the betterment of the organization. And I love it. And they're out there.

I want to challenge you, each person out here, to get one a month. You can do it. If you don't have the membership in your pocket right now, let's always carry one. And let's do the job. Let's put way over the goal, each state, each chapter. Let's do it. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: I'm also sure that Pros also joins us in a "job well done" to you, Coy. But I'm sure he's already making plans to



try to get that jacket back for next year.

All the recruiting efforts throughout the country are a major reason why the DAV finished the year with 1,071,684 total members; 904,240 of those were fully paid members. This is a dramatic increase of almost 10,000 new members over the previous year.

Commander Dobmeier, if you will allow me to assist you in presenting the division award winners, we will start with the smallest division. And I am pleased to announce the winner of Division 5, those departments with fewer than 5,000 members, is the Department of Wyoming, led by the present commander, Richard Bowman. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD BOWMAN, JR.: Thank you very much. And I hope we can do this again next year. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: For those of you who have been coming to conventions for the past few years, you maybe remember that we used to give away blazers, okay? We kind of ran out of colors with Prosper, so what we decided to do this year was go a little bit in a different direction and use the leather bomber jackets. They are very popular items.

In Division 4, those departments having between 5,000 and 9,999 fully-paid members, was captured by the Department of Nevada, coming in with 105.50 percent of goal, or 253 new members. And accepting the award is our convention chairman, Ed Johnson. (Applause)

MR. JOHNSON: To the men and women of the Department of Nevada, this jacket belongs to you. I will wear it. You can feel of it. (Laughter) Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: Division 3, representing those departments with fully paid members of 10,000 to 17,999 fully paid members, was captured by the Department of Alabama, coming in at 103.78 percent of goal, or 509 new members. Accepting is Carl Bailey. (Applause)

MR. CARL L. BAILEY: Thank you, Commander Dobmeier. Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate all this. I would like to thank the recruiters of the Department of Alabama and the elected officers for giving me such a good year. The recruiters did it. I didn't do it. I appreciate them, each and every one.

I appreciate Chapter 12 in Montgomery for making a tremendous contribution towards our membership drive. I appreciate our NSOs. You heard their names read off: Tommy Tucker, Sharon Pace and Andrew Edwards. Jimmy Harris was the senior vice-commander and he did a tremendous job on membership drives. And I just thank each and every one of them.

Thank God for allowing me to be here. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: Division 2 is made up of those departments having between 18,000 and 34,999 fully paid members. This year, the award goes to the Department of Arizona, led by Commander John McDowell, with 543 new members, or 103.45 percent of goal. (Applause)

MR. JOSEPH J. MCDOWELL: When I left Phoenix, it was 109 degrees. (Laughter) I'm sure if I stay in Nevada, I'll be able to use it.

But anyway, on a serious note, I would like to thank all the blue caps who did a wonderful and tremendous job at the beginning of the year, right through the month. It was touch and go. And a special thanks to our NSO officers who did an excellent job. Thank you. (Applause).

MR. WALSH: Of course, last but not least, Division 1, those departments who have 35,000 or more fully paid members. This race flip-flopped several times during the year between California and Massachusetts fighting it out. This time, though, California wins it all with a last-minute push that keeps the award in their hands.

Commander Al Tortalano and his hard-working state brought in 2,162 new fully paid members or 102.99 percent over goal. A truly outstanding year. Commander. (Applause)

MR. AL A. TORTALANO: Commander Dobmeier, Art Wilson: It is indeed a pleasure for me to accept this award on behalf of the more than 100,000 members of the Department of California. I want to give special thanks to the Department of California's adjutant, Ken Musselmann, for all the time and effort he puts in on behalf of our department. A special thanks also to NSO Joe Parker of California for the 110 members he signed up.

Again, thank you one and all for this great honor. And I know you will see our present commander, Dennis Weber, on this podium next year.

You know, this reminds me of a song that I used to sing quite some time ago, one that I really liked. "You're Getting to be a Habit With Me." Thank you again very much. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: Ladies and gentlemen, the final two awards to be presented today are the Judge Marx Award for highest percentage of membership gain and the Wainwright Award for largest numerical gain.

This year, the Marx Award goes again to the Department of California, Commander Al Tortalano, for getting 2,162 new fully paid members. Commander, again? (Applause)

MR. TORTALANO: Again, I want to thank everyone who made this award possible. And like I said, it's getting to be a habit. And we will be here again next year. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: The next award again is for the largest percentage gain, and that goes to the Department of Nevada, again Ed Johnson, for reaching the almost unheard of percentage of 105.50 percent. (Applause)

MR. JOHNSON: Last year at our state convention when I was elected commander, I told the delegates, "The commander is nothing but a figurehead. If you go home and sit on your butts, you're going to make me look like a do-nothing commander. But the National Convention is in Reno next year, and I want to see Nevada up on that stage accepting the award for the highest in our division."

Ladies and gentlemen from Nevada, you have made me proud. I never thought we could be the highest in the nation. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. WALSH: Commander, this concludes the Membership Awards and report portion of the program. I thank you for allowing me to assist you today and for the pleasure and honor of working alongside you during your year of national commander.

Now let's get out there and sign up some more members. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Mike.

Could we have a motion to accept Mike's report?

MR. JOSEPH M. CONNELLY: Joe Connelly, Chapter 114, Department of Michigan, Mike's own chapter, supports that motion to accept his report.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: You made that motion is what you are trying to say; is that right?

MR. CONNELLY: Yes, I am, Commander.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Could we have a second? Mike 2.

MR. G. RIC REVEL: Ric Revel, District 8 of Southern California, commander of 12, wants to second it.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Further discussion? All in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you very much, Mike. (Applause)

Now I'd like to call on the National Finance Committee chairman, Thomas C. Johns, for his report.

NEC 6TH DISTRICT THOMAS C. JOHNS: National Commander Dobmeier, fellow members of the National Executive Committee, DAV members, and guests: Good morning.

Before I begin my report, please allow me to recognize my fellow members of the National Finance Committee: National Commander Michael Dobmeier of North Dakota; 3rd District NEC Norm Newell of Maine; 8th District NEC Lloyd Helms of Louisiana; and 19th District NEC Brad Barton of Oregon.

I would also like to recognize National Senior Vice-Commander Armando Albarran of Texas and National Judge Advocate Edward Galian of New York, who served the committee in a nonvoting capacity.

It is my honor and privilege to present a report on the financial affairs of our organization. During the first six months of this year, we mailed 35 million pieces of fund-raising mail, 4.2 million less than for the same period last year.

DAV's gross income from direct mail solicitations as of June 30th was \$47.8 million and the net of 30.3 million, a \$2 million

increase over the same period last year.

By year's end, we will have mailed 61 million pieces of fund-raising mail. And we expect to generate some \$96.2 million in gross revenue.

As for the Department Fund-Raising Program, I am pleased to report that each department received \$3.60 per member -- now that's 60 cents more than expected under our contract with the departments -- for a total distribution of almost \$3.8 million.

Since the program began, more than \$22 million has been distributed to the departments for their service programs. I thank all of the departments and chapters for their continued support of this program, especially when they are speaking with our members, because it does so much to enhance the service programs offered by the departments.

In terms of the overall financial picture, our net worth has increased to more than \$176 million as of June 30th, 2000. However, I must also point out that the financial reserves of the national organization are well within the guidelines established for departments and chapters of no more than two times last year's expenses.

With regard to the Life Membership Fund, the fund has been a source of concern to the organization for several years. As a result, over the past few years, National had voluntarily reduced distribution to itself by a total of \$1.50 per member. At the July 1 distribution, however, \$1 of the reduced distribution was restored to the national organization with a total of \$13.2 million being distributed to National, departments and chapters.

At June 30, 2000, the Life Membership Fund was valued at \$98.9 million. Based upon actuarial assumptions of a conservative 6.66 percent earnings rate, the fund would be depleted by the year 2021. However, the break-even point for the fund would be achieved with an average annual earnings rate of 7.34 percent, a very realistic and achievable goal for the fund.

Before closing, I would like to thank the other committee members, National Adjutant Art Wilson, and the DAV's professional staff for their prudent and successful management of our organization.

Let me thank you, Commander Dobmeier, for the support I received in my role as Finance Committee chairman. It has been an honor to serve as the chair of this very important committee.

Commander Dobmeier, that concludes my report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to our delegates. I thank you and move for the adoption of my report.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Tom, for that very informative report, and for a job very well done.

At this time, could we have a second to the motion? Mike 1.

MR. WALLACE E. TYSON: Wally Tyson, Cumberland County Chapter 46, North Carolina, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Wally. Further discussion? All those in favor, say Aye; opposed? Carried.

**Deloitte &  
Touche**



---

***DISABLED AMERICAN  
VETERANS***

*Financial Statements for the Year Ended  
December 31, 1999 and Independent Auditors'  
Report*

---

**Deloitte Touche  
Tohmatsu**

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

	<b>Page</b>
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	1
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Activities	3
Statement of Functional Expenses	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6

**Deloitte &  
Touche**



**Deloitte & Touche LLP**  
250 East Fifth Street  
P.O. Box 5340  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5340

Telephone: (513) 784-7100

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

National Finance Committee  
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as of December 31, 1999, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of DAV's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DAV at December 31, 1999 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Deloitte & Touche LLP*

February 18, 2000

**Deloitte Touche  
Tomatsu**

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash	\$ 4,340,134	Accounts payable	\$ 3,379,210
Receivables	1,167,812	Accrued expenses:	
Solicitation materials	3,358,492	Salaries and related taxes and withholdings	576,363
Prepaid expenses	3,375,065	Sick leave	3,570,234
Investments (Note 2)	188,865,340	Medical	532,461
Property and equipment, net (Note 2)	9,966,859	Pension (Note 5)	8,195,243
Life Membership:		Postretirement benefits (Note 5)	23,252,857
Cash	451,048	Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance (Note 4)	3,649,785
Investments (Note 2)	94,987,377	Other	1,617,386
		Life Membership:	49,398
		Accounts payable	
		Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues (Note 4)	95,389,027
		Total liabilities	140,211,964
		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 3)	166,300,163
TOTAL	\$ 306,512,127	TOTAL	\$ 306,512,127

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS****STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999****SUPPORT AND REVENUE:**

Support:	
Contributions received primarily from direct mail solicitations (Note 2)	\$ 98,538,049
Contributed services and facilities, primarily services (Note 2)	22,660,628
List royalties	1,613,115
Bequests	2,920,808
Total support	<u>125,732,600</u>
Revenue:	
Membership dues and fees (Note 4)	7,440,401
Income from investments	7,548,137
Realized investment gains	3,601,387
Miscellaneous	221,844
Total revenue	<u>18,811,769</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>144,544,369</u>

**EXPENSES:**

Program Services:	
National Service Program	33,087,550
Legislative Service Program	500,370
Voluntary Service Program	23,109,877
State Services, Disaster Relief Programs, and Memorials	4,128,032
Publications and Other Communications	2,907,673
Membership Services	6,072,273
Public Awareness Outreach	15,580,977
Total program services	<u>85,386,752</u>
Supporting Services:	
Fund Raising costs	31,200,435
Administrative and general	4,214,929
Total supporting services	<u>35,415,364</u>
Total expenses	<u>120,802,116</u>

EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES 23,742,253

INCREASE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS (Note 2) 2,937,830

EXCESS OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND UNREALIZED APPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS OVER EXPENSES 26,680,083

ADJUSTMENT TO MINIMUM PENSION LIABILITY (Note 5) 1,913,559

INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS 28,593,642

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, Beginning of year 137,706,521

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, End of year \$166,300,163

See notes to financial statements.



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999**

	National Service Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services, Grants, Raid Programs and Memorials	Publications and Communications	Membership Services	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	Administrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total Expenses
Salaries (Note 2)	\$16,085,494	\$283,209	\$ 423,139		\$ 419,850	\$ 964,221	\$ 3,751	\$18,779,764	\$ 4,216,640	\$ 2,890,265	\$ 7,106,905	\$ 25,286,669
Employee benefits (Note 3)	8,502,789	108,275	315,568		163,596	1,013,305		10,104,133	2,053,397	1,183,234	3,236,621	13,340,754
Payroll taxes	1,169,653	19,961	32,187		33,269	81,342	373	1,336,785	373,022	221,937	604,959	1,941,744
DXV transportation network - volunteers			21,069,920					21,069,920				21,069,920
Volunteers office			438,136					438,136				438,136
Columnar staff			500,000					500,000				500,000
Other grants	4,509			\$ 48,295				48,295				48,295
Disaster relief				3,703,678				3,703,678				3,703,678
State Service Program				376,059				376,059				376,059
Memorials								451,534				451,534
Expenses of national convention						451,534		517,688				517,688
Expenses of national commander and committees	1,598,346	18,258	107,309		15,009	163,750		1,813,172	35,827	122,653	158,480	1,977,652
Travel and recreation	1,598,708					517,688		1,598,708				1,598,708
Facilities	250,000	11,272	36,075		844,491	253,250	5,723	1,390,088	7,342,178	34,167	7,376,545	8,766,826
Printing	250,000				677	6,417		403,989	538,281	426,196	960,977	1,364,376
Equipment rental and maintenance	205,806		699		677	274,371	8,467	1,160,556	534,607	321,934	856,541	2,017,497
Supplies	216,802	48,281	143,149		109,386			1,133,989	21,612	136,345	159,957	273,946
Insurance	81,589	916	30,129		678	677		136,988	18,184	63,454	81,638	218,626
Telephone	126,550		1,240		1,372	7,826	2,727	202,668	627,404	152,433	779,837	982,205
Outside service	136,403	7,612	5,275		18,916	28,405		1,093,195				1,093,195
Project costs		1,019			148,315	943,861		1,072,721				1,072,721
Printing of magazine					1,072,721			1,072,721	28,776,411		28,776,411	28,776,411
Cost of solicitation mailings - materials	103,949							103,949		325	360,346	464,295
Cost of solicitation mailings - labor and power	86,071							86,071			195,752	281,823
Security									195,752			195,752
Depreciation of property and equipment	911,413	467	6,309		15,847	16,503		950,539	770,994	615,224	1,386,218	2,336,757
Legal fees	15,633					67,853		83,486		161,407	161,407	244,893
Professional fees	313,101					53,236		366,337	454,088	533,620	1,007,708	1,374,645
Allocations (to) from other departments	1,251,352					1,211,707	15,559,936	18,022,995	(15,120,985)	(2,902,010)	(18,022,995)	
Other	31,509				3,216	16,317		53,822	4,502	223,755	228,257	281,299
<b>Total, year ended December 31, 1999</b>	<b>\$33,087,550</b>	<b>\$500,370</b>	<b>\$23,109,877</b>	<b>\$4,128,032</b>	<b>\$2,007,673</b>	<b>\$4,072,273</b>	<b>\$15,580,977</b>	<b>\$85,386,732</b>	<b>\$ 31,200,475</b>	<b>\$ 4,214,929</b>	<b>\$ 35,415,364</b>	<b>\$120,802,116</b>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Excess of support and revenue over expenses	\$ 23,742,253
Adjustments to reconcile increase in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation and amortization	2,336,757
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	66,975
Realized investment gains	(3,601,387)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts and interest/dividends receivable	(14,217)
Solicitation materials	(130,633)
Prepaid expenses	(404,719)
Accounts payable	(1,240,329)
Accrued expenses	(4,610,127)
Deferred dues and service fees and other	219,962
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	1,761,851
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>18,126,386</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Net cost of investment purchases	(13,892,722)
Payments for property and equipment	(877,441)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	24,248
Increase in life membership investments	(1,774,651)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(16,520,566)</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH	1,605,820
CASH, Beginning of year	<u>3,185,362</u>
CASH, End of year	<u>\$ 4,791,182</u>
See notes to financial statements.	

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

---

#### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally chartered, not-for-profit service organization. Made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense; DAV is dedicated to one, single purpose: building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families. This mission is carried forward by:

- providing free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government;
- providing outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically;
- representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans before Congress, the White House, and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government;
- extending DAV's mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level departments and local chapters; and
- providing a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Financial Statements** - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Investments** - Investments are recorded at fair (market) value. The fair value of DAV's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and, for general investments (also see Note 4), are reflected as a separate component of revenue.

The cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation at December 31, 1999 are summarized below:

General	Cost	Market Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash equivalents	\$ 20,698,555	\$ 20,698,555	
Corporate bonds	59,397,396	57,947,584	\$ (1,449,812)
U.S. Treasury obligations	34,956,763	33,930,803	(1,025,960)
Common stocks	31,296,263	48,902,906	17,606,643
Common stock funds	15,747,442	25,907,139	10,159,697
Subtotal	<u>\$ 162,096,419</u>	<u>187,386,987</u>	<u>\$ 25,290,568</u>
Interest and dividends receivable		<u>1,478,353</u>	
Total		<u>\$ 188,865,340</u>	
<b>Life Membership</b>			
Cash equivalents	\$ 3,882,616	\$ 3,882,616	
Corporate bonds	22,550,000	22,008,010	\$ (541,990)
U.S. Treasury obligations	9,745,133	9,445,739	(299,394)
Common stocks	31,235,895	53,506,618	22,270,723
Common stock funds	3,920,723	5,605,118	1,684,395
Subtotal	<u>\$ 71,334,367</u>	<u>94,448,101</u>	<u>\$ 23,113,734</u>
Interest and dividends receivable		<u>539,276</u>	
Total		<u>\$ 94,987,377</u>	

**Property and Equipment** - Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, and are composed of the following at December 31, 1999:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 951,994	\$ 367,426	\$ 584,568
Buildings and improvements	9,209,065	4,482,297	4,726,768
Machinery and other equipment	<u>15,121,685</u>	<u>10,466,162</u>	<u>4,655,523</u>
Total	<u>\$ 25,282,744</u>	<u>\$ 15,315,885</u>	<u>\$ 9,966,859</u>

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets which range from 3 to 50 years.

**Contributions** - Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in unrestricted net assets if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized.

**Contributed Services and Facilities** - DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; however, only a portion of those hours, those donated to veterans at medical facilities of the VA, are tabulated. Of the 2,460,059 hours accounted for in 1999 - 1,473,421 are for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network. Using a formula developed by Independent Sector, an organization that provides oversight to nonprofit organizations in America, the value of these hours contributed to the DAV Transportation Network is \$21,069,920. This value, together with the value of certain contributed facilities, is recorded as Support and Expenses in the accompanying Statement of Activities and Statement of Functional Expenses. The remaining 986,638 hours -- valued at \$14,108,923 are contributed to the DAV VA Voluntary Service Program. This amount and the value of any other volunteer time have not been recorded in the accompanying Statement of Activities and Statement of Functional Expenses because such hours do not meet the technical requirements set forth in accounting standards for recognizing contributed services.

**Salaries Expense** - The salaries expense in the accompanying financial statements includes the cost of all national service officers and their support staff who work directly with veterans and their dependents in providing counseling and representation in obtaining benefits and services. This expense also includes DAV's administrative and support staffs.

**Income Taxes** - As a not-for-profit service organization, DAV is exempt from Federal income tax as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to DAV are tax deductible pursuant to Title 26 U.S.C., Section 170(c).

**Use of Estimates** - The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of support, revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

**Allocation of Joint Costs** - In 1999, DAV incurred joint costs of \$43,295,230 for informational materials and activities that included fund-raising appeals. Of those costs, \$15,559,936 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$27,735,294 was allocated to fund raising costs.

**New Standards** - In 1999 the DAV adopted Statement of Position 98-2, "Accounting for Costs of Activities of Not-For-Profit Organizations and State and Local Governmental Entities That Include Fund Raising" (Statement), which was issued by the Accounting Standards Executive Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The adoption of this Statement caused the DAV to exclude the cost of one of its mailings from the allocation of joint costs and to report all of the costs of this mailing as fund raising (approximately \$1,300,000 more was reported as fund raising due to the adoption of this statement).

### 3. DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

Certain unrestricted net assets have been designated by DAV's National Finance Committee for disaster relief. As of December 31, 1999, \$209,832 is designated for assistance to disabled veterans and their families who have suffered losses resulting from natural disasters.

### 4. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Under the bylaws of DAV, any eligible person may become a life member. Amounts paid for membership are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay chapter, department and national (DAV) per

capita dues for life members. Generally, life membership assets for national per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAV at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and deferred and recognized as income in the statement of activities over the course of the membership year. The per capita chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year.

The following summary represents the changes during 1999 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues:

Balance, January 1, 1999	<u>\$93,034,721</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	2,741,178
Earnings on invested assets	2,735,976
Gain on sale of investments	9,267,661
Total	<u>14,744,815</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National Headquarters	7,466,316
Local Chapters	3,055,886
State Departments	2,460,762
Total	<u>12,982,964</u>
Increase in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>592,455</u>
Balance, December 31, 1999	<u><u>\$95,389,027</u></u>

#### 5. PENSION PLAN AND POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

DAV has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees. Benefits are based on years of service and employees' compensation. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected in the future. In 1999, DAV funded amounts in excess of the recommended actuarially determined contribution amount. Contributions to the plan are based on the Projected Unit Credit Actuarial cost method.

DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. Substantially all of DAV's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for DAV.

Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
As of December 31, 1999:		
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 70,792,760	
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation		\$ 29,719,000
Fair value of plan assets	57,770,275	254,000
Funded status	(13,022,485)	(29,465,000)
Accrued benefit cost recognized in the statement of financial position	(8,195,243)	(23,252,857)
For the year ended December 31, 1999:		
Benefit cost (including pension settlement cost of \$4,077,000 related to lump sum payment option under the Plan)	7,975,861	4,043,000
Employer contribution	15,000,000	1,099,000
Benefits paid	(12,797,728)	(1,224,000)
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:		
Discount rate	7.75 %	7.75 %
Expected return on plan assets	8.75 %	7.25 %
Rate of compensation increase	4.50 %	

The provisions of SFAS No. 87, "Employers' Accounting for Pensions," required the DAV to recognize an additional minimum liability with an offsetting reduction of net assets of \$11,152,609 at December 31, 1999. This liability represents the amount by which the accumulated benefit obligation (\$65,967,706) exceeded the sum of the fair market value of plan assets and prepaid amounts previously recorded. The 1999 effect of recognizing the minimum liability resulted in an increase in net assets of \$1,913,559.

The accumulated postretirement benefit obligation and related benefit cost are determined through the application of relevant actuarial assumptions. DAV anticipates the increase in its health care cost trend rate to slow from 9.5% in 1999 to 5.5% in 2018, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

DAV also maintains a defined contribution Salary Savings and Investment Plan for its employees. For qualified employees electing to participate in the Plan, DAV contributes a percentage of the employees' base salary. DAV's contributions in 1999 were \$840,550 and are included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

#### 6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

**Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation** - The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation ("Foundation") which are held by the Foundation and available to DAV only through appropriation by the Foundation's Board of Directors. The National Service Foundation is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon audited financial statements at December 31, 1999, net assets of the Foundation were \$26,153,462. During 1999, DAV provided the Foundation with the use of DAV personnel, facilities and equipment. For the personnel services, DAV

charged the Foundation \$112,388. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. Additionally, in 1999, DAV contributed \$500,000 to The Colorado Trust, a temporarily restricted fund established by the Foundation to provide funds for the service programs of needy DAV state departments and local chapters. At December 31, 1999, the Foundation owed \$61,413 to DAV which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

***Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust*** - Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust ("Trust") was established in 1986. The Trust is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity which receives most of its contributions from the Combined Federal Campaign. The Trust is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. During 1999, DAV provided the Trust with the use of DAV personnel, facilities and equipment. For the personnel services, DAV charged the Trust \$35,122. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. The DAV also provides fundraising support to the Trust at no charge. At December 31, 1999, the Trust owed \$36,346 to DAV which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Deloitte &  
Touche**



***DISABLED AMERICAN  
VETERANS AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS***

*Financial Statements for the Year Ended  
December 31, 1999 and Independent Auditors'  
Report*

**Deloitte Touche  
Tohmatsu**

**Deloitte &  
Touche**



**Deloitte & Touche LLP**  
280 East Fifth Street  
P.O. Box 5340  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5340

Telephone: (513) 784-7100

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

National Finance Committee,  
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the Auxiliary) as of December 31, 1999 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Auxiliary's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Auxiliary as of December 31, 1999 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Deloitte & Touche LLP*

March 13, 2000

**Deloitte Touche  
Tohmatsu**

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 1998 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR 1998**

ASSETS	1999	1998	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1999	1998
<b>GENERAL ASSETS:</b>			<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 4,325,042	\$ 3,493,397	Accounts payable - DAV National Headquarters	\$ 330,195	\$ 266,201
Investments at fair market value (Note 2)	898,352	1,094,926	Contributions distributable to state departments	148,576	113,828
Accrued interest receivable	26,721	18,205	Accrued vacation and sick leave pay	100,323	100,323
Materials and supplies	115,687	125,227	Deferred membership fees (Note 2)	555,798	615,632
Prepaid expenses	10,663	17,541	Other	6,136	7,561
Other assets	23,804	41,209	Reserve for future distribution of Life Membership dues (Note 4)	8,295,787	8,770,284
<b>SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS - Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,5)</b>	<b>225,623</b>	<b>194,104</b>	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>9,436,815</b>	<b>9,873,829</b>
<b>DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS -</b>			<b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,5)	8,363	8,513	Unrestricted - General (Note 3)	4,259,241	3,686,960
<b>EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM ASSETS:</b>			Temporarily restricted - Service Program (Note 5)	225,623	194,104
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,5)	916,865	869,356	Temporarily restricted - Disaster Relief Program (Note 5)	8,363	8,513
Notes receivable (less allowance of \$6,600 in 1999 and 1998) (Note 5)	172,745	172,788	Permanently restricted - Education Loan Program (Note 5)	1,089,610	1,042,144
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:</b>			<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>5,582,837</b>	<b>4,931,721</b>
Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2,4)	749,468	423,862			
Accrued interest receivable	67,371	111,579			
Investments at fair market value (Notes 2,4)	7,478,948	8,234,843			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,019,652</b>	<b>\$ 14,805,550</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,019,652</b>	<b>\$ 14,805,550</b>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR 1998**

	1999					1998				
	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted - Service Program	Temporarily Restricted - Disaster Relief Program	Permanently Restricted - Education Loan Program	Total	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted - Service Program	Temporarily Restricted - Disaster Relief Program	Permanently Restricted - Education Loan Program	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>										
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 441,662	\$ 7,252		\$ 8,102	\$ 457,016	\$ 441,662	\$ 7,252		\$ 8,102	\$ 457,016
Life Membership dues (Note 4)	724,170				724,170	724,170				724,170
Contributions (Note 2)	276,823	21,513	\$ 2,850	14,037	315,223	276,823	21,513	\$ 2,850	14,037	315,223
Contributed facilities (Notes 2,7)	23,300				23,300	23,300				23,300
Sale of membership items, less related direct costs of \$43,534	14,511				14,511	14,511				14,511
Conference and meetings	13,940				13,940	13,940				13,940
Interest income	17,875				17,875	17,875				17,875
Net assets released from restrictions	254,756	7,432	(3,000)	25,327	285,515	254,756	7,432	(3,000)	25,327	285,515
Other	7,445	(4,445)			3,000	7,445	(4,445)			3,000
Total revenues	<u>20,710</u>	<u>31,519</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>47,466</u>	<u>1,856,785</u>	<u>20,710</u>	<u>31,519</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>47,466</u>	<u>1,856,785</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>										
Salaries and wages	398,117				398,117	398,117				398,117
Employee benefits (Note 6)	112,255				112,255	112,255				112,255
Distributions to state departments	146,877				146,877	146,877				146,877
Fundraising expenses	129,946				129,946	129,946				129,946
Membership drive expenses	29,542				29,542	29,542				29,542
Payroll taxes	54,254				54,254	54,254				54,254
Conference and meetings	75,806				75,806	75,806				75,806
Expenses of National Convention	42,765				42,765	42,765				42,765
Printing, stationery and office supplies	14,833				14,833	14,833				14,833
Expenses of National Commander and officers	25,300				25,300	25,300				25,300
Contributed facilities (Notes 2,7)	57,032				57,032	57,032				57,032
Postage	32,044				32,044	32,044				32,044
Travel	14,800				14,800	14,800				14,800
Professional fees	4,445				4,445	4,445				4,445
Service program benefits	3,000				3,000	3,000				3,000
Disaster relief program benefits	10,089				10,089	10,089				10,089
VAVS, memberships and other awards	54,564				54,564	54,564				54,564
Other										
Total expenses	<u>1,205,669</u>	<u>31,519</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>47,466</u>	<u>1,285,504</u>	<u>1,205,669</u>	<u>31,519</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>47,466</u>	<u>1,285,504</u>
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>										
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	\$72,281				\$72,281	\$72,281				\$72,281
NET ASSETS, End of year	<u>3,086,960</u>	<u>194,104</u>	<u>8,513</u>	<u>1,042,144</u>	<u>4,332,356</u>	<u>3,086,960</u>	<u>194,104</u>	<u>8,513</u>	<u>1,042,144</u>	<u>4,332,356</u>
NET ASSETS, End of year	<u>\$4,259,241</u>	<u>\$225,623</u>	<u>\$ 8,363</u>	<u>\$1,089,610</u>	<u>\$5,582,837</u>	<u>\$4,259,241</u>	<u>\$225,623</u>	<u>\$ 8,363</u>	<u>\$1,089,610</u>	<u>\$5,582,837</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 WITH COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS FOR 1998**

	1999	1998
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 651,116	\$ 611,365
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to cash provided by operating activities:		
Permanently restricted contributions and interest income	(47,466)	(46,498)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Accrued interest receivable	35,692	(16,755)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	24,283	(20,770)
Materials and supplies	9,540	(14,025)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	63,994	64,801
Deferred membership fees	(59,834)	23,392
Reserve for life membership dues	(253,304)	19,030
Contributions distributable to state departments	34,748	(84,001)
Other liabilities	(1,425)	(1,928)
Total adjustments	(193,772)	(76,754)
Net cash provided by operations	457,344	534,611
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease (increase) in general fund investments	196,574	(199,368)
Decrease in Life Membership investments	534,701	407,831
Education loans	(32,900)	(30,000)
Collections from repayment of education loans	32,944	33,787
Net cash provided by investing activities	731,319	212,250
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES -		
Permanently restricted education fund contributions and interest income	47,466	46,498
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,236,129	793,359
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:		
Beginning of year	4,989,232	4,195,873
End of year	\$ 6,225,361	\$ 4,989,232

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999**

---

**1. ORGANIZATION**

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (DAV Auxiliary) is a not-for-profit membership and service organization organized under the provisions of the National Constitution of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The DAV Auxiliary and its membership are organized for the betterment and improvement of the nation's disabled veterans and their families and for cooperation with all patriotic organizations and public agencies devoted to this purpose through volunteer work at veterans' hospitals, community service, educational assistance, legislative action, and encouraging good citizenship and patriotism. The DAV auxiliary is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*Financial Statements* - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

The accompanying financial statements include certain prior year information summarized from DAV Auxiliary's 1998 financial statements. Such information does not include sufficient detail, and is not intended, to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Contributions* - Contributions received are recorded at their fair value and are classified as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support. All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in unrestricted net assets if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents* - For the purpose of reporting cash flows, the DAV Auxiliary considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents.

*Investments* - The DAV Auxiliary records investments at fair (market) value. The fair value of the DAV Auxiliary's investments is determined based on the quoted market price of the related securities. Gains and losses resulting from the sale of securities are recognized at the time of disposition and are computed using the specific identification method.

The cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized gain (loss) at December 31, 1999 are summarized below:

	Cost	Market Value	Unrealized Net Gain/ (Loss)
Money market investments	\$ 794,339	\$ 794,339	
Corporate bonds	3,520,967	3,407,146	\$(113,821)
U.S. Treasury obligations	2,523,239	2,483,557	(39,682)
Equity mutual fund	1,574,808	1,692,258	117,450
Total	<u>\$8,413,353</u>	<u>\$8,377,300</u>	<u>\$ (36,053)</u>

**Deferred Membership Fees** - The DAV Auxiliary accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to income ratably during the membership year for which they are paid.

**Use of Estimates** - The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

### 3. FREEDOM FOUNDATION

The DAV Auxiliary has designated \$16,046 of unrestricted funds for the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

### 4. RESERVE FOR FUTURE DISTRIBUTION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES

Under its by-laws life membership in the DAV Auxiliary is available to any person eligible for senior membership. Amounts paid are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay local units, state departments and national headquarters (DAV Auxiliary) per capita dues for life members. Generally, Life Membership assets for national per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of the DAV Auxiliary at the beginning of the membership year (July 1), and deferred and recognized as income in the statement of activities over the course of the membership year. The per capita dues are distributed to units and departments at the beginning of the membership year.

The following summary represents the changes during 1999 in the reserve for future distribution of dues:

Balance, January 1, 1999	<u>\$8,770,284</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	240,697
Earnings on invested assets	440,568
Total	<u>681,265</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	724,170
Dues to Local units	77,162
Dues to State Departments	113,759
Unrealized depreciation of investments	221,193
Investment fee	19,478
Total	<u>1,155,762</u>
Balance, December 31, 1999	<u>\$8,295,787</u>

#### 5. DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

**Education Loan Program** - Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit (local chapters) as a mandate for educational loans are recorded as permanently restricted assets from which loans are made to students in accordance with the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary. The maximum amount of an education loan is \$1,000 per year for a maximum of four years per student; the loan bears no interest and is to be repaid in seven years beginning 90 days after the student's graduation or withdrawal from school.

**Disaster Relief Program** - Donations from units and individuals are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets which are used for members of the DAV Auxiliary who are in need of temporary financial assistance due to natural disaster, such as flood, earthquake, etc. Benefits are paid directly to the individual.

**Service Program** - Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for the Service Program are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets which are used for persons eligible for the DAV Auxiliary who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary. The total amount of assistance is limited to \$500 per individual and in the aggregate is limited to total temporarily restricted net assets. Benefits are paid directly to the service provider and not to the individual.

#### 6. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

All employees of the DAV Auxiliary are covered by Disabled American Veterans Retirement Plan, a defined benefit pension plan. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation during the last three years of service. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date, but also for those expected in the future. In 1999, DAV charged the DAV Auxiliary \$103,960 for its share of the retirement plan cost.

DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. All employees of the DAV Auxiliary may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the DAV Auxiliary. In 1999, DAV did not charge the DAV Auxiliary for these benefits.



**7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The DAV Auxiliary occupies space in the DAV National Headquarter's building and also uses certain office equipment owned by the DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$25,300 in 1999 and is included as revenue and expense on the accompanying statement of activities.

Certain costs are paid by DAV National Headquarters on behalf of the DAV Auxiliary. Such costs are reimbursed by the DAV Auxiliary.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: At this time I'd like to entertain a motion that the list of delegates and alternates selected by the 21 national districts and the National Blind Veterans Chapter to serve on the convention committees be admitted into the record of the proceedings of this convention. Mike 2.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, moves.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Al. Could we have a second?

MR. RAYMOND G. RAULERSON: Ray Raulerson, Chapter 11, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Further discussion? All those in favor, say Aye; opposed? Carried.

(Whereupon, the following are DAV National Convention Committees.)

#### 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
----------	-------------------------------	-----------------------

#### COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

01.....	John F. Gilpin, Jr.....	Massachusetts 050
(Alt)....	Frank J. Drogo.....	Massachusetts 029
02.....	Allan Boudreau.....	New York 126
(Alt)....	William F. Galvin.....	New York 034
03.....	Ralph E. Waterman.....	Maine 001
(Alt)....	Louis T. Folcarelli.....	Rhode Island 001
04.....	Richard E. Manners.....	New Jersey 014
(Alt)....	Mary J. Bencivenga.....	New Jersey 024
05.....	Donald B. Davis.....	Pennsylvania 014
(Alt)....	William F. Coley.....	Pennsylvania 014
06.....	Sloan H. Hoopes.....	Virginia 003
(Alt)....	Carl E. Bethke.....	Maryland 033
07.....	Edward Barnshaw.....	Florida 018
(Alt)....	Charles C. Perkins.....	Florida 144
08.....	Lee R. Richard.....	Louisiana 017
(Alt)....	Roy J. Broussard.....	Louisiana 017
09.....	Julius Small, Jr.....	Georgia 001
(Alt)....	Ernest H. Stroud.....	South Carolina 014
10.....	Russell Spalding.....	Michigan 020
(Alt)....	Carl W. Poest.....	Michigan 014
11.....	Jack P. Moga.....	Ohio 116
(Alt)....	Michael L. Clerk.....	Ohio 108
12.....	Laverel R. Pieper.....	Wisconsin 003
(Alt)....	Robert K. Holland.....	Illinois 071
13.....	Eric D. McGinnis.....	Indiana 003
(Alt)....	Ronald C. Fox.....	Indiana 003
14.....	James N. Olson.....	Minnesota 002
(Alt)....	Victor C. Hass.....	North Dakota 004
15.....	Francis E. McLaskey.....	Iowa 010
(Alt)....	Lonnie L. Barton, Jr.....	Missouri 004
16.....	Patrick J. Carroll.....	California 012
(Alt)....	Kenneth J. Wingett.....	California 048
17.....	Billy F. Jones, Sr.....	New Mexico 029
(Alt)....	Silverio Joe Armijo.....	New Mexico 003
18.....	Louis Kaciwi.....	Hawaii 006
(Alt)....	Phillip R. Seward.....	Arizona 011
19.....	Sarah J. Royse.....	Washington 046
(Alt)....	Robert W. Vietz.....	Washington 018
20.....	William M. Smith.....	Texas 009
(Alt)....	Eric M. Gustafson.....	Texas 089
21.....	Dorwin S. Reed.....	Oklahoma 039
(Alt)....	David W. Spurgin.....	Arkansas 046
Blind Vets		
	Floyd O. Britting.....	Blind Veterans 001
(Alt)	Thomas E. Heath.....	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Michael J. Walsh and Edward G. Galian

## 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
----------	-------------------------------	-----------------------

## COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

01.....	Thomas J. Daley.....	Massachusetts 049
(Alt)....	Mason J. Sullivan.....	Massachusetts 049
02.....	Claude A. Nelson.....	New York 047
(Alt)....	Norwood D. Hunter.....	New York 028
03.....	Kenneth J. Kooyman.....	Rhode Island 017
(Alt)....	Al Rathbun.....	Rhode Island 017
04.....	Maurice E. Ames.....	Connecticut 048
(Alt)....	David W. Williams.....	Connecticut 047
05.....	Harding Byrd.....	Pennsylvania 015
(Alt)....	Constance Bates-Coleman.....	Pennsylvania 058
06.....	David L. Tannenbaum.....	Virginia 015
(Alt)....	Julenne Dean.....	West Virginia 032
07.....	Albert H. Linden, Jr.....	Florida 090
(Alt)....	Harry R. McDonald, Jr.....	Florida 057
08.....	Neal R. Schultz.....	Alabama 012
(Alt)....	Harold J. Hicks.....	Alabama 051
09.....	James O. Stewart.....	South Carolina 011
(Alt)....	Ronald H. Howlett.....	North Carolina 020
10.....	Morris Pernermon.....	Michigan 001
(Alt)....	Roy A. Redmond.....	Michigan 002
11.....	David L. Shepherd.....	Ohio 028
(Alt)....	Raymond H. Hutchinson.....	Ohio 063
12.....	Douglas D. Jensen, Sr.....	Wisconsin 062
(Alt)....	George M. Isdale, Jr.....	Illinois 022
13.....	Harold L. Soult.....	Indiana 052
(Alt)....	Floyd L. Walters.....	Indiana 019
14.....	Bernard R. Melter.....	Minnesota 005
(Alt)....	Rex Kiser.....	Minnesota 001
15.....	Russell E. Haun.....	Kansas 022
(Alt)....	A. Rondal McKinney.....	Missouri 002
16.....	Kenneth Musseimann.....	California 019
(Alt)....	Henry A. Veillette.....	California 073
17.....	Floyd Watson, Jr.....	Wyoming 002
(Alt)....	Wayne D. Chesnut.....	Wyoming 011
18.....	Anthony J. Stanisci.....	Arizona 001
(Alt)....	Darrell Carey, Sr.....	Arizona 008
19.....	Raymond E. Guise, Jr.....	Oregon 011
(Alt)....	Edward C. Mazza.....	Oregon 011
20.....	William A. Bone.....	Texas 003
(Alt)....	John E. Goodman.....	Texas 026
21.....	Cecil Stevenson.....	Arkansas 026
(Alt)....	Robert E. Noah.....	Arkansas 053
Blind Vets		
	Terry M. Livingston.....	Blind Veterans 001
(Alt)....	Richard D. Holden.....	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Kenneth G. Musselmann and Fred R. Bristol

## COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

01.....	Rodney A. Zablan.....	Massachusetts 082
(Alt)....	James E. Bixby.....	Massachusetts 029
02.....	Alvin Lee Burks.....	New York 076
(Alt)....	David F. Ross.....	New York 120
03.....	Stephen C. Moffitt, Sr.....	Rhode Island 000
(Alt)....	Ronald W. Reilly.....	New Hampshire 004
04.....	Herbert G. Henn.....	New Jersey 032
(Alt)....	Albert W.M. Doak.....	Connecticut 012
05.....	Kirby C. Lindsey.....	Pennsylvania 075
(Alt)....	Vincent P. Darcangelo.....	Pennsylvania 055
06.....	Michael J. Piper.....	Maryland 021
(Alt)....	Ronald L. Smith.....	Maryland 023
07.....	Ernest F. Hartman.....	Florida 094
(Alt)....	Herbert A. Lewis, Jr.....	Florida 013

## 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
08.....	James M. Cox.....	Louisiana 030
(Alt)....	Alfred Doucette, Jr.....	Louisiana 017
09.....	Prince Tucker, Jr.....	South Carolina 055
(Alt)....	Andrew J. Wingo, Sr.....	South Carolina 054
10.....	Rolly D. Lee, Sr.....	Michigan 105
(Alt)....	Robert P. Pegenau, Sr.....	Michigan 022
11.....	Calvin R. Hall.....	Ohio 001
(Alt)....	Robert L. Cupp.....	Ohio 036
12.....	Thomas F. Pienta.....	Wisconsin 045
(Alt)....	James R. Harris.....	Illinois 047
13.....		
(Alt)....	Loran Rutledge.....	Indiana 045
14.....	Delbert J. Foster, Jr.....	South Dakota 001
(Alt)....	Claud L. Adkins.....	South Dakota 003
15.....	William A. Bowman.....	Nebraska 007
(Alt)....	Jerome W. Fitzsimons.....	Iowa 020
16.....	Ruben R. Trejo.....	California 039
(Alt)....	Robert R. Ehlers.....	California 046
17.....	Terry D. Schow.....	Utah 004
(Alt)....	Douglas K. Wells, Jr.....	Utah 006
18.....	Rogelio Evangelista.....	Hawaii 002
(Alt)....	Jesse Fortner.....	Arizona 001
19.....	Daniel Memmesheimer.....	Washington 005
(Alt)....	Michael C. Kiser.....	Washington 005
20.....	Carmen Hix.....	Texas 009
(Alt)....	Jack R. Hunter.....	Texas 005
21.....	Frances Liotta.....	Oklahoma 032
(Alt)....	Paul D. Watson.....	Arkansas 007

Advisors: Paul W. Jackson and Anthony L. Baskerville

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND DUES

01.....	Arthur S. Cushing.....	Massachusetts 017
(Alt)....	Donald R. Burning.....	Massachusetts 004
02.....	Anthony L. Miranda.....	New York 145
(Alt)....	Tony F. Ntellas.....	New York 028
03.....	Albert V. Leclerc.....	Rhode Island 012
(Alt)....	Donald J. O'Connell.....	Rhode Island 017
04.....	Edward F. Norman.....	Connecticut 006
(Alt)....	Christine L. Bell.....	Connecticut 017
05.....	Charles G. Ofiesh.....	Pennsylvania 034
(Alt)....	Frank A. Lo Galbo, Jr.....	Pennsylvania 117
06.....	Herbert L. Belton.....	District of Columbia 003
(Alt)....	Eugene A. Di Clemente.....	West Virginia 006
07.....	Roger H. Sullivan.....	Florida 087
(Alt)....	Eduardo Posada.....	Florida 012
08.....	Ike Doc Coleman, III.....	Mississippi 005
(Alt)....	Jimmy R. Reece.....	Mississippi 056
09.....	Wesley D. McKelvey.....	North Carolina 046
(Alt)....	Alvin Z. Collins.....	Georgia 001
10.....	Ben Benzing.....	Michigan 018
(Alt)....	James E. Bruney.....	Michigan 002
11.....	Douglas E. Lay.....	Ohio 142
(Alt)....	David C. Uetterling.....	Ohio 036
12.....	James J. Ferrara.....	Illinois 055
(Alt)....	Cynthia D. Finnegan.....	Wisconsin 014
13.....	Fred A. Sutton.....	Indiana 009
(Alt)....	Kerry L. Baker.....	Kentucky 155
14.....	Jerome G. Krejci.....	North Dakota 002
(Alt)....	Richard W. Turpen.....	Minnesota 001
15.....	Harold G. Benoit.....	Kansas 034
(Alt)....	Thomas J. Marchese.....	Nebraska 002
16.....	Henri Opas.....	California 073
(Alt)....	Terri Pacheco.....	California 023
17.....	Caroline D. Mason.....	Colorado 021

## 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
(Alt)....	Clarence D. Viator.....	Utah 014
18.....	W. D. Brzezinski.....	Nevada 011
(Alt)....	Henry De Jonge.....	Arizona 027
19.....	Fay A. Lyon.....	Washington 046
(Alt)....	Shane Slade-Compton.....	Washington 033
20.....	Rex A. Lloyd.....	Texas 009
(Alt)....	Clemille Bergeron, Jr.....	Texas 005
21.....	Thomas J. Davis, Jr.....	Oklahoma 056
(Alt)....	Frank E. Nye.....	Oklahoma 049
Blind Vets	Charles O'Braden.....	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Thomas C. Johns and Richard E. Patterson

## COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

01.....	James H. Tanner.....	Massachusetts 010
(Alt)....	Joseph A. Costa.....	Massachusetts 056
02.....	Robert N. Petucci.....	New York 185
(Alt)....	Michael G. Scholl, Jr.....	New York 166
03.....	Leonard F. Dudley.....	Rhode Island 001
(Alt)....	Roger A. Bourgeroy.....	Vermont 003
04.....	Arnold S. Alcordo.....	New Jersey 003
(Alt)....	John G. Kerrigan.....	New Jersey 041
05.....	Wilbert O'Neill, Jr.....	Pennsylvania 061
(Alt)....	Jay E. Woodbury.....	Pennsylvania 115
06.....	Eliud S. Rodriguez.....	Puerto Rico 016
(Alt)....	James Hornshaw.....	Virginia 022
07.....	Albert M. Sorrentino.....	Florida 030
(Alt)....	Michael G. Cabral.....	Florida 030
08.....	Gilbert M. Jackson.....	Tennessee 070
(Alt)....	Charles Medlin.....	Tennessee 070
09.....	Coy W. Hennis.....	North Carolina 020
(Alt)....	Eddie L. Baumgardner.....	South Carolina 030
10.....	Alfred L. Hindes.....	Michigan 003
(Alt)....	Harold E. De Forest.....	Michigan 129
11.....	Harlan F. Plummer.....	Ohio 071
(Alt)....	Joseph Rice, Jr.....	Ohio 035
12.....	Larry W. Hauger.....	Wisconsin 002
(Alt)....	Elmo R. Younger.....	Illinois 086
13.....	Stephen C. Combs.....	Kentucky 006
(Alt)....	R. Gregory Belak.....	Kentucky 003
14.....	Wayne W. Blue.....	Minnesota 001
(Alt)....	Michael J. Semborski.....	Minnesota 002
15.....	Jack W. White.....	Missouri 010
(Alt)....	Paul E. Cornelius.....	Kansas 028
16.....	Maggie L. Christensen.....	California 058
(Alt)....	Delphine Metcalf.....	California 021
17.....	Jerry T. Jordan.....	Colorado 058
(Alt)....	Theodore Roybal.....	New Mexico 003
18.....	Edward W. Johnson.....	Nevada 007
(Alt)....	Jack E. Ware.....	Arizona 018
19.....	Shirley M. Scofield.....	Idaho 028
(Alt)....	Robert L. Sellers.....	Idaho 019
20.....	Paul Mendoza.....	Texas 005
(Alt)....	William P. Brown.....	Texas 009
21.....	Kevin R. Grantier.....	Oklahoma 007
(Alt)....	Gary B. Gray.....	Arkansas 007
Blind Vets	Theodore Romig, Jr.....	Blind Veterans 001

Advisor: Rick Surratt

## COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES

01.....	George F. Fincel.....	Massachusetts 074
---------	-----------------------	-------------------

## 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
(Alt)....	John H. Walsh.....	Massachusetts 035
02.....	Leo Ortiz.....	New York 005
(Alt)....	Heather R. Mortensen.....	New York 034
03.....	Raymond S. Sanchas.....	Rhode Island 013
(Alt)....	Clifford P. Workman.....	Maine 015
04.....	Troy J. Shoemaker.....	Connecticut 010
(Alt)....	Timothy J. Kelly.....	Connecticut 019
05.....	Kathryn I. Scherlek.....	Pennsylvania 067
(Alt)....	Orval A. Williams.....	Pennsylvania 073
06.....	John Plude.....	Maryland 030
(Alt)....	Enid B. Zysk.....	Virginia 014
07.....	Silva E. Royer.....	Florida 093
(Alt)....	Robert A. Melcher.....	Florida 004
08.....	Stephen T. Dagistino.....	Tennessee 032
09.....	Emanuel Poston, Jr.....	South Carolina 004
(Alt)....	James E. Phagan.....	Georgia 001
10.....	Joseph Parys.....	Michigan 051
(Alt)....	Joseph M. Connelly.....	Michigan 114
11.....	Garry J. Augustine.....	Ohio 042
(Alt)....	Hiram Shearer, Jr.....	Ohio 115
12.....	Anthony Martino.....	Illinois 016
(Alt)....	Daryl A. Pahl.....	Wisconsin 002
13.....	James E. Riddle.....	Indiana 005
(Alt)....	Daniel R. Parker.....	Kentucky 089
14.....	Moses W. Carr, Jr.....	Minnesota 001
(Alt)....	Frank J. Jones.....	South Dakota 003
15.....	Frederick F. Herman.....	Nebraska 002
(Alt)....	Ralph M. Haney.....	Iowa 020
16.....	Timothy R. Roy.....	California 125
(Alt)....	Mariana M. Raba, M.D.....	California 006
17.....	Jack O. Bills.....	Utah 002
(Alt)....	Thomas G. Daubert.....	New Mexico 003
18.....	Gerald L. Ogle.....	Nevada 012
(Alt)....	Clifford M. Hose, Sr.....	Hawaii 006
19.....	Alex J. Plys.....	Washington 033
(Alt)....	Emelda Henson.....	Idaho 002
20.....	Frank L. Webb.....	Texas 009
(Alt)....	Kandis A. Myers.....	Texas 017
21.....	Loretta J. Rethard.....	Oklahoma 085
(Alt)....	Howard K. Deshields.....	Oklahoma 039

Advisors: Jerry P. Steelman and David A. Golliver

## COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS

01.....	John P. Rogers.....	Massachusetts 010
(Alt)....	Daniel P. Stack.....	Massachusetts 004
02.....	William Novak, Jr.....	New York 005
(Alt)....	Russell P. De Blasi.....	New York 016
03.....	Norman R. Michaud.....	Maine 001
(Alt)....	Michael Venezia.....	Vermont 022
04.....	Charles A. Kashner.....	Delaware 001
(Alt)....	William C. Phillips.....	Delaware 000
05.....	George I. Ford, Sr.....	Pennsylvania 014
(Alt)....	James E. Uckele.....	Pennsylvania 092
06.....	Jacob N. Stafford.....	West Virginia 056
(Alt)....	Henry E. Proctor.....	District of Columbia 005
07.....	Richard E. Giese.....	Florida 028
(Alt)....	Phillip J. Condon.....	Florida 004
08.....	Hollis O. Bridges.....	Alabama 026
(Alt)....	Vincent S. Coll.....	Alabama 006
09.....	Wallace E. Tyson.....	North Carolina 046
(Alt)....	Thomas F. Graham.....	Georgia 070
10.....	Harvey D. Slotman.....	Michigan 002
(Alt)....	Richard Straub, III.....	Michigan 002
11.....	Frank D. Williams.....	Ohio 013

## 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
(Alt)....	Robert C. Barnhart.....	Ohio 047
12.....	Robert Jansky.....	Illinois 022
(Alt)....	Thomas W. Rymer.....	Wisconsin 045
13.....	Jerome C. Baker.....	Indiana 003
(Alt)....	Joseph S. Carroll.....	Indiana 052
14.....	William L. Faulstich.....	Minnesota 001
15.....	Prezell Frazier.....	Iowa 020
(Alt)....	David W. Thomason.....	Nebraska 007
16.....	Don J. Pouliot.....	California 002
(Alt)....	Brandan A. Blackburn.....	California 007
17.....	Richard Bowman, Jr.....	Wyoming 002
(Alt)....	Higinio J. Gallegos.....	New Mexico 003
18.....	Anthony D. Mangine.....	Arizona 011
(Alt)....	Marina Jimenez.....	Nevada 012
19.....	L. A. Stringer, Sr.....	Idaho 022
(Alt)....	Shawn D. Colpaert.....	Washington 018
20.....	Gerald J. Cowan.....	Texas 137
(Alt)....	German W. Biedenfeld.....	Texas 009
21.....	Bobby W. Hines.....	Oklahoma 032
(Alt)....	Robert E. Lougee.....	Oklahoma 007
Blind Vets		
	Robert H. Dawson.....	Blind Veterans 001
(Alt)....	Harold E. Humphrey.....	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Joseph A. Violante and Thomas L. Tomlinson

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

01.....	Gerard A. Bussiere.....	Massachusetts 050
(Alt)....	Thomas J. Daley.....	Massachusetts 049
02.....	Sidney Siller.....	New York 023
(Alt)....	John J. Skyler.....	New York 113
03.....	Gregory S. Holmes.....	Maine 015
(Alt)....	Robert A. Nicodemus.....	Vermont 003
04.....	Salvatore Lo Sauro.....	New Jersey 015
(Alt)....	Anthony C. Giantonio.....	New Jersey 032
05.....	Jim Wyatt.....	Pennsylvania 115
(Alt)....	Craig D. Strauss.....	Pennsylvania 076
06.....	Robert T. Reynolds.....	Virginia 010
(Alt)....	James M. Combs.....	Virginia 024
07.....	Dennis A. Joyner.....	Florida 104
(Alt)....	Andy Marshall.....	Florida 004
08.....	Wilbur L. Trahan.....	Mississippi 005
(Alt)....	H. C. Franklin, Jr.....	Mississippi 048
09.....	Richard D. Mann.....	North Carolina 089
(Alt)....	Michael J. Truscello.....	South Carolina 051
10.....	T. A. McMasters, III.....	Michigan 129
(Alt)....	David E. Smith.....	Michigan 003
11.....	Joseph R. Lenhart.....	Ohio 073
(Alt)....	Theodore Karageorge.....	Ohio 116
12.....	Sidney Bick.....	Illinois 047
(Alt)....	Dorothy R. Schilling.....	Wisconsin 019
13.....	Michael A. Whelihan.....	Indiana 052
(Alt)....	James V. Thureau.....	Indiana 052
14.....	Gene A. Murphy.....	South Dakota 001
(Alt)....	Joseph M. Litzinger.....	North Dakota 002
15.....	Mick Jones.....	Missouri 017
(Alt)....	Kenneth F. Ketchum.....	Kansas 007
16.....	Michael W. Tempesta.....	California 001
(Alt)....	Al A. Tortolano.....	California 011
17.....	Robert N. Moffett.....	New Mexico 013
(Alt)....	John L. Richard.....	New Mexico 003
18.....	Hermon T. Harrison.....	Arizona 008
(Alt)....	Louis G. Blakely.....	Arizona 001
19.....	David N. Harris.....	Washington 041
(Alt)....	Harold E. Wiley.....	Washington 046

## 2000 NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA - Continued

District	Name (Delegate and alternate)	Chapter No. and State
20.....	Claude J. Boggs, Sr.....	Texas 128
(Alt)....	Alphonso R. Altieri.....	Texas 057
21.....	Irvin D. Eddy.....	Oklahoma 057
(Alt)....	Bobby R. Eddy.....	Oklahoma 057
Blind Vets		
	Charles O'Braden.....	Blind Veterans 001
(Alt)....	Joseph F. Wallace.....	Blind Veterans 001

Advisors: Gene A. Murphy and William E. Leach

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: And now I'd like to have our chairman of the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services, introduce Kathryn Scherlek.

MS. KATHRYN SCHERLEK: Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services was called to order for its first business session on August 21st, 2000, by the committee advisors, Dave Goliver, Jerry Steelman and Dick Wannamaker.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chair, Kathryn Scherlek, District 5, was nominated for the chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Kathryn Scherlek, District 5, was elected chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Sylva E. Royer, District 7 was nominated and selected as secretary of the committee. The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and RESOLVED portions of the resolutions.

281. Support the provision of comprehensive VA health care services to entitled veterans.

282. Amend Title 38 USC to include dental care and treatment to all enrolled veterans within the VA health care system.

173. Support the provision of emergency health care in non-VA facilities to veterans enrolled in VA's health care system.

174. Oppose an increase in or extension of VA health care co-payments.

36. Support additional funding for CBOCs now and in the future.

126. Increase the limitation for fee-based care.

34. Oppose third-party payments for service-connected disability.

229. Oppose the imposition of user fees outpatient medical care at military medical facilities.

177. Urge the VA to impose guidelines to preclude inappropriate use of nonphysicians for disability examinations.

35. Support enhancement of long-term health care to veterans.

135. Lift restrictions for VA physicians to provide opinions for VA patients.

92. Support legislation to extend CHAMPVA entitlement until graduation of full-time students.

33. Support legislation which provides service-connected veterans priority within the VA health care system.

195. Support adequate salary and pay levels for VA physicians, dentists and nurses.

196. Support VA paying its fair share of the cost of caring for veterans residing in state veterans homes.

176. Support adequate medical services and benefits for women veterans.

237. Reorganize VISN's to be responsive to geographic accessibility and diverse needs of veterans.

288. Extend appreciation to the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno, Nevada, for the success of the 79th National



Convention.

289. Extend appreciation to Electric Mobility, VA division for the success of the 79th Convention.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services, and I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

#### RESOLUTION NO. 033--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS PRIORITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Public Law 104-262 repealed section 1712 (i) of title 38, United States Code, which prescribed regulations to ensure that special priority be provided in furnishing medical services and any other outpatient medical care to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, current law does not ensure that service-connected veterans will be given priority for medical services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation that provides that service-connected veterans will be given priority for Department of Veterans Affairs medical care unless compelling medical reasons indicate otherwise.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 034--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) mission is to provide high quality medical care to veterans eligible by reason of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA has the right to recover or collect the cost of care from a third-party health insurer when insured veterans receive health care from the VA for nonservice-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, the collection of payments from a third party for the treatment of veterans' service-connected disabilities would abrogate the VA's and Federal Government's responsibility to provide such care and may result in increased premium payments to veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any legislation that would require the VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disability(ies).

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 035--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE TO VETERANS

WHEREAS, many veterans who use the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for their health care need post-acute and long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, VA long-term care is restricted and unevenly funded; and

WHEREAS, demand for post-acute and long-term care services in the veteran population is increasing and predicted to grow by 13 percent over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, VA should invigorate and re-engineer the core of VA-operated services to meet new demand for long-term care; and

WHEREAS, long-term care should be afforded to any veteran in need of such care for a service-connected disability, and to any veteran who is in need of such care and who has a service-connected

disability rated at 50 percent or more; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a comprehensive program of extended care services for veterans.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 036--LEGISLATIVE

#### SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has seen fit to change the face of its operations from inpatient to outpatient treatment systems; and

WHEREAS, the VA has chosen to bring health care to veterans with its program of Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs); and WHEREAS, such CBOCs are being funded from current hospital operating budgets, thus reducing even further the VA's ability to adequately care for veterans at its hospital sites; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports additional funding for the CBOC programs now and in the future.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 092--LEGISLATIVE

#### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND CHAMPVA ENTITLEMENT UNTIL GRADUATION OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS

WHEREAS, children of certain veterans are provided medical care under the CHAMPVA program; and

WHEREAS, a child's eligibility, which otherwise terminates at age 18, continues to age 23 when such child is pursuing an approved full-time course of education; and

WHEREAS, while attending school, these children generally continue to be dependent upon the veteran or surviving spouse and are unable to provide for their own medical care; and

WHEREAS, continuing medical care eligibility under CHAMPVA until graduation would further the goal of aiding a veteran's child while pursuing an education and alleviate financial hardship that might otherwise interrupt a child's education; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to extend eligibility to CHAMPVA until an eligible child's graduation from an approved course of full-time education.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 126--LEGISLATIVE

#### INCREASE THE LIMITATION FOR FEE-BASED CARE

WHEREAS, when Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities are unable to provide specific treatment or cannot provide treatment economically due to geographic inaccessibility, certain veteran patients may be authorized to receive treatment from non-VA health care providers at VA expense; and

WHEREAS, the program of providing such treatment is commonly referred to as the fee basis program; and

WHEREAS, the amount payable by the VA has not kept pace with medical inflation and has remained constant for many years in spite of medical inflation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24,

2000, calls for a regulatory change to increase and maintain a realistic fee basis reimbursement program to provide cost-effective health care delivery to the Nation's sick and disabled veterans.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 135—LEGISLATIVE

##### LIFT RESTRICTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHYSICIANS TO PROVIDE OPINIONS FOR VA PATIENTS

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) providers have been allowed to express opinions and to complete forms for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) patients in order to be consistent with their goal of providing comprehensive health care; and

WHEREAS, in the past, VA physicians were permitted to provide a medical opinion in support of a veteran's claim for service-connected compensation; and

WHEREAS, this ability was officially promulgated in VA Directive 98-052, dated November 18, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the VA has permitted this publication to expire without reissuing the policy in another publication; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of specific guidance on this topic, some VA medical officials have interpreted this as prohibition from providing a medical opinion which might be used by a veteran in support of his/her claim for service-connected compensation; and

WHEREAS, many veterans use only VA health care for their treatment and cannot afford to seek an opinion from the private sector, barring veterans from receiving benefits from the VA without a physician's opinion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permanently restore and/or reissue the provisions under VHA Directive 98-052 and permit VA physicians to enter a note in the veteran's consolidated health record that indicates that in his or her medical judgment the currently existing medical condition is: (1) related to; (2) at least as likely as not related to; or (3) probably related to an injury, disease, or even the veteran's military service and/or provide a medical opinion on the physical or mental condition of a veteran patient.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 173—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE IN NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES TO VETERANS ENROLLED IN VA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, any health care plan is incomplete without provisions for emergency care; and

WHEREAS, current law limits the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) authority to pay for emergency services that veterans receive outside the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, VA provides enrolled veterans a uniform benefits package that emphasizes preventive medicine and primary care, and provides a comprehensive health care benefit plan, including inpatient and outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, the VA enrollment system has declared itself to be a "Health Care Plan"; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize veterans to receive emergency medical care in private medical facilities at VA expense.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 174—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE AN INCREASE IN OR EXTENSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE CO-PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) mission is to provide high quality medical care to veterans eligible by reason of their honorable military service; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized VA to collect co-payments for treatment of nonservice-connected conditions as a temporary measure to achieve savings for deficit reductions; and

WHEREAS, large budget surpluses are projected over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, under ordinary circumstances, veterans should not have to pay for benefits accorded them by a grateful nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any legislation that would require the VA to increase or extend the Congressional authority for collection of co-payments for the care and treatment of veterans.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 176--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ADEQUATE MEDICAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, women veterans accounted for 4.3 percent of the total veteran population in 1990, in 2000, women represent 5.3 percent of all veterans, and by 2040 they will make up about 11 percent of the total veteran population; and

WHEREAS, women have always provided meaningful contributions to our armed services over the course of our Nation's history, most recently exemplified by the 33,000 women who served honorably in Southwest Asia performing combat and combat support functions; and

WHEREAS, a recent General Accounting Office report found that problems continue to confront women veterans when attempting to gain access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care services and VA remains unable to fully ensure privacy for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, many women seeking VA health care find services unavailable or personnel unprepared to understand or deal with their specific needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks enactment of legislation mandating the provision of health care services, inclusive of gender-specific services, by VA to eligible women veterans to the same degree and extent that services are provided to eligible male veterans, inclusive of counseling and/or psychological services incident to sexual violence; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge VA to strictly adhere to stated policies regarding privacy issues relating to the treatment of women veterans and to proactively seek innovative methods to ensure women veterans receive the treatment they so rightly deserve.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 177--LEGISLATIVE

URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPOSE GUIDELINES TO  
PRECLUDE INAPPROPRIATE USE OF NON-PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY  
EXAMINATIONS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), through its compensation and pension examinations section, has historically recognized the importance of a complete medical examination in order to properly evaluate a veteran's disability; and

WHEREAS, examinations should include complete neurological and psychiatric examinations, and other special examinations indicated by the physical condition; and

WHEREAS, an incomplete examination, especially in the

neurological and psychiatric fields, is a common cause of incorrect diagnosis, which frequently leaves the Veterans Benefits Administration in doubt as to the presence or absence of disabling conditions at the time of the examination; and

WHEREAS, an incomplete examination delays the adjudication of monetary benefits as well as the treatment of complex medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, many questions of cause and effect of functional impairment are beyond the competency of non-physicians; and

WHEREAS, individuals with qualifications less than those held by a physician do not possess the training and/or level of proficiency to cope with the complexities of performing compensation and pension examinations; and

WHEREAS, where examinations such as cardiology, neurology, gynecology, pulmonary, podiatry, orthopedics, gastrointestinal, and psychiatry require specialized medical opinions; and

WHEREAS, the medical examiner maintains the responsibility of furnishing, in addition to the etiology, anatomical, pathological, laboratory and prognostic data required for ordinary classification, full descriptions of the effects of disability upon the veteran's ordinary activity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges the VA to impose binding guidelines that would preclude the utilization of a non-physicians in performing VA compensation or pension examinations that are solely within the competence of a physician.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 195--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT ADEQUATE SALARY AND PAY LEVELS FOR VA PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, AND NURSES

WHEREAS, chronic underfunding of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care program continues to hamper the VA's ability to provide timely, complete, and quality health care services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, physicians, dentists, and nurses form the basic framework and nucleus for the provision of health care services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, there continues to exist a genuine crisis in the VA's ability to recruit and retain an adequate number of qualified health care providers; and

WHEREAS, a significant factor in the ability to hire qualified health care providers is adequate pay that is competitive with the private sector; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the enactment of legislation providing for adequate salary and pay levels for VA physicians, dentists, and nurses.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 196--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PAYING ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE COST OF CARING FOR VETERANS RESIDING IN STATE VETERANS HOMES

WHEREAS, state veterans homes were founded for Civil War veterans in the late 1800s and have served veterans for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of title 38, United States Code, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to make aid payments to states maintaining state veterans homes subject to the provisions of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 18.13; and

WHEREAS, there are 93 state veterans homes in 42 states throughout the United States, with more being added annually; and

WHEREAS, the VA State Veterans Home Program has proven to be a cost-effective provider of quality care services to the Nation's veterans who require domiciliary, nursing home, and hospital care; and

WHEREAS, VA promotes the care and treatment of veterans in state veterans homes as one means to attain the goal of developing and maintaining the highest possible quality of patient care for eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA has stated their commitment to increase VA's share of state home per diem to 33 1/3 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a state veterans home; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, authorizes the State Home Construction Grant Program which is funded by VA at 65 percent of total costs for construction of new state veterans homes and renovation of existing facilities; and

WHEREAS, VA has not kept pace with states' grant applications for construction of new state veterans homes and renovation projects; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to make per diem payments for veterans residing in state veterans homes, and the State Veterans Home Program is recognized as the lowest cost alternative among all nursing care alternatives used by VA; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the growing long-term health care needs of older veterans, the State Veterans Home Program will continue to be a vital health care provider and the lowest cost alternative for veterans needing long-term nursing care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, fully supports the legislative objectives of the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) to receive from VA a per diem payment that equals 33 1/3 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a state veterans home; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the Congress of the United States to fully fund state veterans home construction grants Priority One projects for fiscal year 2000; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports a ranking system whereby state home construction grant requests would be prioritized, in the year they are received, utilizing current VA needs criteria. Grant requests received in future years would be prioritized in the same manner with the understanding that they will not receive funding until projects submitted in previous years are funded; however, a state without a state veterans home automatically becomes eligible for funding for its first home regardless of the year its request is received; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the President and Congress to pledge their full support to the State Veterans Home Program as it is the most cost-effective nursing care alternative used by VA.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 229—LEGISLATIVE

#### OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF USER FEES FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CARE AT MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS, military retirees have earned the right, by virtue of service to this Nation, to utilize military medical facilities to meet their medical care needs and those of their dependents; and

WHEREAS, this earned benefit has been established by the Congress through the enactment of legislation entitling military retirees and their dependents to utilize military medical facilities to meet their medical care needs; and

WHEREAS, the charging of a user's fee would adversely impact upon military retirees' financial and medical well-being; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any proposal that will require military retirees, or

their dependents, to be charged a user's fee in order to obtain outpatient medical services at military medical facilities.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 237—LEGISLATIVE

##### REORGANIZE VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GEOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSE NEEDS OF VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) were created to enhance health care delivery to the Nation's sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VISNs were established with 27 guiding values, to promote patient care, quality, flexibility, efficiency, and responsiveness; and

WHEREAS, the current VISN configuration places timely access to medical care, enhancement of patient referrals, and health services utilization at peril due to the lack of ground transportation opportunities and natural barriers, such as ocean, snow, and remoteness; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans is honored to champion the needs of all wartime sick and disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports the reorganization of VISNs throughout the United States to ensure that they are designed to be responsive to the geographic accessibility and culturally diverse needs of their veteran communities.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 281—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ENTITLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it is the position of the Disabled American Veterans that veterans should be afforded quality and timely health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs because of their honorable service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the DAV's belief that quality health care for veterans is achieved when health care providers are given the freedom and resources to practice the most effective and scientifically proven medicine available; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration plays a critical role in the delivery of health services to our Nation's sick and disabled veterans, is the largest direct federal provider of health care services, the largest clinical training ground for the health professions, and a leader in medical research; and

WHEREAS, for well over a decade, VA has been faced with the dilemma of ever-increasing demand for medical care and perennially inadequate, decremental budgets; and

WHEREAS, because of restricted appropriation levels, veterans are being forced to wait and are sometimes denied access to health care implicitly promised in connection with their military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA health delivery system must, at a minimum, achieve the following:

- Promote and ensure health care quality and value, and protect veterans in the health care system;
- Guarantee access to a full continuum of care, from preventive through hospice;
- Receive adequate funding through appropriations, third-party reimbursements, and Medicare subvention;
- Fairly and equitably distribute resources to treat the greatest number of veterans requiring health care;
- Provide for the use of all medications, supplies, prosthetic devices and other over-the-counter medication necessary for

- the proper treatment of service-connected disabled veterans;
- Preserve VA's mission and role as a provider of special services in areas such as blindness, amputation, spinal cord injury, mental illness, and long-term care;
- Maintain the integrity of an independent VA health care delivery system as representing the primary responsible entity for the delivery of health care services to entitled veterans;
- Maintain a strong and veteran-focused research program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes entitlement to clearly-defined VA health care services for veterans.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 282-LEGISLATIVE

AMEND TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO INCLUDE DENTAL CARE AND TREATMENT TO ALL ENROLLED VETERANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans recognizes that oral health is integral to the general health and well being of a patient, and is part of comprehensive health care; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system is mandated under section 1712, title 38, United States Code, to provide outpatient dental services to veterans rated 100 percent service connected, to veterans held prisoner of war for more than 90 days, or to those who have sustained dental trauma in performance of military service; and

WHEREAS, section 1710(B) authorizes the VA to provide hospital care and medical services to any veteran who has a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, dental care is a medical condition which can impact on all other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, VA currently provides dental services throughout the VA health care system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1712, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 288-ADMINISTRATIVE

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE VA SIERRA NEVADA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, RENO, NEVADA, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended to the delegates and guests of the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary was beyond reproach; and

WHEREAS, many of the delegates to our National Convention were in need of quality medical treatment and required the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, in response to these requests, the health care officials from VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno, Nevada, staffed and maintained a compassionate and high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Reno Hilton; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 79th National Convention have been extended in a highly compassionate and professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, expresses its sincere appreciation to the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno, Nevada, for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 79th National



Convention and for making this Convention a memorable one.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 289-ADMINISTRATIVE

##### EXTEND APPRECIATION TO ELECTRIC MOBILITY VETERANS ASSISTANCE DIVISION FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the teamwork and efficiency extended to the delegates and guests of the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary was beyond reproach; and

WHEREAS, many of the delegates to our National Convention were in need of high quality mobility products in order to improve the quality of life by means of mobility enhancement; and

WHEREAS, in response to this need, Electric Mobility provided 100 scooters and power chairs to be used at our 79th National Convention in order to assist members in overcoming mobility limitations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Electric Mobility for the loaning of scooters and power chairs to the delegates to this 79th National Convention.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Kathryn.

Could I have a second to that motion? Mike 1.

NEC 5TH DISTRICT VINCENT DARCANGELO: Comrade Commander, Vincent Darcangelo, NEC, 5th District, so seconds.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Vince.

In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to read pertaining to this committee?

Hearing none, all those in favor of accepting the report say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you, Kathryn. (Applause)

We are rolling right along. At this time we are going to call on Bill Brzezinski to give the report on the Committee on Finance and Dues.

MR. W. D. BRZEZINSKI: Comrade Commander, delegates: The National Convention Committee on Finance and Dues was called to order for its first business session on August 21st, 2000 by the committee advisors, Thomas Johns and Richard E. Patterson.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chairman. Bill Brzezinski and Arthur Cushing were nominated for chairman. Nominations were closed, and Bill Brzezinski was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Arthur Cushing was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the one resolution submitted, and the committee recommended that no resolution be put forward for adoption.

The committee next reviewed the proposed 2001 budget with the committee advisors. The proposed 2001 budget was referred to the National Convention Committee on Finance and Dues by the National Finance Committee with a recommendation for adoption.

Following completion of the committee's review, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the National Convention adoption of the proposed 2001 budget.

The committee then expressed its thanks to the committee advisors, Thomas Johns and Richard E. Patterson, who were aided by the comptroller, Anita Blum for their assistance in performing the work of this important committee.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Finance and Dues, and I hereby move for the adoption of the report and ask that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the national convention.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Bill. Do we have a second? Mike 2.

MR. REVEL: Ric Revel, Southern California Chapter 12, wishes to second.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Again, in accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read?

Hearing none, all those in favor of accepting the report, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

And thank you, Bill, and your committee. (Applause)

Coming before you next will be the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership, Jim Tanner, chairman.

MR. JAMES H. TANNER: Thank you, Commander Dobmeier. Commander Dobmeier, and delegates to this convention: The National Convention on General Resolutions was called to order for its first business session on August 21st, 2000 by the committee's advisor Rick Surratt.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chair. James Tanner was nominated for the chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and James Tanner was elected chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of secretary. Shirley Scofield was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and the RESOLVED portions of the resolutions.

Resolution 123, supporting a strong national defense.

Resolution 124, encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and vote.

Resolution 172, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States.

Resolution 255, construct a monument to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans.

Resolution 285, appreciation to National Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

Resolution 286, appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 79th National Convention.

Resolution 287, appreciation to the Reno Hilton for the success of the 79th National Convention.

At this point in time I'd like to read the entire resolution for Commander Dobmeier. Expressing appreciation to National Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

WHEREAS, Michael E. Dobmeier, through extraordinary personal courage overcame the severe injuries he incurred in the service to his country; and

WHEREAS, with the same fortitude and tenacity, he has made immeasurable contributions to the welfare and well-being of his fellow disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, after all the numerous leadership positions at all levels of the DAV, he ascended to our organization's highest office, the office of national commander; and

WHEREAS, as national commander, he distinguished himself by his unhesitant, straightforward, spirited, focused and resolute but tempered, insightful, sincere, amenable advocacy on behalf of our nation's disabled veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, his keen sense of justice for veterans, his passionate and masterful articulation of our vision and his reputation for integrity have advanced our cause, continued the fine traditions of our great organization and enhanced our prestige and effectiveness as the voice of America's disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, he has dutifully completed his term as national commander and stands as an inspiration and a role model for all those who follow; and

WHEREAS, we have the highest regard for Mr. Dobmeier and feel a deep sense of gratitude for his devotion and exemplary service to our organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American

Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20th through 24th, 2000, express its members' sincere appreciation to Commander Dobmeier for his exceptional contributions to disabled veterans and their families, and the DAV; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also salute and extend our special appreciation to Commander Dobmeier's wife, Sandra Jo and their two children, Michelle and Mark, for their support and sacrifices during his year as DAV's national commander.

(Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee of General Resolutions, and I move the adoption of these resolutions.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

RESOLUTION NO. 123--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the United States military forces are responsible for the defense of this Nation and its interests abroad; and

WHEREAS, the United States has recently been called upon to intervene in various conflicts; and

WHEREAS, a strong national defense led to the defeat of Communism in Eastern Europe; and

WHEREAS, U.S. interests continue to be challenged throughout the world, requiring our military forces to be deployed in protection of world freedom; and

WHEREAS, we can never let our guard down; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the defense of our Nation both at home and abroad.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 124--LEGISLATIVE

ENCOURAGE ALL DISABLED VETERANS TO BECOME REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTE

WHEREAS, members of the Disabled American Veterans served their country during time of war in order to preserve the rights and privileges of life in this land of the free; and

WHEREAS, one of the most precious of those rights is the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President's Administration have failed to fulfill their obligation to our Nation's disabled veterans by providing adequate funding for veterans' benefits and health care; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress and the President's Administration have targeted veterans' programs for unwarranted spending cuts and reductions under the mistaken and misguided theory that veterans do not base their vote on veterans' issues; and

WHEREAS, the failure of all disabled veterans to register and vote will result in the perpetuation of this theory; and

WHEREAS, because of their disabilities, disabled veterans have more difficulty than their nondisabled peers in complying with some of the stricter requirements in voter registration laws; and

WHEREAS, there exists an urgent need for veterans, their families and all Americans concerned about veterans' issues to make their voice heard by becoming registered voters and exercising their vote in local, state, and federal elections; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, encourages 100 percent of our members to become registered to vote and thereby strengthen our organization's ability to preserve and improve our system of veterans' benefits and services; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Disabled American Veterans Departments and Chapters initiate and operate voter registration

drives targeted at increasing voter registration among veterans and their families; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Disabled American Veterans Departments, Chapters, and members are encouraged to ensure that all veterans and their family members are able to get to polling locations to vote.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 172--LEGISLATIVE

##### CONDEMN PUBLIC DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, has ruled that public desecration of the American Flag, as a form of free speech and expression, is legal and permissible; and

WHEREAS, the American Flag--"Old Glory"--is our National Ensign, the proud, courageous, and beautiful symbol of our country's precious, free heritage; and

WHEREAS, this symbol, in the form of our irreplaceable "Stars and Stripes," has been carried and defended in battle, revered and cherished by its citizens and viewed as a beacon of hope and fulfillment by all the world since it was first unfurled at the birth of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech was not intended by our Founding Fathers to enable individuals who do enjoy unfettered freedom to express their views, no matter how abhorrent, in both oral and written form--to publicly and contemptuously desecrate our beloved flag; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, goes on record as condemning any individual or group who shall at any time publicly and willfully desecrate the flag of the United States.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 255--LEGISLATIVE

##### CONSTRUCT A MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it has been three decades since Americans were involved in a large-scale ground war that resulted in large numbers of significant, combat-related casualties; and

WHEREAS, though the public's reaction to veterans in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War was exceptionally warm, even the high feeling associated with Operation Desert Storm dissipated long ago; and

WHEREAS, the memory of smaller military actions at the Khobar Towers Barracks in Saudi Arabia, and in Grenada, Beirut, Panama, and Somalia faded with shocking rapidity, dying away even as combat-disabled veterans were still undergoing initial treatment of their wounds; and

WHEREAS, even as Americans daily face the threat of hostile action in spots around the world, some of them coming home wounded, awareness of their sacrifices among the American people remains distressingly low; and

WHEREAS, the extent of this forgetfulness can only increase as the number of veterans in the population as a whole inevitably declines as a result of the passing of those who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, other than the ultimate sacrifice of life itself on the field of battle, no one has given more for the freedom of our Nation and her people than the veterans disabled in all of America's wars and armed conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances above demonstrate a pressing need for permanent, high-profile action to bring the immense sacrifices of disabled veterans to a deeper level of public consciousness; and

WHEREAS, commemorative structures have been placed in

distinguished locations throughout Washington, D.C., in order to commemorate causes and persons of great merit and the sacrifices of disabled veterans deserve at least as much attention as any of these; and

WHEREAS, a statue or commemorative structure on the Washington Mall or in another very prominent location in our Nation's Capital would be extremely useful in permanently reminding the American people of the sacrifices made by disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the necessary approval and private financial support for the construction and maintenance of a monument honoring the sacrifices of those veterans disabled while in military service to their country and that such monument be placed in a prestigious location in the Nation's Capital, with a strong recommendation that it be placed on the Washington Mall.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 286--ADMINISTRATIVE

##### APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 79th DAV National Convention convened in Reno, Nevada August 20-24, 2000, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the state, county and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of the DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman Edward Johnson; and

WHEREAS, we wish to commend all the news media for their encouragement and assistance at all of our Convention activities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, expresses its sincere appreciation to all groups and/or agencies whose dedication to our principles has made our Convention a successful one; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish to extend to the citizens of Reno, Nevada, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests who participated in our convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our gratitude to the Convention Chairman, Edward Johnson, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 287--ADMINISTRATIVE

##### APPRECIATION TO THE RENO HILTON FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 79TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the assistance and cooperation of the Reno Hilton was essential to the success of the 79th DAV National Convention, convened in Reno, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the responsiveness of the hotel's employees to the requirements of the Convention was beyond compare, meriting the gratitude of the DAV's officers, delegates and staff; and

WHEREAS, the courtesy of the hotel staff to the delegates and guests at the Convention was superb throughout the entire course of the National Convention; and

WHEREAS, everyone associated with the hotel exhibited the highest degree of professionalism in all areas of their

association with the National Convention; NOW  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American  
Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August  
20-24, 2000, expresses its sincere gratitude to the Reno Hilton  
and all of its employees for their exceptional assistance in  
making the Convention a tremendous success.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Jim. Is there a second?  
Mike 2.

MR. ROBERT N. PETUCCI: Comrade Commander Dobmeier, Bob  
Petucci of New York Chapter 185, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Bob.

Again in accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any  
rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected  
resolutions wish to read? Hearing none, all those in favor of  
approving the report, please say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you, Jim.

Adjutant Wilson, would you make announcements, please.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Well, we're moving along at light speed.  
This afternoon's business session will begin at 1:00 o'clock.  
Now, don't get confused by that. Your program says 1:30. Your  
badge says 1:00. The commander made the decision. We are going  
to reconvene at 1:00. Please pass the word.

We will begin the afternoon session with a report from the  
executive director of our Washington Headquarters, followed by  
presentation of the Employment Awards, and we will continue  
receiving convention committee reports, including the first  
reading of the amendments to the National Constitution and  
Bylaws.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I  
will ask Chaplain Todd to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN TODD: God, in remembrance of Donald Houska and  
others who have been a part of our lives in this great  
organization, we pray now that our men and women will know in  
their hearts, mind and spirits, along with the deceased family,  
that we walk with them through this valley of shadows of death.

Again, Lord, we pray that You will use us in a mighty way to  
continue to be a voice for those who are unable to speak for  
themselves as disabled veterans, as widows, and as orphans. In  
His Holy Name we pray. Amen and amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: The convention stands in recess until  
1:00 o'clock.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:26 o'clock a.m.,  
August 21, 2000.)

#### SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

August 21, 2000

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American  
Veterans 79th National Convention convened in the Pavilion of the  
Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Monday afternoon,  
August 21, 2000, and was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by  
Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

COMMANDER MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: The convention will come to  
order. Please join me in a salute to the flag.

Chaplain Todd, would you please lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN TODD: O God, we come again to say thank You for  
this moment in which each one of us are filled with great  
anticipation, for this meeting and the meetings to come. We  
pray, Lord, that You will just give us that inner peace and inner  
spirit that will not only comfort us but will give us a mind to  
work together and be all that we can be in representing others,  
especially disabled veterans and their families. In His Holy  
Name we pray. Amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Be seated.

I'll now ask Adjutant Wilson for an announcement regarding  
future convention sites.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. On your chairs, you  
will find a questionnaire regarding future National Conventions.

We say we value your opinion, and we do, and we need your help. As you can see, there are several major cities and hotel sites under consideration.

We would like to know from you what your preferences are, and we just ask you to complete them the best you can, and place them in the proper place at the rear of the room. There's, I believe, a basket set up. And as I had to tell one of our department commanders, don't try to stuff the ballot box. This is not a vote.

Seriously, we'd like to hear from you on what you would like to do in the future.

Also, for your information on the chairs are the proposed amendments to the National Bylaws. Keep these with you. The Bylaw amendments will be read today. This is the only copy that you will get. And they will be discussed tomorrow.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Intelligence, experience and wise leadership are the hallmarks of our organization's management team. And DAV Washington Headquarters Executive Director Dave Gorman certainly embodies all those qualities and more.

Dave has been with the DAV for 30 years, making worthy contributions to our mission while gaining valuable experience in both our National Service Office and National Legislative Departments before assuming his duties as executive director of the DAV Washington Headquarters in 1995.

Dave Gorman is responsible for the day-to-day performance of our service, legislative and volunteer operations.

And now, here is Dave Gorman to present his report to the convention. (Applause)

MR. DAVID W. GORMAN: National Commander Dobmeier, national officers, members and distinguished guests: As Executive Director of the DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., it is truly a personal honor and a privilege to present this annual report to the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

First, however, I want to thank National Commander Mike Dobmeier for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the DAV and our mission of hope in building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Over this past year, Commander Dobmeier has been a tremendous asset to the DAV. As our national commander, he has earned the respect of government officials in Washington, D.C., and the admiration of countless people all across this great country of ours.

There's no question about it, Mike has built a solid reputation as a most effective advocate for our cause, and all 2.3 million service-connected disabled veterans and their families have benefited from his efforts. And that reputation was built on a lot of hard work and learned knowledge, knowledge that what sets the DAV apart from others is our steadfast commitment to service to veterans.

It's been a truly remarkable year, Commander, and please accept our most sincere thanks and appreciation for all that you have done.

I also want to express my deep gratitude and abiding respect to our national adjutant, Art Wilson. I cannot say enough about how important Art's guidance, wise counsel and his unwavering support have been for me personally and the rest of us in our efforts to serve you and your families.

Art's vision, dedication and knowledge have restored DAV's financial house to order. And his uncanny ability to combine sound business practice with a constant commitment to our mission of compassion and service are to be envied.

In fact, under Art's leadership, we have never in our history been in better shape to carry on with the work we need to do on behalf of our nation's disabled veterans. (Applause)

I can tell you that Art Wilson is recognized by members of Congress, VA officials, and numerous policy-makers within the Administration as a hands-on leader, respected for his advocacy and sense of purpose.

Art, we all thank you for your unmatched leadership.

At Washington Headquarters, our team -- Service, Legislation, Voluntary Services, and Communications, professional and support staffs alike -- all work together toward the same common goal: Building better lives for all of America's disabled veterans and their families.

Of course, none of what we have been able to accomplish in Washington would be possible without the terrific work carried out by National Headquarters Executive Director Rick Patterson and his great staff. And we thank you, Rick, for that support.

As we gather here in Reno to celebrate our 79th National Convention and reflect on the DAV's activities during the past year, we must look forward to the future as well. It is a future that holds tremendous promise, but also presents us with a great many challenges.

The various programs and services the DAV provides on a day-to-day basis are not just meant to meet the immediate needs of America's veterans; they are by design meant to be constantly evaluated, upgraded and improved, so we can continue to fulfill our mission of service well into the future.

Our National Service Program, under the very capable and spirited direction of Ken Wolfe, is the mainstay of the DAV. It is, I'm proud to say, the finest, most professional veterans' advocacy program in the world. The National Service Program is what the DAV's well-deserved reputation of service and excellence is all about.

Currently, we have some 250 National Service officers throughout the United States and Puerto Rico providing service to disabled veterans and their families. During this past year, our NSOs were successful in securing VA benefits for more than 213,000 individual veterans and their families, equating to more than \$2 billion in new monthly benefits. That's quite an accomplishment. (Applause)

And these men and women play an absolutely crucial role in helping us meet the many other challenges we face, now and in the future. To meet this increasing need, we make sure that your National Service officers receive the very best training right from the start of their careers. And they continue to receive advanced training and experience so that they can provide quality and maintain the quality of our Service Program, and the Service Program continues to improve as well.

Art Wilson's vision and his unwavering commitment and demand for excellence continue to be the driving force behind the DAV's National Service Officer Training Academy in Denver, Colorado. The academy provides the foundation of our NSOs' unmatched professional training so the DAV can continue to provide today's veterans and tomorrow's veterans unequalled quality representation.

In short, we are revolutionizing service in the 21st century with the best-trained, the best-equipped National Service officers in the world.

As called for in DAV's Strategic Plan, we are making sure that the DAV continues to provide the very best service and representation available to disabled veterans. We also realize sometimes we have to take our services to veterans who cannot come to us for the help they need.

Today, we are faced with an aging veteran population, and a large number of our nation's veterans may be unable to travel to a DAV National Service Office for assistance. Also, there is a new generation of younger veterans who have not yet applied for the benefits they are eligible for, or don't know these benefits even exist.

Well, we are going to go to those veterans. We will go to those veterans. We will inform them, and we will assist them.

Throughout the DAV's proud history, we have continually adapted to the ever-changing needs of veterans, and we believe the time has now come to once again take DAV services on the road, and we will do that in the form of 12 mobile service offices, one of which you may have noticed is on display here at convention.

These vans will be equipped with state-of-the-art computers,



with direct links to DAV National Service Offices, giving our traveling NSOs access to the same tools and information they have back in the National Service Office.

And please, I encourage all of you to participate in the full participation of this new outreach program. Our departments and chapters should join with us in a unique partnership. You can buy your own vans for outreach programs and staff them with department service offices. And remember, financial assistance is available through the Colorado Trust.

But at the very least, you can assign department service officers to accompany the NSOs on their rounds. This is too good an opportunity for providing direct services to veterans through our departments or our chapters to miss out on.

DAV's commitment to service includes making sure the disabled veterans aren't left behind when it comes to employment opportunities and the right to reemployment when they return to civilian life.

Our employment-related efforts involve monitoring employment-related policies and pending legislation, as well as working with the Executive Branch and Congress on program oversight. Deputy National Service Director for Employment Tony Baskerville is spearheading our efforts in this area.

I now want to say a word about Joe Violante and your DAV legislative team. All of us owe these folks a great deal of thanks for their efforts to protect your rights and benefits.

It seems like every time we turn around, we're faced with yet another devastating, direct attack on veterans programs, not the least of which is an always less-than-adequate VA budget. This year, however, instead of merely reacting to the President's budget when released in February, we sought to proactively influence the Administration's proposed funding for the VA.

With your help and your dedication, we got the attention of the White House. Although they weren't necessarily happy to be targeted by such a strong campaign and such a large volume of messages, our efforts worked. The President submitted his fiscal year 2001 budget to Congress which included an increase of some \$1.5 billion in spending, the largest increase ever requested by a President.

I can stand here today and say to you and all other DAV members, that increase would not have occurred had it not been for your efforts and demand for fairness. You deserve the credit.

Strengthening our abilities even further, we have created a new initiative, the DAV Commander's Action Network, or DAV CAN. DAV CAN members receive a membership certificate, information and an action kit that contains instructions for getting the message across to Congress. DAV CAN members receive the same legislative alerts and updates we deliver to our national and state offices and Benefits Protection Team members.

The Commander's Action Network complements our Benefits Team members, who are often closely associated with our organizational leadership, and who themselves form the leadership and the leadership structure of our grass-roots lobbying effort.

To date, more than 3,800 members have enlisted in the Commander's Action Network and are now a part of DAV's grass-roots army. We need to build our DAV CAN membership, and I encourage you to see Joe Violante or a member of his staff while you are here and sign up for this program. It works.

We also have been working hard to resolve problems in the VA's claims processing system that cause large numbers of erroneous denials and protracted delays for veterans seeking disability benefits.

A well-established, time-tested, fundamental principle in the spirit of veterans programs is that the VA has a duty to assist veterans file and develop their claims for benefits. However, a series of court decisions has forced the VA to abandon this practice.

Recognizing that this was becoming one of the most serious roadblocks for veterans seeking benefits we began pressuring Congress early last year to enact legislation to restore the VA's

duty to assist.

Our grass-roots efforts have been very, very successful. And we are very hopeful that meaningful legislation will pass the Congress this year.

I also want to commend everyone for urging their senators and their representatives to support legislation authorizing a national memorial honoring disabled veterans to be erected in our nation's capital. Thanks to your efforts, we remain confident that this important legislation will be enacted this year. Disabled veterans deserve this lasting recognition.

So, influencing the Administration and Congress to provide adequate support for veterans programs continues to remain a top priority for DAV. To this end, we launched a nationwide campaign of our own, to focus national attention on the problems and challenges facing veterans.

Just as you did last year on Memorial Day weekend, DAV departments and chapters held rallies at more than 100 locations across this country, mostly at VA medical centers. And I know that many of you in the room today helped organize and took part in this very successful effort.

Thank you all for everything you have done to make these rallies a tremendous success and a real turning point and attention-getter to members of Congress.

The message we're sending with these rallies and our other grass-roots efforts is simple: We want Washington to honor America's commitment to veterans.

There are indications that Congress and the Administration are now beginning to pay attention to our message. So we must continue to persist and continue our efforts to ensure veterans programs are funded at adequate levels.

As I've said before, advocacy is a team effort. The life and the vitality of the DAV's advocacy lies at the grass roots. It is there in your departments and your chapters that the light of our cause burns its brightest.

We know that without strong, deep roots, a tree cannot grow, it cannot weather a storm, that the strength of any building is in its foundation. Most of all, it is you, DAV members, who are responsible for our success as a great organization. Because after all is said and done, you are the very soul and the heart of the DAV. You, individually and you collectively, are the foundation of who we are and what we do.

Each and every one of you who was involved in our grass-roots effort should be as proud of yourselves as we all are of you. And please, when you return home, pass on our thanks and our gratitude to those who were also involved but couldn't be with us today.

As to the DAV's incredible volunteer programs, what can I say? But they just keep getting better and better. Under the guiding hand of National Director of Voluntary Services Jerry Steelman, our VA Voluntary Service Program, our Hospital Service Coordinator Program, and the DAV Transportation Network continue to be the envy of the veterans community.

And there's only one reason: Each and every one of you, and the thousands of DAV volunteers all across this nation, who continue to give so much of yourselves to help improve the lives of your fellow disabled veterans and their families.

The DAV's Nationwide Transportation Program continues to show tremendous growth as an indispensable resource to veterans. Last year alone, DAV volunteer drivers logged more than 25 and a half million miles taking some 742,000 veterans to and from VA medical facilities.

Since the Transportation Program began in 1987, your departments and your chapters, together with the national organization have donated 992 vans to VA medical centers nationwide. These donated vans are valued at more than \$19 million, and they really are well worth the investment.

We can't talk about our Transportation Network without also extending our thanks to Ford Motor Company for their commitment and their dedication to veterans and our efforts. They have truly been a terrific partner with DAV.

The DAV's VAVS Program, which for 55 years now has involved so many of you, is the largest of our volunteer initiatives. DAV volunteers bring hope, and they bring light into the lives of countless thousands of hospitalized veterans every day, providing a broad array of services to our veterans in our nation's hospitals.

Through our VAVS Program, volunteers provide that broad array of services, and throughout this program more than 10,000 DAV and DAV Auxiliary members volunteered more than 2.4 million hours over the last year. That, ladies and gentlemen, is more than any single veterans organization, and is the equivalent of adding almost 1200 full-time employees to the VA rolls. A tremendous, tremendous accomplishment.

The DAV is proud of our volunteers who each day, without fanfare or without recognition, provide friendly service and compassionate support to disabled veterans. They are great people. You are great people. And they help make the DAV a great organization.

Our National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic just keeps getting better every year. What we call miracles on a mountainside continues to change the lives of severely disabled veterans, giving them the self-reliance they need to meet the day-to-day disabilities in a very positive way.

As I've indicated to you, this year has been a challenging one in the veterans affairs arena and, as we head into a presidential election year, promises to be even more interesting, to say the least.

But as we all know, the future belongs to those who are best prepared for it. And rest assured, the DAV is prepared to meet the future head on. After all, disabled veterans helping other disabled veterans in their time of need has been the hallmark of the DAV for the past 80 years.

We who carry on that proud legacy know that by working as a team we can accomplish much more than we ever could by going it alone. Teamwork among our membership, our chapters and departments, and the national organization, makes for a real winning combination.

As part of our ongoing Strategic Plan, the DAV has resolved to be more proactive in influencing public policy regarding veterans issues. One key element of our strategy is to increase member participation in our grass-roots legislative efforts. A second key element is to maintain our preeminent position as a provider of professional services and advocacy for veterans.

The DAV is widely recognized as the very best in advocacy for veterans. In large part that recognition is due to you, our membership. I can assure you, the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters have done an outstanding job providing absolutely top-notch programs and services for you and your families, services that remain unmatched. And we will continue to do so.

But in spite of everything, we in Washington would not be able to accomplish all that we have without you, our members. And that's just a hard fact.

So in closing, on behalf of the entire Washington Headquarters staff, I want to thank you for allowing us, and making it possible for us to serve you. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to do so.

We couldn't do it without every one of you and the faith and support you provide, as we carry on the DAV's proud mission of service and hope for America's disabled veterans and their families. Thank you so very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you David.

At this time I would entertain a motion to accept David's report.

MR. CLAUDE A. NELSON: This is Claude Nelson from Chapter 47, New York. I so move.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Claude. Is there a second?

MR. JOHN B. McNATT: John McNatt, 103 in Florida. I move to second it.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Further discussion? All

those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you, David.

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Kenneth D. Wolfe, National Service Director:)

#### Revolutionizing Service in the Twenty-First Century

As National Service Director, it is my honor to report on the achievements of the National Service Department and the beginning phase of implementing the DAV's Strategic Plan for the twenty-first century. The world is rapidly changing with today's new technology. The DAV must respond to these never-ending changes in order to continue to provide the best representation available to disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

In keeping with today's technology every National Service Officer (NSO) has a desktop computer with the most up-to-date programs and software available. NSOs are able to track cases right from their desks through a direct link with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) databases. The newest addition to the NSO arsenal of advocacy tools is an Internet-based medical reference library called STAT!REF. DAV purchased website access to help NSOs provide quality service to our Nation's disabled veterans and their families. This website enables NSOs to have research material right at the tips of their fingers for researching and arguing claims before the VA.

Many of you may recall our fleet of vans called Field Service Units (FSUs), which traveled the back roads and brought service to the rural areas of America and to natural disaster scenes for almost 20 years before being retired in favor of DAV Information Seminars. Today we are faced with an aging veteran population. A half-century ago, 16 million youthful veterans returned from WWII after saving the world. Today, about 6 million survive, and their average age is 75. In addition, the 4 million Korean War veterans, now in their mid-60s, and the 8 million Vietnam veterans, now in their 50s are in need of assistance from afar. The DAV realizes that a large majority of our Nation's veterans may be unable to travel to the nearest VA facility or NSO office for assistance due to their service-connected disabilities.

Throughout DAV's history we have continually adapted to the ever-changing needs of disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors and feel the time has come, once again, to take service on the road in the form of 12 Mobile Service Offices (MSOs) just like the one on display here at the National Convention.

The MSO Program represents our commitment to delivering outreach service to those in need of VA claims assistance by:

- Going directly to the veterans and their dependents living in communities away from VA facilities.
- Providing claims assistance before Federal, State, and local government agencies.
- Increasing DAV & DAVA memberships and revitalizing Chapter, Department, and District interests through shared participation in this service outreach effort.
- Enhancing public awareness of the DAV's mission: *Building better lives for all of our Nation's disabled veterans and their families.*

National Service Officers and veterans alike are faced with a Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims misguided interpretation of the VA's "duty to assist" veterans in developing their claims. The Court has shifted the burden of developing claims from the VA's responsibility to the veteran, even if the veteran has no means to do so because of cost, logistics, or lack of understanding. This interpretation has proven to be outrageous. For example, one Service Office received a rating decision that denied a veteran service connection for amputation of his right leg as not well grounded. The veteran's traumatic amputation occurred while on active duty and he was subsequently permanently retired due to disability. However, since the veteran did not

submit current medical evidence showing his leg was amputated, the VA denied the claim. Without current medical evidence of a disability the VA has no obligation to develop a claim. Can you imagine receiving a letter from the VA after losing your leg in service stating, "Your claim for service connection for amputation of your right leg is not well grounded." The interpretation by the Court of the VA's duty to assist and the VA's reaction to the *Morton v. West* decision are the most blatant examples of a "system gone wrong" in recent memory.

Legislation is now pending before Congress to correct this erroneous interpretation of the VA's duty to assist veterans in developing their claims. However, I can assure you our NSOs have taken the necessary steps to protect your appellate rights, if your claim was denied as not well grounded. Each office has maintained a list of claims denied as not well grounded. Each claim will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine whether or not the duty to assist should have been triggered. We will continue the fight to assure this country lives up to its moral obligation to all disabled veterans, their families, and survivors.

When Judge Robert S. Marx and the first 100 disabled veterans of WWI gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio, on December 25, 1919, it was the start of what would be the finest veterans service organization in the world. I can only imagine that Judge Marx would certainly be proud of the service we provide to America's disabled veterans. Service that has evolved into today's finest, best trained, best equipped, and most dedicated veterans' advocates in the world. The DAV was founded because the government was not fulfilling its obligations to the Nation's wartime disabled veterans. Obviously, there was a need for representation and a strong voice within Congress. This still rings true today, and has been since the beginning of the benefits process.

If history teaches us anything, it is that protecting our benefits will only become more difficult in the future. Needless to say, we must enter the twenty-first century with initiatives to revolutionize the services we provide to our Nation's disabled veterans and their families. We currently have approximately 250 NSOs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico providing services to disabled veterans and their families. DAV is unique in that all NSOs are wartime, service-connected disabled veterans and have gone through the full VA claims and adjudication process themselves. Our NSOs, have been successful in securing VA benefits for 213,142 veterans and their families, equating to more than \$2 billion in new and retroactive monthly benefits during the year ending June 30, 2000.

#### NSO TRAINING ACADEMY

Speaking of DAV's Strategic Plan -- we recognized that a number of our National Service Officers, from the Vietnam-era were beginning to reach retirement age, and many were experiencing difficulties caused by their own service-connected disabilities. This started a gradual attrition of the NSO corps, as previously experienced by NSOs with service during WWI, WWII, and Korea.

On May 24, 1993, we hired the first Persian Gulf War-era veteran and by year's end a total of nine had been hired. In an effort to combat the effects of the growing attrition within the NSO ranks, we had to find a way to effectively recruit, hire, train, and deploy competent, loyal, and dedicated NSOs in a shorter period of time. We did so by improving upon the lessons of the past. DAV has always been eager to embrace new members from our Nation's wars and recruit new employees practicing what we preach: hire wartime disabled veterans.

The strategy implemented to overcome the growing attrition, was the introduction of the DAV National Service Officer Training Academy in conjunction with the University of Colorado at Denver and the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, which became operational on July 11, 1994. The first class,

consisting of 23 NSO Trainees, graduated on November 4, 1994. So you can see, we began implementing our Strategic Succession Plan over six years ago.

At this time last year, I reported that Class VIII would be graduating on September 10, 1999. From that class we deployed 21 new NSOs that have successfully completed training and are currently representing veterans. In addition, National Adjutant Wilson authorized Class IX that graduated on May 5, 2000, and an additional 22 new trainees have started their on-the-job training. At this time I would like to ask those graduates of Classes VIII & IX to please stand and be recognized. Please do not mistake their youthful appearance with inexperience. They are well trained and fully qualified veterans' advocates.

The NSO Training Academy has provided us the tools we need to replenish our NSO corps with 221 new National Service Officers since its inception just six years ago. I am also pleased to announce National Adjutant Wilson approved Class X that began training on July 10, 2000. These 25 NSO Trainees are scheduled to graduate on November 3, 2000. This will bring our total NSO Training Academy graduates to 255 in just six years.

#### STRUCTURED AND CONTINUING TRAINING PROGRAM

An NSO's training does not stop after completing 16 months of initial training. In fact training never stops because the laws, regulations, and policies, which govern veterans' benefits, continue to change and grow in complexity. That's why equipping our NSOs with state-of-the-art computers and keeping their cutting-edge advocacy skills up to date is of paramount importance.

It is for these reasons that we constantly inform, revise, train, and test the skills of our NSOs. In September 2000, we will release our most recent revisions to our video training modules that are used in conjunction with the DAV Structured and Continuing Training Program.

The DAV Structured and Continuing Training Program allows supervisors to provide current real-time training. All pre-tests, intermediate-tests, and post-testing are now completed on-line via the Internet. Tests are then computer graded and immediately made available for on-going reviews by the National Service Department at National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, DC.

#### BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA or Board) is the highest appellate level of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is responsible for final decisions concerning appeals for entitlement to veterans' benefits. About 90 percent of claims before the Board involve medical issues. DAV's highly skilled National Appeals Officers provide an invaluable service to appellants in the preparation of appellate briefs prior to the Board's review of a case. DAV maintains the largest staff of any group at BVA, representing 33.6 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 1999.

Using interactive video technology, Board members can conduct hearings from Washington, DC, while appellants and their representatives present their cases from local regional offices. During Fiscal Year (FY) 1999, the Board continued to expand its use of video-conference hearings, bringing to 25 the number of sites available where such hearings may routinely be held. BVA conducted over 1,000 video-conference hearings during FY 1998, and 1,282 in FY 1999, almost a six-fold increase over the 233 video-conference hearings held in FY 1997. It is projected the Board will conduct over 1,500 video-conference hearings in FY 2000.

The DAV's National Appeals Officers presented 10,032 formal and informal hearing presentations to the Board for appellate review. This total continues to reflect that DAV represents the majority of appeals considered by the Board. Of those cases

considered by the Board, 809 issues of service connection were favorably resolved; 1,615 issues of increased ratings were allowed; 755 miscellaneous issues were established; and 5,872 issues were remanded to VA Regional Offices for additional development. These figures reflect the DAV's continued commitment in providing quality representation to our Nation's wartime disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

During the 1998 reporting year, 8,265 issues represented by DAV were remanded by the Board. The ongoing decline in remands for the past couple of years reflects an ongoing trend of declining remand decisions at the BVA. By the end of FY 1998, the BVA remand rate was 41.2 percent. FY 1999, remanded issues fell to 36.3 percent of total cases and for FY 2000, the BVA remand rate was 28.9 percent as of May 31, 2000.

#### UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

The DAV represents more veterans before the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims than any other veterans service organization. One hundred fifty-six appeals were filed during the 12 months ended June 30, 2000. This represents a marginal increase over the 153 appeals filed during the similar period one year earlier. The DAV not only files more appeals, but also gets favorable results. The Court either reversed or vacated and remanded decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals 119 times in DAV cases during the year. The Board's decision was affirmed only 5 times during this same period. The DAV is successful in its representation of claimants more than 95 percent of the time.

Effective representation is the hallmark of the DAV before the Federal courts. The DAV has become more active before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit over the past year. Four cases are currently pending with the higher court. These include two appeals from decisions of the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims and two petitions for direct review of VA rulemaking. For example, in *Maxson v. West*, the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims held that the mere absence of evidence was sufficient to satisfy the VA's burden to rebut the presumption of sound condition by "clear and unmistakable evidence." The case was argued during April 2000, and a decision is expected later this year. In *Disabled American Veterans v. VA*, the DAV challenged the VA's new rules governing claims of clear and unmistakable error contained in previous BVA decisions, which have become final.

Services provided by our Judicial Appeals Office extend to proactively seeking to identify decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals that should be appealed to the courts. The DAV reviews all BVA decisions in which the DAV represented the appellant. All such denied appeals by the BVA are automatically referred to the Judicial Appeals Office where they are reviewed for the purpose of determining whether a further appeal should be taken. The Judicial Appeals Office reviewed 5,237 Board of Veterans' Appeals decisions during the most recent 12 month period for which statistics are available. The DAV is one of the few veterans service organizations that take this initiative to ensure that wrongful denials are overturned.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROGRAM

As you know technical proficiency is the trademark of the DAV National Service Officer corps. NSOs review every VA rating decision made for veterans or their dependents who appoint the DAV as their accredited representative. The purpose in this review is to ensure the accuracy of the decision and correct all noted deficiencies.

The Administrative Review (AR) program facilitates the correction of decisions through a streamlined administrative remedy rather than the appellate process. The AR program is utilized when an NSO finds clear and unmistakable error in a rating decision. In cases where an NSO believes he or she has found an error in a previous decision, a written synopsis of the

case argument is sent to National Service and Legislative Headquarters. Once reviewed and argued by our National Appeals Office staff, the case will be forwarded to VA Central Office for review.

#### MILITARY AFFAIRS

Military affairs encompasses a host of services provided by NSOs. This past year NSOs provided representation before Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military Records. NSOs also provided counsel and representation for 119 active duty service members during their transition through the military's Disability Evaluation System (DES), which primarily consists of Medical Evaluation Boards (MEBs) and formal hearings before Physical Evaluation Boards (PEBs).

DAV is deeply involved in programs aimed at easing the transition of military personnel to civilian life. We've set up offices specifically for this purpose in the Norfolk, Virginia; Great Lakes, Illinois; and San Diego, California, areas to accommodate the large numbers of military End-Term of Service (ETS) separations and retirees. In other parts of the country, DAV NSOs regularly visit military bases, participating in pre-separation programs conducted by the Department of Defense (DoD).

For those enlisted soldiers, sailors, airmen and officers making the all-important transition back into civilian life, the DAV offers formal Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) and Disabled Transition Assistance Programs (DTAP). Based on the needs of the community and the military bases being serviced, these seminars range from short oral presentations to others consisting of full VA benefit descriptions, service medical record reviews, and filing of VA claims for disability and educational benefits, etc. This past year the DAV conducted TAP serving more than 175,638 separating veterans. We view these programs and the delivery of DAV services to these separating new veterans as absolutely critical. As a part of our Strategic Plan, an initiative is currently being planned and we anticipate expansion and co-locating DAV services along with the VA at the primary military pre-discharge/separation sites in the United States and potentially abroad.

Our National Appeals Office at the BVA has also initiated a Career Awareness Program (CAP) in the Washington, DC, area for Admirals, Generals, and flag officers of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. We participate by providing these officers with information and assistance, prior to their retirement, on a full range of benefits and services available following their many years of honorable service to our Nation.

#### EMPLOYMENT

"Suitable, gainful, useful, permanent employment is the best form of rehabilitation for a service-handicapped veteran.

—Policies and procedures, therefore, which facilitate the suitable, gainful permanent employment of disabled veterans are of great importance to the DAV, its members, and to their dependents, and to their respective local communities, and, incidentally, also to the Nation." These immortal words were spoken by National Commander James L. Monnahan at the 24<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Shirley Savoy Hotel, Denver, Colorado, September 12-15, 1944.

Disabled veterans have historically fared far worse than healthy veterans and other workers in the job market. Since 1945, when DAV established its national employment program, the DAV has spent countless hours devoted to programs aimed at assisting disabled veterans in the job market. This included work with the Congress, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Small Business Administration, Office of Personnel Management, and other government agencies.

Today, as in 1944, employment is the dominant concern for most veterans making their transition to civilian life. It has



been said that "a veteran with a suitable job is a veteran in a position to create his or her own solutions to most of the problems that come with forging a new life as a civilian."

The primary way people pursue jobs hasn't changed, but the methods used to assist veterans of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are quite different. The Transition Assistance Program is the first step to providing service members with the means of controlling their transition to civilian life. DAV National and Department Service Officers provide TAP presentations and inform service members of the various programs and benefits available to assist their transition and prepare them to search for post-service employment. The presentations are offered at a critical juncture of the service member's life, at a time when he or she is getting ready to move from DoD jurisdiction to the jurisdiction of other departments and agencies, such as the VA, the Department of Labor, and the Small Business Administration, that provide benefits and services to veterans after they leave active duty.

DAV believes that as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, veterans will continue to represent an unrecognized and underutilized resource for employers. Many of the benefits and services provided to the men and women now leaving active duty are entrenched in programs and organizations that were established in the closing days of World War II. America will do the service members of this century no service by providing them with the finest of benefits if those benefits are tailored to the needs of a century gone by.

DAV believes it is essential to ensure the employment and training rights of all veterans are protected and enhanced. DAV continues to seek a renewed commitment to veterans' preference. Among others, we are seeking new legislation to enhance protection of veteran's rights by asking Congress to:

- Increase DoD TAP funding.
- Establish an employment and training service priority for veterans who have a service-connected disability.
- Appropriate sufficient funds to enable a viable national veteran's training program.
- Amend the current affirmative action requirements.

DAV believes veterans have earned the opportunity for increased economic participation. Disabled veteran entrepreneurs earned additional assistance because these business owners encounter costs and impediments, due to their service-connected disabilities, that are not factors for their nondisabled competitors.

On August 16, 1999, President Clinton signed into law the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Veterans Act) Public Law 106-50. The purposes of the Veterans Act are to provide additional technical, financial, and procurement assistance to veteran-owned small businesses, to expand existing assistance programs, and to establish new ones for veterans who own or operate small businesses.

#### HOMELESS VETERANS

Homelessness has been a constant presence in America's cities, towns, and rural areas for many years. Since the early 1980s, homelessness has been a regular focus of media interest and a topic of policy debate and remains one of America's most complicated and important social issues. One-third of all homeless individuals are veterans, many of whom have physical or other disabilities.

The DAV Homeless Veterans Initiative is designed to assist those veterans who find themselves on the streets, homeless. Your National Service Officers and Department and Chapter members have participated in Stand Downs for homeless veterans nationwide, and on behalf of the National Service Staff, I extend thanks for all that each of you do to make a significant difference in the lives of homeless veterans and their families across the Nation.

This year, Ford Motor Company has recognized the states of Florida, Maine, Michigan, and Virginia for their outstanding programs on behalf of homeless veterans by donating one of the specially designed Ford Windstar vans developed specifically for use in homeless veterans programs.

With the assistance of the DAV Charitable Service Trust and the DAV National Service Foundation's Colorado Trust, the DAV's Homeless Veterans Initiative enables our network of volunteers to provide food, clothing, shelter, and medical, vision, and dental aid to homeless veterans. Since 1989, DAV's Charitable Service Trust Grants and Allocations for these homeless projects have exceeded \$965,000.

We want to thank Heather French, Miss America 2000, for bringing recognition of the plight of homeless veterans to communities across the Nation and encouraging members of Congress to seek legislation that would help end this tragedy.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

When floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other natural catastrophes strike, misfortune falls on everyone in the affected region, but a veteran's disability only makes an already tragic ordeal even more difficult to cope with. At such a terrible time, DAV NSOs, along with Chapter and Department volunteers, go to the area, search out disabled veterans, and when needed provide grants from the DAV's Disaster Relief Fund. So very often this fund has made the difference for disabled veterans who have needed temporary shelter, food, and clothing. This past year we have provided 104 disaster relief grants to veterans and their families. This demonstrates how the National Organization, Departments, and Chapters work together, in the midst of a crisis, to ensure we take care of all disabled veterans and their families.

#### WOMEN VETERANS

More women are serving in the Armed Forces, and this means more women veterans will be seeking VA benefits and health care services in the future. It is essential that outreach to women veterans be increased to ensure they are informed about their benefits and entitlements. We must also work hard to identify and eliminate barriers experienced by women when accessing VA programs and ensure they receive benefits and health care services on a par with their male peers.

The DAV also recognizes the unique problems disabled women veterans face, including job discrimination, both as women and disabled veterans. Therefore, we have made a concerted effort to improve employment opportunities and enhance our NSO corps with eligible and qualified disabled women veterans. Today women make up 12 percent of DAV's National Service Officer corps, which is consistent with the growing number of women on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The DAV has always recognized the contributions and sacrifices women veterans have made for our country. We are also concerned the American public shares that recognition as well, especially in light of the important roles of women in the military. Much more needs to be done, however, and we will continue to work aggressively toward further effective change through advocacy, outreach, and direct service to women veterans, both those who have been veterans for a long time and those who are just leaving the service.

Over the past seven years, the VA has made notable progress in its effort to address the unique physical, mental, and social needs of women veterans. However, while the VA has implemented a number of programs geared toward women veterans, veterans' health care and the benefits delivery system must be more understanding and responsive to the needs of this growing segment of the veteran population.

The DAV is continuing its advocacy for women veterans on many fronts. Over the years DAV has worked with Congress and the

Administration to enact a number of improvements in VA benefits and medical care services for women veterans. The DAV along with the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach co-sponsored the VA Center for Women Veterans' National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues from June 23-25, in Washington, DC.

The National Summit on Women Veterans Issues was convened to assist the VA and other federal agencies to enhance existing programs and develop new approaches to meeting the gender-specific needs of women veterans. Through a series of panel discussions and working groups on topics such as health care, homelessness, benefits, medical research, the impact of war on women, and transition and employment, more than 350 women veterans identified issues of concern and developed a number of policy recommendations that will be formalized and presented to VA program officials, other federal and state agencies, Congress, and veterans service organizations. Co-sponsoring the Summit was a natural extension of the DAV's continuing efforts to effect policy changes within the VA to ensure appropriate medical services and accommodations for hospitalized women veterans. A formal report on the Summit's proceedings will be released in early 2001.

The proceedings and recommendations from Summit 2000, will be used to develop legislative and program initiatives to improve and enhance services to women veterans.

On June 8, 2000, the DAV provided testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations concerning VA programs and services for women veterans. DAV's testimony included discussion on VA health care services for women veterans, including access to counseling and treatment for sexual trauma and in-patient mental health care services; privacy and safety concerns of women veterans utilizing VA facilities; initiatives for women veterans who are homeless; the effectiveness of the VA Women Veterans Coordinators Program and Advisory Committee for Women Veterans; and outreach and benefit awareness among women veterans.

DAV recognizes that outreach is essential in changing the general lack of awareness among women veterans about available VA benefits and services. We developed and distributed a new pamphlet called *The DAV and Women Veterans* and included a link for women veterans on our website at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). Both initiatives were designed to improve benefit awareness among women veterans and to provide information about issues of interest to this growing segment of the veteran population. Our efforts are producing positive results.

The DAV also has its own Women Veterans Advisory Committee, made up of women veterans from DAV's membership, which meets annually at DAV National Conventions. The Committee works to increase awareness among women veterans about available benefits, services, and programs, and advises DAV National Headquarters regarding the concerns of women veterans. The Committee encourages women veterans to play an active role in our organization at all levels.

#### PERSIAN GULF

The DAV assumes an active role in ensuring that Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses related to their service are provided adequate health care and are compensated for their disabilities. In 1998-1999, DAV provided oversight and feedback to committees of the Department of Defense and the VA dealing with Gulf War scientific and health care issues. We were also invited to participate in meetings and hearings conducted by the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents.

Clearly, many veterans who served in the Persian Gulf are suffering from a variety of physical disabilities, chronic ailments, and undiagnosed illnesses. These are very real problems, many of which are still evolving and the causes of which still remain unclear. Effective treatments in many cases have yet to be developed, and although some treatments can be

helpful, they are not uniformly provided to ill veterans.

Obviously, these problems are of a major concern. The progress that might be expected, given the passage of time, resources expended, and programs put in place, is not what it should or could be.

Seemingly, the biggest challenge facing Persian Gulf War veterans is the difficulty comprehending and complying with VA's complex and confusing rules and regulations in obtaining health care and compensation benefits. Within the VA, there is widespread misunderstanding of its own policies, programs, and processes related to Persian Gulf War veterans. Some VA health care providers are not aware of the requirements in conducting physical examinations for participation in the VA's Persian Gulf Registry. In addition, not all of the VA's decision makers grasp what is required to properly process Persian Gulf War-related disability claims. This situation has contributed to poor program planning and implementation across the board for Persian Gulf War veterans. The DAV is continuing to monitor these observations and make recommendations to the government agencies responsible for implementing these programs.

In 1999, we also saw a major shift in the efforts of the government agencies conducting and sponsoring research into possible exposures found in the Persian Gulf. This shift has been from an almost exclusive focus on chemical weapons to a more balanced inquiry that includes work on medical doctrines including the anthrax immunization policy, pyridostigmine bromide pills, pesticides, oil well fires, depleted uranium, and other possible environmental exposures.

Although much work is yet to be done, there are positive developments indicating that DoD and the VA have learned from the diminished credibility and public criticism, resulting from their initial failure to adequately address Persian Gulf War veterans' concerns. The establishment of the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses (OSAGWI) in 1996, has increased the flow of information to veterans and the public about various events during the Persian Gulf War which may have affected the health of veterans who served there. The new Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents, created in April 1998, by the President, chaired by the Honorable Warren B. Rudman, former Senator from New Hampshire, will provide a vehicle for continued monitoring of OSAGWI's work in the future. The VA also has worked to overcome the institutional inertia that characterized its early effort into Persian Gulf War programs and has stepped up its efforts to effectively identify and treat ill Persian Gulf War veterans. Although far from perfect, these efforts are an encouraging step in the right direction.

The DAV will continue to advocate and be at the forefront of Persian Gulf War veterans' issues and concerns. Through our efforts on Capitol Hill and in outreach efforts across America, we continue to ensure that adequate health care and compensation are provided for this new heroic generation of sick and disabled veterans who answered our Nation's call to arms.

#### RETIREMENTS

Our experienced professional NSOs that have retired this past year will forever denote a successful page in the DAV's history. These men and women served their country in her hour of need and returned home, many with the deep scars of war, to serve their fellow comrades as advocates for fair and equitable benefits. From the National Service Staff, we wish each of these NSOs good health and happiness during retirement. We appreciate their commitment and dedication to our cause. For the record those who retired in the past year are: William B. Beachum, William E. Comp, Gary P. Burns, Alexander Giles, Thomas A. Gregory, Stanley J. Hoy, Harold W. LaPonsie, Ronald J. Leader, George A. Martin, Dennis D. Mensing, Derrell G. Neal, Guillermo J. Pajo, Samuel D. Sabino, Donald M. Sampson, Steven A. Schneck, James W. Stewart, Robert E. Timmons, and Michael E. Warbois.

DEATHS

As the Nation's veteran population rapidly declines -- the attrition takes its toll on our NSO ranks. These NSOs have provided services and helped improve the quality of life for scores of disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors. We shall recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: Michael S. Brady, Alfred Cassidy, Stuart J. Cody, Edward J. Dean, Benny Dunakoskie, Pasquale B. Gervace, John Kirch, Charles W. Mills, Ronald F. Moschella, Buford L. Phillips, Robert O. Pugh, John E. Sloan, and Benjamin Tatch.

CONCLUSION

We all recognize and appreciate the professionalism, leadership, commitment, and personal sacrifices made by our elected National Commander Michael E. Dobmeier and all of the National Line Officers, members of the National Executive Committee, National Finance Committee, and all of the Officers and Board of Directors for both the National Service Foundation and Charitable Service Trust. We extend our thanks and salute you for a job well done.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson; National Headquarters Executive Director Richard E. Patterson and his staff for the support provided to the National Service Department, and I thank Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman for his steadfast guidance, direction, and active involvement in helping to manage the National Service Department. I also thank National Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante; National Director of Voluntary Services Jerry P. Steelman; National Director of Communications Gary C. Weaver; National Director of Human Resources Gregory M. Jackson; National Director of Charitable Programs Nancy L. O'Brien; National Membership Director Michael J. Walsh; and all of their staffs for the assistance they have provided the National Service Department.

Appreciation is also extended to the National Service Department staff members with whom I have the pleasure of working: Deputy National Service Director for Employment Anthony L. Baskerville; Assistant National Service Director Robert P. Plante, Associate National Service Director Edward R. Reese, Jr., and to our devoted Service Support Staff Specialists Emily Hall and Amie Cole.

I would like to extend a special note of thanks to recently retired Assistant National Service Director Samuel D. Sabino who was unable to join us here in Reno. Sam joined the DAV's professional staff as a National Service Officer some 27 years ago. While his devotion to duty, talents, skills, and abilities as a claims technician were great, they were certainly dwarfed by his genuine caring and compassion for all the veterans that he served. Sam has indicated he will remain active in DAV activities and we wish him and his wife Marlene well in retirement.

We don't do it alone -- the spirit of cooperation with the DAV Auxiliary and assistance from the Chapter Service Officers, Department Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators has greatly contributed to the success we have achieved this past year, and we thank each and every one of you.

Last, but most importantly of all, we thank our loyal and dedicated professional corps of National Service Officers and support staffs who advocate on behalf of veterans and deliver the services mandated by DAV's chartered purpose. The National Service Department knows full well that DAV's mission is not fulfilled until all our country's wartime disabled, their dependents and survivors, have been adequately cared for. This is why we continue to revolutionize our services, implement new programs and outreach initiatives such as the Mobile Service Office Program and the National Transition Facilitators (NTF) program -- all as a part of our Strategic Plan. With our 10<sup>th</sup> NSO Training Academy Class underway, we are embracing change by taking the necessary steps to care for America's disabled veterans and their families well into the twenty-first century.

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

## OFFICE: MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	322
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	842
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,414
4.	PENSION.....	141
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	68
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	274
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	67
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	46
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	8
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	19
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	92
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,294
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,898,542.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS..	\$32,135,191.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$34,033,733.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,501
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	624
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,434
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,947
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	4
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	909
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	92

## OFFICE: PHOENIX, ARIZONA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	708
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,724
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,319
4.	PENSION.....	220
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	69
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	652
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	95
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	73
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	5
13.	INSURANCE.....	3
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	166
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	5,035
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,345,176.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$51,533,429.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$54,878,605.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	4,681
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,284
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	3,177
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,328
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	444
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,217
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	231

## OFFICE: LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	387
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,076
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,659
4.	PENSION.....	356

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	95
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	4
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	599
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	34
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	50
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	90
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	67
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION AWARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,417
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,515,836.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$33,819,058.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$36,334,894.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	14,837
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	5,539
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,235
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	13,111
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	592
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	69
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	7,729
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	133

## OFFICE: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	1,185
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,971
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	2,336
4.	PENSION.....	497
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	261
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	916
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	272
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	163
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	3
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	60
13.	INSURANCE.....	38
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	346
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	8,048
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,830,256.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$69,197,420.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$73,027,676.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	10,532
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	3,189
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,425
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	6,817
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	2,386
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	3
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,029
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	92

## OFFICE: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	1,069
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,965
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,610
4.	PENSION.....	200
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	1,662
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	396
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	136
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	71
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	4
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	65
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	7,179
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$4,077,139.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$73,077,936.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$77,155,075.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	6,360
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,969
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	3,150
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,650
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	1,068
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	2
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,935
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	277

OFFICE: DENVER, COLORADO

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	987
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,257
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,242
4.	PENSION.....	660
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	77
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	989
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	98
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	45
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	126
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCE.....	69
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	5,550
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,049,406.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$45,332,466.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$48,381,872.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,537
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,173
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,693
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,990
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,321
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	155

OFFICE: HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	119
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	397
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	338
4.	PENSION.....	44
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	21
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	207
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	3
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	11
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	2
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	72
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,214



## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$580,566.27
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$9,201,523.15
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$9,782,089.42
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,368
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	214
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	489
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,073
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	330
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	20

OFFICE: V.A. REGIONAL OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	239
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	438
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	462
4.	PENSION.....	26
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	17
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	91
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	35
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	35
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	5
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	1
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	29
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	41
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,419
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,069,959.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$18,965,569.65
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$20,035,528.65
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,804
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	558
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,747
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,651
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	648
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	672
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	121

OFFICE: ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	2,007
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	4,356
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	3,980
4.	PENSION.....	583
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	186
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	1,021
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	113
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	284
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	4
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	110
13.	INSURANCE.....	8
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	692
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	13,344
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$7,546,361.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$123,618,359.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$131,164,720.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	16,960
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	3,325
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,598

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	12,363
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	6,900
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	348

## OFFICE: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	258
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	793
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	670
4.	PENSION.....	176
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	69
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	356
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	15
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	70
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	41
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCE.....	135
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,583
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,523,506.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$23,754,567.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$25,278,073.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,820
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	889
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,813
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,679
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	605
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,067
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	125

## OFFICE: HONOLULU, HAWAII

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	138
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	279
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	326
4.	PENSION.....	12
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	14
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	76
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	24
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	14
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	2
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	63
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	948
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$572,049.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$10,369,953.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$10,942,002.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	992
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	315
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	984
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	897
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	492
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	601
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	68

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

## OFFICE: BOISE, IDAHO

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	251
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	628
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	554
4.	PENSION.....	112
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	155
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	15
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	236
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	5
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	20
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	13
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	17
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,007
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,284,716.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$16,799,416.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$18,084,132.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,532
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	531
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,603
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,580
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	841
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	04
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,993
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	64

## OFFICE: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	483
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,143
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	958
4.	PENSION.....	383
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	180
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	243
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	152
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	71
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	55
13.	INSURANCE.....	27
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	344
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,039
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,388,939.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$33,828,393.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$36,217,332.01
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,391
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,073
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,941
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,963
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	235
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	28
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,055
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	132

## OFFICE: INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	382
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,147
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	816
4.	PENSION.....	296

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	166
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	369
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	185
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	55
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	51
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	65
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,533
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,879,660.34
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$22,951,921.83
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$24,831,532.17
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	4,297
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	616
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,264
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,618
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	10
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	5
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,425
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	90

## OFFICE: DES MOINES, IOWA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	103
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	375
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	591
4.	PENSION.....	158
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	166
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	154
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	8
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	18
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	15
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	7
13.	INSURANCE.....	12
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	57
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,664
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,450,352.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$15,544,981.55
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$16,995,334.10
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,139
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	295
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	409
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,007
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	690
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	28

## OFFICE: WICHITA, KANSAS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	248
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	459
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	770
4.	PENSION.....	87
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	409
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	191
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	39
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	34
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	82
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	83
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,403
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,158,693.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$16,634,423.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$17,793,116.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,033
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	641
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,269
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,908
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	1
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,967
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	96

OFFICE: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	527
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,521
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,954
4.	PENSION.....	1,078
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	164
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	417
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	88
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	82
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	4
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	294
13.	INSURANCE.....	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	36
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	6,167
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,502,991.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$56,385,100.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$59,888,091.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,846
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	2,535
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,366
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	5,229
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	72
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	1
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	4,330
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	84

OFFICE: NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	165
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	652
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	855
4.	PENSION.....	183
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	54
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	116
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	24
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	28
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	12
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	11
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	4
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,104

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,690,042.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$21,010,989.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$22,701,031.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,098
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	573
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,702
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,151
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	17
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	42
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,401
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	17

OFFICE: TOGUS, MAINE

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	213
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	600
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	430
4.	PENSION.....	16
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	13
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	170
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	3
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	21
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	23
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,489
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,184,027.08
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$18,034,331.23
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$19,218,358.31
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,086
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	253
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,930
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,671
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	445
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	284

OFFICE: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	259
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	694
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	517
4.	PENSION.....	80
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	304
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	374
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	34
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	42
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	6
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	52
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,362
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,374,510.96
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$16,423,049.52
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$17,797,560.48
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,417
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	352
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,488

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,621
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	12
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	7
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	991
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	40

## OFFICE: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	547
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,597
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,094
4.	PENSION.....	111
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	25
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	462
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	58
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	66
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	19
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	373
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,352
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,079,259.98
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$45,994,324.02
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$49,073,584.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	6,776
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,330
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,266
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,803
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	4
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,401
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	377

## OFFICE: DETROIT, MICHIGAN

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	210
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	830
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	848
4.	PENSION.....	640
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	396
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	239
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	128
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	88
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	174
13.	INSURANCE.....	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	375
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,929
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,942,048.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$30,163,540.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$32,105,588.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	7,323
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,213
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,161
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,388
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	2
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	4,462
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	49

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

OFFICE: ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	532
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	984
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,132
4.	PENSION.....	159
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	209
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	508
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	39
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	74
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	99
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	56
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,792
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,447,771.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$35,885,477.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$38,332,248.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	4,976
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,189
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,293
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,666
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,861
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	210

OFFICE: JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	122
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	453
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	579
4.	PENSION.....	198
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	39
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	84
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	21
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	25
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	31
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	48
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,601
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$986,608.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$15,013,981.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$16,000,589.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,194
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	217
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	694
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	924
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	784
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	50

OFFICE: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	801
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,527
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,796
4.	PENSION.....	438



## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	187
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	4
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	1,049
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	47
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	67
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	5
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	26
13.	INSURANCE.....	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	137
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	6,085
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,507,412.42
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$53,032,234.16
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$56,539,646.58
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,038
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,692
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,680
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,119
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	7
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,586
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	185

## OFFICE: FORT HARRISON, MONTANA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	98
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	263
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	303
4.	PENSION.....	68
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	43
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	8
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	1
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	14
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	2
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	13
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	814
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$779,532.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$8,037,713.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$8,817,245.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	470
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	156
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	783
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	760
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	337
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	26

## OFFICE: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	298
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	948
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	390
4.	PENSION.....	91
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	20
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	190
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	32
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	56
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12. DEATH PENSION.....	1
13. INSURANCE.....	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	97
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,123
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,175,398.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$12,788,718.00
19. FULL AMOUNT.....	\$13,964,116.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,390
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	555
22. INTERVIEWS.....	378
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,335
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	28
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	3
26. NEW CLAIMS.....	773
27. MEMBERSHIP.....	15

## OFFICE: MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	197
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	632
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	960
4. PENSION.....	55
5. PENSION MAINTAINED.....	78
6. SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	157
8. MISCELLANEOUS.....	18
9. DEATH COMPENSATION.....	26
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	10
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12. DEATH PENSION.....	10
13. INSURANCE.....	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,143
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,702,417.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$20,121,514.00
19. FULL AMOUNT.....	\$21,823,931.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,342
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	447
22. INTERVIEWS.....	1,408
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,310
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	6
26. NEW CLAIMS.....	913
27. MEMBERSHIP.....	51

## OFFICE: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	372
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	542
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,127
4. PENSION.....	21
5. PENSION MAINTAINED.....	27
6. SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	172
8. MISCELLANEOUS.....	41
9. DEATH COMPENSATION.....	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12. DEATH PENSION.....	70
13. INSURANCE.....	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	124
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,519

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,410,315.58
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$23,765,149.72
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$25,175,465.30
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,272
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	991
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,623
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,538
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	8
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,424
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	93

OFFICE: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	497
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,245
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	722
4.	PENSION.....	175
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	232
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	311
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	21
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	53
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	16
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	18
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	81
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,371
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,186,647.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$40,247,657.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$42,434,304.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,394
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	793
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	3,089
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,476
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	4
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	15
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,139
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	214

OFFICE: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	552
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,430
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,808
4.	PENSION.....	124
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	347
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	21
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	76
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	72
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	9
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	4
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	332
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,775
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,822,293.48
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$53,479,307.76
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$56,301,601.24
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	6,137
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	969
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	3,298

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,812
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	5
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,539
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	142

## OFFICE: ALBANY, NEW YORK

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	91
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	386
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,693
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	69
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	627
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	110

## OFFICE: BUFFALO, NEW YORK

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	336
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	822
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	901
4.	PENSION.....	78
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	481
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	1,231
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	24
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	21
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	19
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	73
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,986
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,353,429.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$35,048,311.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$37,401,740.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	7,715
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	462
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,431
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	6,258
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,215
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	105

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

OFFICE: SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	3
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,656.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$116,107.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$117,763.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	353
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	275
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,396
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	18
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	5
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	16
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,117
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	66

OFFICE: WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	555
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,557
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,293
4.	PENSION.....	249
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	199
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	634
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	50
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	53
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	9
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	22
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,621
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,079,389.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$48,816,305.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$51,895,694.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	4,996
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	2,512
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,662
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,366
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	31
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	18
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,754
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	68

OFFICE: FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	219
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	492
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	466
4.	PENSION.....	133

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	122
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	290
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	35
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	30
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	74
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	47
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,908
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,007,923.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$13,163,464.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$14,171,387.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,597
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	553
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,305
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,153
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,418
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	86

OFFICE: CLEVELAND, OHIO

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	444
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,669
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	2,526
4.	PENSION.....	374
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	4,343
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	579
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	95
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	127
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	6
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	3
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	1,053
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	305
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	11,524
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$6,772,836.13
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$93,029,009.55
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$99,801,845.68
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	10,959
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,922
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,458
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	9,997
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	1
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	5,220
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	176

OFFICE: CINCINNATI, OHIO

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	138
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	719
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	838
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	72
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	337
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,472
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	33

## OFFICE: MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	364
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,215
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,357
4.	PENSION.....	498
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	420
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	317
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	130
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	57
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	3
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	113
13.	INSURANCE.....	27
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	177
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,679
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,998,706.44
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$37,950,196.67
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$40,948,903.11
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,564
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,153
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,169
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,188
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	11
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,767
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	146

## OFFICE: PORTLAND, OREGON

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	327
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	967
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	887
4.	PENSION.....	344
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	117
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	1
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	477
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	26
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	49
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	27
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	98
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,321

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,565,871.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$35,383,811.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$37,949,682.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,121
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	616
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,170
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,849
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	8
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,041
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	110

## OFFICE: PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	525
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,716
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,153
4.	PENSION.....	320
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	93
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	319
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	86
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	43
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	41
13.	INSURANCE.....	51
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	184
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,531
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,483,731.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$42,865,133.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$45,348,864.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,088
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,325
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,530
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,602
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,937
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	178

## OFFICE: WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	72
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	354



## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	207
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	0

## OFFICE: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	390
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,067
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,347
4.	PENSION.....	251
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	117
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	254
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	176
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	46
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	40
13.	INSURANCE.....	2
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	266
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,954
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,037,242.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$33,882,482.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$35,919,724.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,889
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	834
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,670
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,792
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,968
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	257

## OFFICE: PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	296
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	820
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	751
4.	PENSION.....	83
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	392
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	134
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	6
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	25
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	10
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	168
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,687
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,620,327.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$26,247,992.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$27,868,319.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,810
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	472
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,572
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,443
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	836
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	229

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

OFFICE: COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	395
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	827
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	930
4.	PENSION.....	234
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	98
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	480
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	53
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	45
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	14
13.	INSURANCE.....	10
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	27
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	3,114
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,949,090.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$27,394,078.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$29,343,168.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,395
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	589
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,994
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,756
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	2
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,873
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	148

OFFICE: SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	130
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	309
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	409
4.	PENSION.....	75
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	63
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	297
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	36
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	28
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	21
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	66
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,434
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$824,955.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$10,383,894.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$11,208,849.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,563
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	263
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	601
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,142
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,047
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	122

OFFICE: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	488
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,328
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,550
4.	PENSION.....	399

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	162
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	3
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	250
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	67
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	49
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	45
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	59
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,402
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,641,975.46
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$41,181,347.43
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$43,823,322.89
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	3,991
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,260
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	869
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	3,009
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	14
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	7
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,438
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	100

## OFFICE: WACO, TEXAS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	979
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	3,126
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	2,617
4.	PENSION.....	851
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	240
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	1,130
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	383
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	164
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	1
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	176
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	106
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	9,773
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$4,932,529.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$79,163,662.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$84,096,191.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	9,679
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	3,697
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,645
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	7,292
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	4,559
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	196

## OFFICE: HOUSTON, TEXAS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	1,159
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	2,050
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	2,005
4.	PENSION.....	365
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	1,834
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	655
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	76
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	88
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	4

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	87
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	287
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	8,610
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$4,692,854.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$77,286,974.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$81,979,828.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	8,374
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,366
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,949
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	6,745
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	1
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,365
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	288

OFFICE: SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	64
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	78
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	148
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$173,259.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$2,552,141.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$2,725,400.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	334
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,438
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,469
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	174
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	564
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,559
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	95

OFFICE: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	165
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	435
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	592
4.	PENSION.....	45
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	8
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	99
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	3
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	14
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	1
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	55
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,417

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$995,024.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$12,902,378.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$13,897,402.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,184
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	374
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	846
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,771
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	632
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	532
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	75

## OFFICE: WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	90
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	217
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	235
4.	PENSION.....	30
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	32
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	87
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	1
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	8
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	3
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	21
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	724
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$630,490.93
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$7,265,092.25
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$7,995,583.18
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,056
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	226
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,856
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,196
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	920
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	2

## OFFICE: ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	695
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,183
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,662
4.	PENSION.....	178
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	48
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	625
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	23
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	42
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	11
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	129
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,596
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,909,867.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$39,602,212.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$42,512,079.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,564
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,311
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,731

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,019
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	1
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,865
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	214

## OFFICE: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	1,659
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,998
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,902
4.	PENSION.....	201
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	96
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	693
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	23
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	55
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	30
13.	INSURANCE.....	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	134
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	6,792
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,871,520.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$67,642,892.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$71,514,412.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,584
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	2,311
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	2,384
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,448
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,708
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	153

## OFFICE: HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	261
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	656
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	503
4.	PENSION.....	215
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	37
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	113
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	66
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	21
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	9
13.	INSURANCE.....	1
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	97
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	1,980
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,433,389.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$24,562,238.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$25,995,627.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	2,637
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	326
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,573
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	2,128
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,351
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	27

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

OFFICE: MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	451
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	1,253
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	1,510
4.	PENSION.....	301
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	225
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	2
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	658
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	45
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	74
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	4
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	54
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	130
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,707
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$3,086,042.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$42,218,091.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$45,304,133.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,361
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,011
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,602
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,809
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	20
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	2,270
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	194

OFFICE: CHEYENNE, WYOMING

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	108
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	122
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	126
4.	PENSION.....	111
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	4
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	144
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	20
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	7
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	8
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	2
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	652
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$332,528.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$4,290,093.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$4,622,621.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	676
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	112
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	412
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	530
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	379
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	15

OFFICE: WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	68
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	161
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	98
4.	PENSION.....	18

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	5
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	7
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	4
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	2
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	2
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	20
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	385
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$177,865.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$3,088,986.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$3,266,842.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	845
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	82
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	503
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	302
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	348
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	9

OFFICE: DALLAS, TEXAS

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	3
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	3
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	6
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	22
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	621
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	5,475
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	2
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	2
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	827
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	11

OFFICE: OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0



## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	18
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	262
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,839
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	566
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	2
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	418
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	34

OFFICE: SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	1,356
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	814
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	705
4.	PENSION.....	103
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	52
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	1,176
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	65
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	102
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	3
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	5
13.	INSURANCE.....	84
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	180
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	4,645
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$2,570,959.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$39,448,833.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$42,019,792.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	5,240
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,273
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,037
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	4,134
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	417
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	3,354
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	182

OFFICE: RENO, NEVADA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	310
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	652
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	541
4.	PENSION.....	73
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	79
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	295
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	28
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	23
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	9
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	42
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,052

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,103,436.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$19,664,230.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$20,767,666.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,764
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	454
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,151
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	1,599
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	825
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	41

OFFICE: MIAMI, FLORIDA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	5
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	5
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	331
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	150
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	4,321
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	68
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	25

OFFICE: SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	64
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	276
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	586
4.	PENSION.....	131
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	469
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	450
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	27
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	31
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	2
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	82
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	65
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	2,193
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$1,262,381.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$17,563,911.34
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$18,826,292.34
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,603
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	509
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,934

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	897
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	0
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	18
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	860
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	38

## OFFICE: NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	0
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	893
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	205
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	9
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	4,309
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	2
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	1,117
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	14

## OFFICE: NAS MIRAMAR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	0
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	0
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	0
4.	PENSION.....	0
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	0
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	0
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	0
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	0
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	0
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	0
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	0
13.	INSURANCE.....	0
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	0
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	0
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	0
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$0.00
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.....	\$0.00
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$0.00
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	1,422
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	1,358
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	1,120
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	0
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	43,886
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	0
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	0
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	0

## RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES - Continued

JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

## OFFICE: TOTAL NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT

1.	NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS.....	26,182
2.	COMPENSATION INCREASED.....	58,506
3.	COMPENSATION MAINTAINED.....	60,212
4.	PENSION.....	13,049
5.	PENSION MAINTAINED.....	15,489
6.	SOCIAL SECURITY.....	36
7.	EDUCATION BENEFITS.....	22,442
8.	MISCELLANEOUS.....	3,462
9.	DEATH COMPENSATION.....	2,998
10.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS.....	131
11.	SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED.....	3
12.	DEATH PENSION.....	3,375
13.	INSURANCE.....	265
14.	BURIAL ALLOWANCES.....	6,873
15.	PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS.....	119
16.	TOTAL AWARDS.....	213,142
17.	TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES.....	\$126,470,696.62
18.	TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS..	\$1,929,961,556.83
19.	FULL AMOUNT.....	\$2,056,432,253.46
20.	VA FILES REVIEWED.....	242,507
21.	POWER OF ATTORNEYS.....	66,687
22.	INTERVIEWS.....	130,154
23.	RATING BOARD APPEARANCES.....	185,153
24.	MILITARY AFFAIRS.....	58,223
25.	SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.....	411
26.	NEW CLAIMS.....	131,488
27.	MEMBERSHIP.....	7,456

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Jerry P. Steelman, National Director of Voluntary Services.)

Ours is an organization that will always remember the sacrifices of disabled veterans and for 55 years now we have demonstrated this through the DAV and Auxiliary VAVS programs. Today I would like to take a moment to salute all of those DAV and DAV Auxiliary members who have made our organization and its programs the envy of the veterans' community. Although this report focuses on the past year's successes, let's also focus on the future. While we can and should be proud of our achievements, we must also look ahead. Let us focus on innovation in volunteerism. Let us focus on where the DAV and Auxiliary will find new volunteers to meet the growing needs of veterans, particularly those who are aging. If you're not already in the ranks of our volunteers, we need you. We need your time, your sensitivities, your ideas, and your help in making certain that America's veterans get the care they deserve.

Our volunteer programs have withstood the test of time and will continue to soar to new heights in the years to come.

As you consider your own possible future role in our volunteer effort, please remember that there are more than enough opportunities to go around -- not only at VA medical centers but in the communities where veterans live. Think of the unused skills and talents in our membership ranks! Think of the services we could offer veterans if more of us became involved!

The following program descriptions present statistics totaling the money spent, the hours donated, and the number of people who participate in our volunteer effort. These figures can never fully represent the leadership and unselfish assistance provided by State VAVS Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputies, and individual volunteers. No one can put a price on programs like transportation to medical treatment, direct patient care, entertainment, and recreational and sporting activities. No one can place a monetary value on doing for older veterans what they can no longer do for themselves. Nor could we place a dollar sign in front of the friendship one veteran extends to another...or the love an

Auxiliary member holds out to a family much like her own. The statistics in this report merely measure what DAV members, DAV families, and DAV friends have done in accomplishing our organization's purpose. They cannot measure the gift our volunteers offer or the reward they receive in their own hearts.

**DAV DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**VOLUNTARY SERVICES PROGRAM**

The DAV VAVS program is the largest of the DAV's volunteer initiatives. Through it, DAV volunteers provide a broad array of services to veterans in our nation's VA medical facilities. Under this program, 8,125 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 2,122,112 hours in the 12 months ending March 31, 2000.

With a group this large and the huge number of assignments they perform, you can imagine the extensive management effort that's carried out on a local level by 34 State Chairmen, 185 VAVS Representatives, 27 Associate Representatives, 300 Deputy Representatives, and six Associate Deputy Representatives.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 2,088 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 339,515 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided 2,461,627 hours of VAVS service over the past year -- more than any other service organization. This is equivalent to the VA having an additional 1,183 full-time employees with an estimated value of \$35,201,266.00 in hourly wages alone.

**DAV HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR**  
**TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROGRAM**

Because so many sick and disabled veterans lack transportation to and from VA medical facilities for needed treatment, the DAV operates a nationwide Transportation Network. This program continues to show tremendous growth as an indispensable resource for veterans. Across the nation, DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) operate 187 active programs. They've recruited 6,347 volunteer drivers who logged 25,677,067 miles last year, taking 742,486 veterans to and from VA medical facilities. Many of these veterans rode in vans the DAV donated to VA medical facilities for use in the Transportation Network. DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have now donated 992 vans to VA medical centers nationwide at a cost of \$19,366,407.86.

At the DAV's 78<sup>th</sup> National Convention, Ford Motor Company loaned six 1999 Ford Super Club Wagon, 15-passenger vans to VA medical centers to be used in the DAV Transportation Network. We are very pleased that after having evaluated the usefulness of the loan of these vans, Ford Motor Company has permanently donated those vehicles to the following VA medical centers: Northern California Healthcare System (outstationed at the Sacramento VA Outpatient Clinic); Wilmington, Delaware; Columbia, South Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; Richmond, Virginia; and Walla Walla, Washington.

As a further demonstration of its commitment to the DAV Transportation Network, Ford is donating nine 2000 Super Club Wagon vans. This will take place during the Opening Session, at this National Convention here in Reno. The VAMCs receiving these vans are: Decatur, Georgia; Salt Lake City, Utah (outstationed: Idaho Falls); Wichita, Kansas; Salisbury, North Carolina; White City, Oregon; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Waco, Texas; and Sheridan, Wyoming.

This generous gift was the result of several months of meetings and planning with Ford representatives. From the start, they showed great interest in the DAV's mission of service and transportation to the many veterans who have no other means of getting to their VA medical appointments. Ford's participation with us is a real boost to the DAV Transportation Network program.

DAV HSCs do more than coordinate transportation; they also help veterans file claims for VA benefits. During the past year HSCs have completed 63,210 VA claim forms, referring 20,451 veterans to DAV National Service Officers for professional benefits

assistance. They've also conducted 183,475 telephone and personal interviews. DAV HSCs and VAVS volunteers form a hospital-based service program that thousands of veterans have come to know and trust for help whenever it's needed.

#### THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL TROPHY

The George H. Seal Memorial Trophy recognizes an outstanding DAV and Auxiliary VAVS volunteer each year, people whose volunteer activities closely reflect the values that characterized the life of the late National DAV VAVS Representative George H. Seal.

During the 23 years since its inception, this award has become one of the most esteemed honors presented at the DAV's annual National Convention. VA Medical Center Chiefs of Voluntary Services throughout the nation are each allowed to submit nominations for one DAV and one DAVA volunteer. These nominations submitted by VA medical centers throughout the nation are then thoroughly evaluated by an independent committee of authorities in the field of voluntary service. The two volunteers selected by the committee are brought to the DAV National Convention for the award presentation. After reviewing the nominations of DAV volunteers and Auxiliary volunteers, the committee chose as this year's winners:

**Jay Jones**, 86, of Prescott, Arizona, has been selected by the Disabled American Veterans to receive the 2000 George H. Seal Memorial Trophy for extraordinary volunteerism.

Mr. Jones is an exemplary volunteer who has literally devoted his life to caring and protecting sick and disabled veterans. He exhibits the spirit and dedication of all DAV volunteers and can be counted on to do his best for veterans.

Mr. Jones is a member of DAV Chapter 16 in Prescott, Arizona, who volunteers six days a week at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System. He has volunteered his time for 18 years. During that time he has amassed a remarkable 40,882 hours of volunteering. He has worked as a VAVS Representative, escort, information, and guest services care ambassador. His most famous contribution is bringing fresh fruit to patients and cooking up fresh popcorn for the staff.

Mr. Jones visits every veteran in the hospital daily and is known throughout the medical center for his caring and giving attitude. His popcorn is so popular, he has created his own currency. He makes up volunteer bucks that are green and feature the Voluntary Service logo. The bucks are good for free bags of popcorn and are awarded to people who do something special for a veteran. Mr. Jones attributes his massive volunteer work with saving his life following the death of his wife, Dorothy, 17 years ago. "I sat in that house and I didn't think I could live without her," he said. "When my son, Pat, told me to get out of the house and do something, I thought I'd go to the hospital and visit sick people."

**Edna Robinson**, 80, of Lexington, Kentucky, has been selected by the Disabled American Veterans to receive the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy as the leading DAV Auxiliary volunteer of 2000. Mrs. Robinson was highly praised for her decades of service to sick and disabled veterans at VA medical centers.

Mrs. Robinson is a member of DAV Auxiliary Unit 1 in Lexington, Kentucky, and is a dedicated volunteer assisting hospitalized veterans and demonstrating the importance of volunteering through her own active participation. She has served as a veteran volunteer for 25 years and has donated 5,264 hours as a volunteer.

Mrs. Robinson cheerfully accepts all of her volunteer assignments with the attitude that she wants to help wherever sick and disabled veterans need her. She is sensitive and compassionate when dealing with family members of patients who undergo surgery at the medical facility.

Mrs. Robinson serves as a recreation volunteer, planning monthly birthday parties for Alzheimer's patients and monthly Bingo games for patients in the psychiatric unit. She also volunteers in the surgical waiting room to provide emotional support to families

of patients undergoing surgery and serves as liaison between the families and medical staff. Mrs. Robinson serves as DAV Auxiliary VAVS Representative to the Lexington VA Medical Center, using her contacts with Auxiliary units throughout the area to gather contributions, recruits, new support projects, and activities that improve the lives of sick and disabled veterans. She previously served as a patient escort, helping veterans in wheelchairs or stretchers get to their medical appointments.

The DAV can be proud of people like Mr. Jones and Mrs. Robinson for the service and dedication they display every day. Whenever any of us wears the DAV emblem, we know that it is a symbol of greatness because of people like Jay and Edna and all the others who each day, without fanfare or recognition, provide friendly service and compassionate support to disabled veterans. They are great people and they help make the DAV a great organization.

The selection committee once again stated that all of the nominees are very special volunteers, and it was a very, very difficult job to choose only two individuals. Each nominee has been awarded a certificate of merit for outstanding volunteer performance in meeting the needs of hospitalized veterans.

#### **NATIONAL COMMANDER'S YOUTH VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP**

The National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship (NCYVS) program was created this year to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service programs. Under the program, three scholarships are awarded annually to deserving young men and women who have donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in VA medical centers.

The NCYVS is designed to encourage youth volunteers to become actively involved in DAV VAVS programs. As reported by the VA, during FY 1999, there were 22,078 student volunteers who had volunteered their time at VA medical centers.

Candidates for the NCYVS must be age 21 or below (as recognized by the VA) and must have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours in a VA medical center during the previous calendar year. The scholarship will be available for any accredited institution of higher learning, to include universities, colleges, community colleges or vocational schools, etc. In addition, the recipient must utilize the scholarship prior to reaching age 25. Employees of the DAV national organization and their families will not be eligible for this award.

NCYVS nomination forms were mailed to Chiefs of Voluntary Service at all VA medical centers across the country. The number of nominations received overwhelmed the selection committee chaired by National Commander Michael E. Dobmeier. The committee's job in selecting the scholarship recipients was very difficult considering the high caliber of nominees.

#### **Scholarship Awards**

**Daniel Merced**, 17, of Miami, Florida, has been selected to receive the first place \$10,000 DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship in recognition of his contribution of 1,727 hours of service at the VA medical center in Miami last year.

Mr. Merced graduated from both high school and community college with honors this spring. He has worked at the Miami VA Medical Center for more than four years working primarily in ambulatory care clinics and has successfully urged other young people to volunteer at the facility. He works directly with patients and is noted for forming warm relationships with veterans who appreciate his caring attitude as much as the medical center staff appreciates his assistance.

Danny has been greatly motivated by his father, who is a disabled veteran of the Gulf War. He is a loyal and reliable volunteer who quickly learns his responsibilities and performs his duties in an outstanding manner.

VA medical center officials cited Mr. Merced's leadership as

he directs older youths and adults as Chairperson of the Youth Recognition Program and coordinator of the Summer Youth Volunteer Program. His artistic abilities and his sense of patriotism and service to the men and women who have served our country distinguishes his service to help veterans and the DAV's mission to build better lives for disabled veterans.

Mr. Merced plans to use his scholarship to attend the University of Miami in Florida.

**Philip Nodhturft**, 16, of Temple Terrace, Florida, has been selected to receive the \$5,000 DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship in recognition of his 251 hours of service at the VA medical center in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Nodhturft is a Junior Honor Student at Jesuit High School who has demonstrated exceptional commitment, dedication, patience, and compassion to elderly veterans for more than three years volunteering at the Tampa VA medical center nursing home care unit. He has displayed a unique ability to inspire his fellow volunteers as they work with elderly veterans. He also has developed orientation materials and has assumed an active leadership role in acquainting new volunteers to the unit.

Philip's sense of responsibility and his warm personality are an inspiration to the patients. His efforts have had a major impact on providing a socialization activity that enhances the patients' sense of value and involvement with the outside community.

What makes Philip special is his leadership ability. His leadership has been the driving force in the success of a newly formed intergenerational program he implemented between high school students and elderly disabled veterans in the nursing home care unit. He now has 45 students involved providing community service to elderly veterans in the nursing home.

VA medical center officials said Mr. Nodhturft demonstrates exceptional dedication, commitment, and responsibility in caring for elderly disabled veterans. His recruitment efforts resulted in more than 1,400 hours of volunteer time provided to veterans.

The son of a disabled veteran and a VA nurse, Mr. Nodhturft plans to use his scholarship to major in journalism at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

**Martha Ann Zink**, 14, of Eagle River, Alaska, has been selected to receive the \$3,000 DAV National Commander's Youth Volunteer Scholarship in recognition of her 380 hours of volunteer service at the Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office in Anchorage, Alaska.

Ms. Zink attends a Russian Orthodox church school in Eagle River, Alaska - about 30 miles from the Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office in Anchorage where she works with the Diabetes Education Coordinator and Clinical Dietitian. She has been commended for her courteous, polite, and professional services that help older volunteers develop an appreciation for student volunteers.

Martha has had a very positive influence on other student volunteers. She had acted as mentor and set the tone for appropriate conduct and responsible work ethics. She has an extremely good influence on volunteers of all ages, and she has received numerous compliments from veterans and staff on her professional appearance, telephone etiquette, organizational ability, and her friendly smile. Her attentiveness is admired and respected.

Ms. Zink, the daughter of a Navy veteran, plans to obtain a degree as a registered nurse or in medicine.

#### **SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED**

Athletic programs for handicapped veterans have always been important to the DAV. We have a long, proud history of leadership in efforts that encourage athletic activity among disabled veterans of all ages. Working together with the VA, DAV leaders are committed to providing these men and women with opportunities to participate in sports which many thought would not be possible with their disabilities.



The Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation previously cited a study in which Kathy Stokes, Ph.D., reported that "the health care needs of those not involved in sports activities were three times higher than those involved in some type of sporting program." *Modern Healthcare Magazine* states that sports offer a better quality of life, improved self-confidence and self-esteem, and a way for many newly disabled people to adjust to their handicaps. Athletic activity provides a new and very necessary social outlet, while improving physical endurance and maintaining physical fitness.

More and more, doctors recognize it's not enough to stabilize patients medically and send them home. Without an introduction to sports or recreation, the hospital will see that person again and again. Disabled people involved in sports generally encounter fewer medical problems than those who aren't, therapists say. Athletics maintain cardiovascular conditioning, increase circulation to the extremities, and help avert skin breakdowns. Another advantage is that sports are community-based rather than hospital-based undertakings. The DAV believes disabled veterans should have the same opportunity as non-disabled individuals to participate in these activities.

**The National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic** -- In March 2000, 330 disabled veterans from 32 states took part in the 14th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Crested Butte, Colorado. With more than 405 volunteers -- including 172 ski instructors, most of whom are certified in teaching the disabled -- it was the largest and best Winter Sports Clinic ever conducted. An annual event sponsored jointly by the DAV and VA, the clinic is open to veterans with visual impairments, spinal-cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations, or other severe disabilities. Veterans disabled in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and Bosnia were represented. Our sponsors this year were:

**Host:** Ford Motor Company.

**National:** AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies; Prince Bandar bin Sultan; Sprint; The Coca-Cola Company; Veterans Canteen Service / Burger King.

**Gold:** Baxter Healthcare Corporation; DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation; Duofold; Eastman Kodak Company; Monark Sporting Goods, Inc. / ELAN; Eli Lilly and Company; EMC Corporation; First Consulting Group; QTC Medical; Spyder Active Sports, Inc.; The Fischer Family; 3M; United Airlines; Wallace.

**Silver:** Advanced Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc.; AMSUS (Association of Military Surgeons of the United States); Bayer; B. Braun Medical; Boeri Sport USA; Dell Federal Sales; Fifth Third Bank; GE Medical Systems; GRABBER Performance Group; Hoechst Marion Roussel; IBM; Merck Human Health Division; O & P Athletic Fund, Inc. / American Board for Certification in O & P, Inc.; Parke-Davis; Pfizer, Inc.; Ned and Diane Powell; ROHO, Inc. and CROWN Therapeutics; Robert C. & Adele R. Schiff Foundation; Mary C. Thomas.

**Bronze:** Alza Pharmaceuticals; AMGEN; AMSUS-Sustaining Member Section; Arnette; C. R. Bard, Inc.; Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL); Bristol-Myers Squibb; Canon USA, Inc.; Carrera; DAV Department of Colorado; DAV Department of Virginia; Direct Radiography Corporation / Hologic; DAV H. H. MacKenzie Chapter 3, Roanoke, VA; Great Brands of Europe, Inc. / Evian; Federated Wholesale, Inc.; Genentech, Inc.; Gordini; Motorola; Northrop Grumman; Perigee; Radventures, Inc.; Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals; Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 57; The Taylor Family.

**Contributor:** BEWI Productions, Inc.; DAV Prescott, AZ Chapter 16; Joseph and Monica Fajans; Richard J. Gibbs; Jack Fisher Chapter #23, Inc.; John F. Heilman, Jr.; Mail-Well Envelope Company; Mary E. Moore Family Foundation; National Order of Alley Cats; Judy and Kevin Oliphant; Rolis-Royce North America, Inc.; Robert C. Thomas; United Voluntary Services.

**Supplier:** ASPEN MULLING SPICES; Chuck Roast; Continental Airlines; Delta Airlines; DERMATONE; Fox River; Gerry Sportswear Company; M&M Mars.

The world's largest rehabilitation program of its kind affords veterans the opportunity to learn new recreation activity skills and to sharpen existing ones. Veterans were introduced to skiing, kayaking, rock climbing, self-defense and other activities.

The 15<sup>th</sup> National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic promises to be better and bigger and will be held March 25-30, 2001 at Snowmass Ski Resort in Colorado.

DAV Freedom Award -- In 1992 we instituted the DAV Freedom Award at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. It is given each year to the veteran who makes the most progress during the week, showing outstanding courage and accomplishments in taking a giant step forward in his or her rehabilitation process. This annual award is sponsored by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia. The award's inscription reads: "Your accomplishments during the...National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic have proved to the world that physical disability does not bar the doors to freedom. We salute your desire to excel so that others may follow." This year's recipient of the DAV Freedom Award is Timothy J. Doyle, a life member of DAV Chapter 73, Erie, Pennsylvania. The 53-year-old U.S. Marine Corps veteran was severely wounded by shrapnel from mortar rounds in 1969, during the Vietnam War. Though a paraplegic as a result of his wounds, Tim's spirit, enthusiasm and drive remain intact.

Golf for the Disabled -- Golf is one of the fastest growing and most popular sports in America, perhaps in the world. Recognizing this fact, the DAV and DAV Charitable Service Trust support two golf programs that promote rehabilitation and a more active lifestyle for disabled veterans:

National Amputee Golf Open Championships -- The DAV National Commander's Trophy honors the disabled veteran who puts in the best overall performance at the National Amputee Golf Association championship tournament. Additionally, it recognizes the contributions the winner has made in his or her own community in furthering the opportunities of disabled individuals. Last year's 51st annual tournament at the Chase Lake Country Club, Birmingham, Alabama, August 2-6, 1999, drew 110 entries, 49 of them veterans. The winner of the DAV National Commander's trophy was Larry A. Van Sandt of Boaz, Alabama.

First Swing Golf -- This is the DAV's 11th year of involvement with the First Swing instructional golf program for the disabled. With support from the DAV Charitable Service Trust, this program provides therapists throughout the country with instruction on the rehabilitation benefits of golf. Use of golf therapy at hospitals and rehabilitation centers has brought the game back into the lives of many who played before becoming disabled. It has also introduced the sport to countless disabled people who never dreamed golf would be part of their lives. During 1999, 47 First Swing seminars and Learn to Golf Clinics were conducted. Participants included 642 therapists; 1,243 physically challenged people, 764 of whom were disabled veterans; 9 professional golf instructors; and 75 others.

#### DAV CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Continuing to provide a morale boost to hospitalized veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program assures these patients that they are not forgotten...that the American people still appreciate what they have done for all of us.

We're truly fortunate to sponsor some very talented people with a great deal of compassion for these veterans, so many of whom face long and lonely stays in hospitals, often far from family and friends. Making more than 100 hospital visits last year alone, these wonderful people include Major League Baseball Umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne and NASCAR driver Dale Jarrett who races for the Ford Motor Company. The DAV is indeed honored that such outstanding celebrities want to be a part of the DAV Voluntary Service Program. We recognize the enormous demands they face, and we appreciate the gift of their valuable time. They have demonstrated that they care very deeply about the needs of disabled veterans.

IN CLOSING

It's been a tremendous year for DAV volunteer programs, and many deserve our thanks. If it were not for their support, the many programs mentioned in this report would not be possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Delgado, who heads up the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program, his staff, and the VAVS leadership teams across the nation for their devotion to volunteerism.

The Voluntary Services Department during this past year has been very fortunate to have the support of the DAV and Auxiliary National Commanders Michael E. Dobmeier and Paula K. Raymond, and staff of the DAV and its Auxiliary; the National Line Officers, National Executive Committee, National Finance Committee, DAV Interim Hospital Committee, National Service Foundation, and the Charitable Service Trust. Their assistance and support was an essential ingredient of our 1999 success story. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of National Service and Legislative Headquarters led by Executive Director David W. Gorman, and the staff at National Headquarters in Cincinnati led by Executive Director Richard E. Patterson. My personal thanks to Associate National Director of Voluntary Services Edward E. Hartman, along with Voluntary Services Support Specialists Linda DeMartino and Linda Chester, for their invaluable assistance. We've experienced outstanding support from DAV's corps of National Service Officers. Hospital Service Coordinators have played a vital role in support of Voluntary Service Programs. The success of those programs can in part be attributed to their participation and support. The successes reflected throughout this report were not by chance. National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson has always been totally supportive of DAV's Voluntary Service Program and, on behalf of the Voluntary Services Department we wish to thank him for his leadership and guidance.

I would be remiss not to mention the true heroes; those people who care enough to make a difference in the lives of so many, the volunteer corps of the DAV and Auxiliary. On behalf of the DAV, I would like to thank all of you for your devotion, compassion, and commitment to DAV's mission of building better lives for America's disabled veterans.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)  
April 1, 1999, through March 31, 2000**

NUMBER OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED VAVS VOLUNTEERS	10,571
NUMBER OF HOURS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	2,385,945
NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	12,414
NUMBER OF VISITS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	384,641
NUMBER OF HOURS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	75,682
NUMBER OF VISITS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	13,367
NUMBER OF HOURS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	2,461,627
NUMBER OF VISITS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	398,008
<b>VAVS APPOINTED POSITIONS</b>	
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN	13
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN ALSO SERVING AS REPRESENTATIVES	21
NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES	185
NUMBER OF DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	300

NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	27
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	6
NUMBER OF HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES	4
NUMBER OF APPOINTED POSITIONS	556
ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR	92

**TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

(The following DAV Transportation Statistics reflect the data gathered from January 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999)

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS (HSCs)	176
NUMBER OF VETERANS TRANSPORTED	742,486
TRANSPORTATION HOURS	1,382,160
TRANSPORTATION MILES	25,677,067
HSC PERSONAL INTERVIEWS	149,307
HSC TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS	183,475
HSC NSO REFERRALS	20,451
HSC VA FORMS COMPLETED	63,210

**1999 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK GRANTS**

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK HSC PROGRAM GRANTS	\$942,407.00
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANTS (135 vans purchased and delivered in 1999)	\$3,049,988.65
1999 Total National Grant Expenditures	\$3,992,395.65

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director.)

As we wrap up another year and begin a new one in the DAV, I am pleased to report that our legislative activities continue to be highly successful. In many ways, a year is a short time, but in other ways, it can be a long ordeal. It is a short time to achieve major legislative goals, but it is a long time to defend our programs against many detrimental government actions. Fortunately, we have been able to do both effectively this year, and we march into the upcoming year with our heads held high and much to be proud of, but with much to do as usual. I believe you will share my pride in the DAV's accomplishments this year and my confidence that, working together and following the strategic course we have chosen, we will be able to effectively meet future challenges and goals.

Before I get to the highlights of this year's efforts and accomplishments, this year's challenges and triumphs, let me emphasize that, while this report is from the Legislative Department, it is a report of the hard work of all in the DAV and a tribute to your successes because, by your participation in the organization, all of you contribute directly or indirectly to the legislative program. Obviously, we owe much to our officers and leadership, but especially National Commander Dobmeier, National Adjutant Art Wilson, and Washington Headquarters Executive Director Dave Gorman who have provided the kind and degree of inspiration, support, and leadership found only in, and responsible for, great organizations like the DAV. Without the fine work of my staff in the Legislative Department, the DAV could not enjoy its reputation as a leader in legislative advocacy. Each of my staff has special

strengths and expertise, which complement the strengths and expertise of the other staff members. The breadth and depth of their knowledge and experience allow us to effectively address the many complexities inherent in legislation and the thorny public policy issues facing veterans. I therefore extend special thanks to Deputy National Legislative Director Rick Surratt, Assistant National Legislative Director for Medical Affairs Dick Wannemacher, Associate National Legislative Director Joy Ilem, and Legislative Support Specialist Lisa Bogle. As he has for so many years, Past National Commander Oliver Meadows also provided invaluable insight and guidance. We feel extremely fortunate to have someone of Oliver's caliber on our team, and all of us on the Legislative Staff sincerely appreciate Oliver's help. Our National Service Officers again carried a heavy load this year, but came through for us as always. They supported and participated in our grassroots efforts. They gave input on issues before Congress, and they conducted rallies on Memorial Day weekend to increase awareness about pressing veterans' issues. They are an important element of our legislative activities, and we are extremely grateful for their professional support.

Today, no advocacy organization can be very effective without a strong grassroots lobby. Our Benefits Protection Team Leaders do a superb job of spearheading our grassroots campaigns. Many DAV and Auxiliary officers in chapters and departments play a leadership role in these efforts also. Without the help we receive from DAV, Auxiliary, and family members, we could not play the highly influential role we play in the decisions of Congress and the Administration on veterans' issues. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you who made telephone calls, sent facsimile messages, wrote letters, sent E-mail messages, or made personal visits to the offices of your elected representatives to press the DAV's message.

Because of the teamwork of our dedicated, devoted, and diligent members, officers, and staff, the DAV is a very effective advocacy organization. We are fulfilling the purpose for which we were congressionally chartered and meeting the mandate of our Constitution and Bylaws to advance the interests and work for the betterment of disabled veterans and their dependents and survivors. In addition, we are fulfilling our mission as defined in the Strategic Plan for the DAV that was finalized and introduced this year, and we are embarking on a course to meet the relevant goals set forth for the organization in the Strategic Plan.

As stated in the Strategic Plan, a fundamental part of our mission is to represent the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans before Congress through legislative advocacy. One of the Goals in our Strategic Plan is to maintain the DAV's preeminent position as a provider of professional service, as a veterans' advocate, and as a leader in voluntary service. To meet this goal, the Strategic Plan acknowledges that the DAV must respond to the changing needs of veterans. From the standpoint of our legislative goals, it is especially important that we recognize areas where new or improved benefits are needed. In many ways, the public policy issues we raise and pursue demonstrate that this is one of the great strengths of the DAV's legislative program.

Another goal included in the Strategic Plan is to ensure the best use of current technology and business practices for legislative efforts and grassroots programs. Again, I believe some of the new technology we deployed during the year to enhance our grassroots capabilities, and its proven value, demonstrates that we are meeting this goal.

Declining Government support for veterans' programs, and decreasing public consciousness of veterans' needs and the merits of veterans' programs, is an unfortunate reality. After wars are won and citizens again live in the security of peace, the public's remembrance of the sacrifices of veterans tends to fade. This decline naturally presents a significant problem, but is also a major reason for our existence. It is a recurring phenomenon, but diminishing support for veterans in the midst of ever-increasing competition for the Federal dollar seems to be even more evident in

recent years. For example, inadequate budgets for VA over several successive years have degraded VA's ability to timely deliver benefits and health care to the Nation's veterans. Each year, the politics of the Federal budget presents a new and intense battle for the DAV. With the knowledge that today's younger generation has never experienced the effects of war that older generations experienced, and sensing that, on the whole, legislators are no longer the loyal supporters of veterans they once were, the DAV has included in its Strategic Plan, as a priority goal, building Government and public support and awareness of veterans' issues. We have therefore resolved to intensify efforts to shape public policy regarding veterans' issues, increase member participation in grassroots legislative efforts, and foster greater public awareness of the service and continuing sacrifices of veterans.

By retracing this past year's journey together, now let us examine how we acted in accordance with the DAV's mission; how we worked toward our organizational goals to protect and improve the rights, privileges, benefits, and services for disabled veterans and their families; and how we performed in a manner consistent with our fine traditions and befitting our great organization.

By the time we went to National Convention last year, the Congressional Budget Office had already projected a Federal budget surplus of \$ 2.9 trillion over the next decade. In Congress, the debate was raging on how to best use the surplus. Many in the majority party favored tax cuts, while others wanted to use the surplus to pay down the national debt, and yet others wanted to use some of the money to strengthen Federal programs. At the same time, a bipartisan majority in Congress had begun to recognize that the budget proposed for veterans' programs was inadequate. Through the DAV's well-attended Memorial Day rallies, we had raised awareness among members of Congress about the serious inadequacy of the budget. Our grassroots lobbyists had waged an intense campaign to press for increased funding. Through our legislative advocacy service on the Internet alone, they had sent more than 5,000 messages to their congressional members urging an increase in the budget. In late July, the Administration had taken the unusual step of amending its proposed budget to request an additional \$1 billion for veterans' health care. We had already told Congress that \$1 billion additional, while welcome, was not enough to adequately fund VA's health care program. We were pressing for the additional \$3 billion called for in the *Independent Budget* prepared by the DAV in collaboration with three other major veterans organizations. In the bill it reported out, the House Appropriations Committee upped the ante by raising the increase from the \$1 billion additional proposed by the President to \$1.7 billion.

With presidential veto of the huge tax cut proposal assured and after much wrangling over how to fund more spending on veterans' health care without tapping into the budget surplus, the House passed the appropriations bill in early September. The bill included the \$1.7 billion increase. The Senate then took up the bill, and we continued our efforts to get the \$1.7 billion increased to \$3 billion. However, that would have required a waiver of budget regulations, and a motion to waive the regulations was defeated. The Senate did pass an amendment to the \$1.1 billion increase recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee to bring the amount even with the \$1.7 increase passed by the House. Because insufficient time remained to get other differences in the House-passed and Senate-passed versions of the bill resolved in conference before the beginning of the new fiscal year (FY), veterans programs were funded for a short time in a temporary spending bill. The House agreed to the conference report on October 14, 1999, and the Senate agreed on October 15, 1999. The President signed the bill on October 20, 1999.

Although we did not get the full \$3 billion increase we requested for health care, our strong push for that amount did pressure Congress enough that it provided the \$1.7 billion increase, the largest increase for health care in a decade. The appropriations bill also increased funding above the previous year for medical and prosthetic research by \$5 million, for claims processing by \$51 million, and for cemeteries by \$5 million. In

providing \$90 million for state home grants, the bill more than doubled the amount the President requested in his budget for that purpose. By any assessment, our efforts on the budget last year would have to be called highly successful.

While we were engaged in this intense battle on the budget, we also continued to push for legislation on other matters of concern to veterans. In October 1999, National Adjutant Art Wilson testified before a Senate subcommittee in support of S. 311 and a House subcommittee in support of H.R. 1509, bills to authorize the establishment of a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor disabled veterans. Our Washington Headquarters Executive Director, Dave Gorman, also testified in support of H.R. 1509. At our last three National Conventions, our members have adopted a resolution to construct a monument to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans. The DAV had joined with Ms. Lois Pope, a philanthropist, in forming the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to bring about construction of the memorial. Through the DAV's efforts, supporters in the Senate and House introduced these bills. Mr. Wilson told the subcommittees that the memorial "will be a solemn declaration that America has not forgotten the sacrifices of disabled veterans, those who have borne some of the heaviest burdens in securing and preserving our freedoms." He said that "[t]hose who see the memorial honoring our disabled veterans will gain a better appreciation and understanding of the meaning of service to one's country," and the "monument will create an awareness among our children of the true price of freedom." Mr. Gorman echoed those points, telling the subcommittee that a memorial to disabled veterans will serve many beneficial purposes for those it honors and for the Nation as a whole. He said that it "will be an expression of the sincere human emotion and deep gratitude we feel in remembrance of what disabled veterans gave--what they continue to give--and what they secured for our people." This memorial "will embody the spirit of selfless service and stand as a symbol of our national determination, devotion, strength, and faith in our cause, our values, our people, and our future," he said. The House has since passed H.R. 1509, and we hope to see S. 311 passed by the Senate in the near future. This memorial will go a long way toward meeting the DAV's Strategic Plan goal of increasing public awareness of and support for veterans' issues.

In October 1999, we also testified before the Subcommittee on Benefits of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee regarding VA's performance in treating and processing the claims of Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from undiagnosed illnesses. We related to the Subcommittee our assessment that the VA system is not serving these veterans very well, either in medical treatment or claims adjudication. We observed that VA's attempt to address these unique illnesses with traditional methods and rules results in inappropriate medical care and incorrect claims decisions. We pointed out that, with physicians, the natural impetus is to diagnose an illness before treating it so as to assure the correct therapy is administered, but with Persian Gulf Syndrome, physicians too often assign their best-guess label to a poorly understood or ill-defined set of symptoms to avoid the concession that they were unable to discover the true nature of the illness or to avoid leaving the disease entity unidentified or undiagnosed. Because VA's special regulation governing service connection for Persian Gulf Syndrome permits service connection only for undiagnosed illnesses, the diagnosis so assigned precludes a grant of service connection. Thus, once a physician attaches a recognized disease label to a set of ill-defined symptoms, no matter how arbitrary, speculative, or unsupported, that precludes a grant of service connection. As evidence that claims are incorrectly denied because of this practice and the restrictive VA rule on service connection, we cited the particularly high denial rate for claims involving Persian Gulf Syndrome. We surmised that health care providers likely do not understand the implications or impact of their actions on compensation claims. Similarly, we noted that physicians are poorly equipped to treat and provide relief from the symptoms of illnesses for which they cannot isolate the cause or

understand the underlying disease processes. We also informed the Subcommittee that there appears to be a lack of uniformity among field stations in the way VA adjudicates these claims. We concluded that, rather than tailoring its practices to accommodate the unique nature of Persian Gulf Syndrome, VA persists in taking the traditional approach to handling these atypical illnesses. Persian Gulf War veterans are therefore disadvantaged in the VA system by conventional medical protocols that are inappropriate in this unique context and a regulation that too narrowly limits service connection. We recommended reforms in the way VA treats these illnesses and revision of VA's regulation to allow for more equitable decisions on compensation claims.

Unfairness in VA's claims processing system is not limited to the claims of Persian Gulf War veterans. Many problems exist, and they cause large numbers of erroneous denials and protracted delays for veterans seeking disability benefits. One particularly detrimental problem for claimants seeking VA benefits arose from a series of court decisions based on a misinterpretation of the law. A well-established fundamental principle in the spirit of veterans' programs is that VA has a duty to help veterans file and prove their claims. However, the courts mistakenly interpreted the law to require claimants to submit enough evidence to preliminarily demonstrate that their claims were meritorious before VA has any legal obligation to assist them in obtaining evidence to prove their claims. In these decisions, not only did the courts shift the burden to gather evidence from VA to claimants, the courts also established complex procedural hurdles that made the process difficult for claimants to negotiate and made it easier for VA to deny claims. Recognizing that this was becoming one of the most serious roadblocks for veterans seeking benefits, we began pressuring Congress early last year to enact legislation to override these erroneous court decisions and restore VA's duty to assist. We worked closely with Senator Patty Murray's office to craft legislation for this purpose. We also consulted with the minority staff in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in the development of a House bill. In advance of Senator Murray's introduction of S. 1810 on October 27, 1999, we launched an intense campaign to call attention to the problem and to enlist Senate cosponsors. Our grassroots efforts have been very successful. Senator Murray's bill received so much attention and generated so many inquiries to the staff in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee about a similar bill in the House that Congressman Evans speeded up his introduction of H.R. 3193 to address the problem. Large numbers of people used our legislative service on the DAV's Internet website to send E-mail messages to their Senators urging cosponsorship of S. 1810 and to House members urging cosponsorship of H.R. 3193. Many of you also wrote letters or called your Senators and House members to urge them to cosponsor and support these bills. As of this writing, 40 Senators—nearly half of the Senate—have cosponsored S. 1810. In the House, 190 members have cosponsored H.R. 3193.

Near the end of the first session of the 106th Congress, several measures for veterans were enacted into law. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, Public Law 106-65, included provisions for special compensation for military retirees with serious service-connected disabilities rated 70% or higher within 4 years of retirement. This legislation also authorized transfer of property from the Navy Annex to Arlington National Cemetery to expand burial space. It requires military departments to furnish honor guard details for veterans' funerals, and permits military departments to reimburse veterans' organizations for transportation and other expenses of providing honor guard details.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Public Law 106-117, contained a number of provisions to improve medical care and benefits for veterans. Among its major provisions for the delivery of health care, the law established a 4-year test program to (1) furnish nursing home care for service-connected disabilities and for any medical condition of veterans with a 70% or higher service-connected disability who have enrolled for VA health care, (2) to provide non-institutional extended care services to enrolled



and Medicare and Medicaid eligible veterans, and (3) to study the feasibility and practicability of assisted living services as an alternative to nursing home care. To expand veterans' access to health care, the law (1) authorized VA to reimburse or pay for emergency care at non-VA facilities for certain enrolled veterans; (2) elevated Purple Heart recipients' priority for VA medical care; (3) required an interagency agreement whereby the Department of Defense (DOD) will reimburse for VA care to TRICARE eligible military retirees; (4) expanded VA's authority to furnish alcohol and drug treatment to active duty members; (5) extended the temporary authority for counseling and treatment for sexual trauma, made the program mandatory, and enhanced outreach to these veterans; and (6) enhanced VA's specialized mental health services for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse disorders. The law contained several other provisions to improve the administration of medical programs.

In the area of benefits, Public Law 106-117 liberalized the eligibility requirement for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to include surviving spouses of former prisoners of war who were rated totally disabled due to service-connected causes for a year or more immediately preceding death. For a surviving spouse who lost eligibility for CHAMPVA medical coverage, educational assistance, or home loans because of remarriage after the veteran's death, it provided for reinstated entitlement to these benefits upon termination of the marriage. The law also established a presumption of service connection for bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma in veterans exposed to radiation during service.

Public Law 106-117 required the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to begin work on additional national cemeteries, made improvements to the Montgomery GI Bill, extended authority for housing loans to members of the Selected Reserve, mandated an improved quality assurance program for claims adjudication, and improved programs for homeless veterans.

By Public Law 106-118, Congress increased compensation, DIC, and clothing allowance rates 2.4% to offset the annual rise in the cost of living. This adjustment was effective December 1, 1999.

Even before the budget battle was over for the FY 2000 budget, we had begun to prepare for the fight for adequate funding in the FY 2001 budget. As with VA's FY 2001 budget, our work on the *Independent Budget* was already well under way when the President signed the FY 2000 appropriations bill in October 1999. VA's budget for FY 2001 was nearing the final stages of formulation in October 1999. Under the procedure for development of the Administration's annual budget, VA was preparing its own FY 2001 budget request throughout most of 1999. Once VA completed its budget request, the request was then reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which may, and often does, reduce the amounts requested by VA. The VA's FY 2001 budget was undergoing this OMB review in October and November 1999. While Congress ultimately sets spending levels in appropriations bills, Congress works from the President's budget and uses it as a reference point. Rather than merely react to the President's budget when released in February 2000, we sought to influence the Administration's budget for VA. We, along with our partners in the *Independent Budget*, therefore prepared a preliminary assessment of VA's FY 2001 budgetary needs and submitted it to OMB in October 1999, hoping to convince the President to ask for higher funding levels than the Administration typically requests. In addition, we furnished this "Critical Issues Report" to every member of Congress.

We also issued a call to action for our grassroots network in which we asked that E-mails be sent to OMB at the White House via our Internet legislative service. The prepared E-mail message called upon the Administration to honor the Nation's obligation to veterans and provide adequate funding for VA programs. These E-mails got the attention of OMB personnel, although they were not necessarily happy to be targeted by such a strong campaign and such a large volume of messages. The President submitted his FY 2001 budget to Congress in February 2000. While it was not enough to provide all the funding needed to support effective delivery of benefits and services to veterans, the Administration's budget

included an increase of \$1.5 billion in discretionary spending, the largest increase for veterans health care and funding for benefits delivery ever requested by a President.

By the time the President released his budget in February, we had already begun to intensify our grassroots lobbying in other ways. In the January/February 2000 issue of the *DAV Magazine*, we had introduced a new initiative to strengthen our grassroots lobbying capacity to better meet the upcoming budget battle and to confront the inevitable challenges we would face in the year 2000 and beyond. We were determined that, if we must continually fight for our rights, the DAV would "come out swinging" in this new millennium.

This new initiative, the "DAV CAN" (Commander's Action Network), provides the means by which interested persons can join the DAV's grassroots organization and be kept informed about the important veterans' issues as they arise. To recruit members, we invited readers of the *DAV Magazine* to join by returning a postcard insert included in the magazine. DAV CAN members receive a membership certificate and an information and action kit that contains instructions for getting the message across to Congress, along with other useful materials. DAV CAN members receive the same legislative alerts and updates we deliver to our national and state officers and Benefits Protection Team members. Those that have E-mail receive the DAV's calls to action and legislative updates immediately upon their posting. Others receive this information by mail.

DAV CAN complements our Benefits Protection Team, which is comprised of DAV members who are often closely associated with our organizational leadership and who themselves form the leadership structure of our grassroots lobby. Obviously, many of our Benefits Protection Team members will want their names included on our DAV CAN rolls, however. To date, more than 3,800 have enlisted in DAV CAN and are now a part of the DAV's grassroots army. They are responding to our calls to action by sending E-mail messages through our legislative service on the Internet, as well as contacting congressional offices by telephone and mail. Our cause is a just one. However, in today's world, that alone is not enough to ensure we receive the consideration and justice we deserve in public policy matters. Rapid communication; a ready, informed, energized, and dedicated force; and respect from legislators are the essential ingredients of successful legislative advocacy. We therefore need to increase the ranks of our DAV CAN membership substantially. We continue to explore ways to expand this valuable resource and employ it for maximum effect. I encourage more of our members, DAV and DAVA, to join this important grassroots effort.

I need to insert some special thanks here to some people who have made special contributions in helping us launch the DAV CAN program. I must take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated and untiring efforts of our Auxiliary National 2nd Junior Vice Commander, Linda Trulio, to enlist more Auxiliary members in DAV CAN. Linda has campaigned to increase participation of Auxiliary members in our legislative action program. She has promoted DAV CAN in her travels all across the country. She created a sign-up form to make it easy to join. She has devoted a great deal of effort to legislative issues generally. Thank you, Linda.

Three members of the DAV's Communications Department staff also helped enormously in our effort to get this program off the ground. Jim Chaney designed promotional and informational materials for the DAV CAN program. Alice Bersch and Doreen Lawson assembled and mailed the DAV CAN action kits to the thousands that signed up. This required many hours of labor, and they continue to furnish this support.

As we entered the new year and second session of the 106th Congress working to strengthen our lobbying efforts, we continued to focus on the issues left unresolved from the first session and began our in-depth analysis of the President's budget for FY 2001. For the 14th consecutive year, the DAV, in collaboration with the AMVETS, PVA, and the VFW, released the *Independent Budget* to coincide with the release of the President's budget at the beginning of February. During a February 17, 2000, hearing before

the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on the President's budget, our Washington Headquarters Executive Director, Mr. Gorman, supported the proposal in the President's budget to grant a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for compensation, but opposed the President's proposal for legislation to permanently require that COLAs be rounded down to the nearest whole dollar. Similarly, he opposed the President's proposal for legislation to make temporary deficit reduction measures, in the form of user fees and benefit reductions, permanent. He presented to the Committee the proposals included in the *Independent Budget* for legislation to improve or establish new benefits for veterans. He supported a substantial increase in funding to cover the costs of additional employees to process compensation and pension claims, and urged the Committee to move H.R. 3193 forward to restore the VA's duty to assist and eliminate the unnecessary procedural formalities imposed by the courts.

In his March 1, 2000, testimony during a joint hearing before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, National Commander Dobmeyer touched on a range of issues concerning disabled veterans and their families. He devoted much of his testimony to the most pressing matters, such as an adequate budget, with which VA could devote more resources to claims processing and the delivery of health care. Many of you also presented the DAV's message to Congress during our Midwinter Conference. You pressed such issues as adequate funding for veterans' programs, legislation to override the courts' misinterpretation of the law on well-grounded claims, concurrent receipt of disability compensation and military longevity retired pay, and restoration of full health care benefits for military retirees. We know that your visits brought these issues to the forefront and heightened congressional awareness and interest regarding the Nation's obligation to care for its disabled veterans and their families.

On March 23, 2000, we testified before the Benefits Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee regarding the VA's duty to assist veterans and the disastrous effects of the courts' misinterpretation of the law to require a well-grounded claim as precondition to VA assistance. From information supplied by our National Service Officers, we told the Subcommittee how the courts' imposition of greater burdens and unnecessary legalistic formalities upon claimants related to the well-grounded claims requirements had wreaked havoc in VA's claims processing system and caused inappropriate denials of many claims. We explained how the courts' misinterpretation of law had nullified VA's duty to assist, the very opposite of the result Congress intended when it incorporated the duty to assist in the law. We urged prompt action to restore the informal procedures in effect before the court decisions.

On April 4, 2000, we testified before the Presidential Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents. Because the questions regarding the cause and nature of undiagnosed illnesses of the Persian Gulf War remain unresolved, we called for establishment of a board or committee to continue work on these issues. To ensure objectivity and openness, we recommended that this special board or committee be independent of the DOD, VA, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

On April 4, 2000, we testified before the Subcommittee on Health of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee regarding the lease or sale of excess and vacant VA Veterans Health Administration properties. We agreed that VA should undertake an objective assessment of its needs pertaining to VA facilities and their locations to avoid spending money on maintaining an unneeded and aging infrastructure that could be better spent on veterans' health care. However, we cautioned that VA should not liquidate its capital assets solely for cost-savings at the expense of reducing its capacity to meet the health care needs of our Nation's veterans and certainly should not sell or lease its properties to fund Government programs other than those for veterans.

On April 13, 2000, we testified before the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to present the

DAV's views on the FY 2001 budget. We asked the Subcommittee to provide the additional appropriations necessary to permit VA to hire additional employees to process compensation and pension claims. We testified about the unnecessary additional administrative burden and workload created by the court-imposed well-grounded claim requirements and urged the Subcommittee members to support remedial legislation. National Service Officer Harry Schultz also submitted written testimony to give the Subcommittee an in-depth perspective of the problems in claims processing at the VA regional office level. During this same time, the House and Senate Budget Committees were working on the congressional budget resolution, and we had available for use by our members prepared E-mail messages on our Internet legislative service that urged the House and Senate to include in the budget resolution our recommended levels for funding for VA programs.

In addition to testifying before the appropriations subcommittee on April 13, we testified before the Benefits Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on VA's handling of the claims of veterans suffering from hepatitis C and several bills pertaining to veterans' programs. We noted that hepatitis C is more prevalent among veterans than the general population and that veterans were at greater risk of being infected during service because of blood transfusions for combat wounds, for example. We related to the Subcommittee some of the problems veterans were experiencing in getting service connection established. We explained that direct evidence of the disease during service will unlikely be available for most veterans because the disease is typically not detected until many years after the person is infected with the virus. We told the Subcommittee that VA should amend its regulations to authorize service connection when veterans suffering from the disease were shown to have been exposed to possible sources of infection during service and no exposure to a source of infection after service is shown. In view of the fact that rigorous physical activities can precipitate a heart attack or stroke, we testified favorably on H.R. 3816, a bill that would authorize service connection when a reservist suffers a heart attack or stroke while performing weekend drills or other reserve service for which service connection would not be in order under current law. We supported H.R. 3998, a bill to authorize special monthly compensation for anatomical loss of a female mammary gland, and H.R. 4131, a bill that would increase the rates of disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, and clothing allowance to offset the rise in the cost of living. We took this opportunity to recommend that Congress also enact COLAs for the automobile allowance, specially adapted housing grant, and survivors' and dependents' educational assistance allowance.

In mid-May of this year, our ongoing work on the budget and legislation was interrupted by an extremely serious threat to veterans' programs. Two members of the House Budget Committee introduced H.R. 853 to significantly change the congressional budget process. Among several of the bill's provisions that concerned us were two that directly imperiled the future of veterans' programs. One provision would have limited new veterans' programs to 10 years. This could have meant, for example, that disability compensation under new laws would automatically terminate after 10 years unless reauthorized by new legislation. The other provision would have required reauthorization of existing veterans' programs at least once every 10 years. This would have put compensation and other veterans' programs at risk. In today's political environment, some elected representatives in Washington find it convenient to forget the Nation's obligation to care for veterans when the representatives have other priorities or want to divert funds to pork-barrel projects. We therefore mounted an attack to defeat this bill and sent out an urgent call to action for a grassroots campaign. In the two days preceding the vote on this bill, hundreds of you contacted your members of Congress to urge them to vote against H.R. 853. On May 16, 2000, H.R. 853 was defeated by a vote of 250 against and 166 for the bill—another testament to the power of an effective grassroots lobby.

On May 18, 2000, we testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to inform the members of the status of VA's disability claims processing system and practices. We reviewed VA's downslide over the last decade in which quality declined and, in conjunction with other factors, caused an ever-increasing backlog of pending claims and ever-increasing delays in claims decisions for veterans desperately in need of compensation to relieve the economic effects of disability. We reported that, despite a sound plan to correct the root causes for poor quality and timeliness, VA had made little progress in improving either. We concluded that VA was failing, for several reasons, to effectively implement the reforms in its Business Process Reengineering Plan. We recommended more accountability on the part of decision-makers and VA management for correct claims decisions. We recommended a stronger management structure whereby the Director of Compensation Service would have line authority over field office adjudicators, and thus the power to enforce quality and performance standards. We again noted that the court-imposed requirements on well-grounded claims added work and complexity to the VA process without accomplishing anything meaningful in return.

In May, we also submitted written testimony to the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine in which we called upon the Institute of Medicine and other involved agencies to continue the search for answers to the difficult questions surrounding the effects of exposure to the herbicides and chemical toxins on our Vietnam veterans.

In view of the major challenges facing veterans, we decided again this year to hold nationwide Memorial Day rallies to call attention to our concerns. By March of this year, we had already begun work to facilitate the organization of these rallies by local DAV department and chapter members. We would use the rallies for voter registration drives and to "tell Washington to keep America's promise to veterans." Rally kits were sent to our National Service Offices in April. On Memorial Day weekend, the DAV sponsored approximately 110 rallies across the country.

We testified before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on June 8, 2000, to state our views on programs and services for women veterans. We expressed concern generally about female veterans not using their VA benefits and services as much as their male counterparts. Although we acknowledged that VA has made great strides in increasing usage of VA services by women veterans, we told the Subcommittee that VA needs to do more to market its programs to women veterans and encourage them to take advantage of the benefits our government offers. We noted that veterans' programs and the delivery systems were initially designed to serve male veterans and have not been modified as quickly as necessary to deal effectively with the influx of women veterans and their oftentimes different needs. We discussed specifically VA's progress in establishing, and the remaining need to expand, special health care programs and services to meet the needs of female veterans. We pointed to the need for VA to do more to meet the special needs of homeless female veterans. We reminded the Subcommittee of the past and future importance of the role of Women Veterans Coordinators and the VA Advisory Committee for Women Veterans in increasing awareness and understanding of women veterans' needs and issues. We emphasized that VA must employ outreach to increase awareness of the availability of benefits to and for women veterans. In addition to removing the actual barriers to health care access and impediments to obtaining other benefits, we impressed upon the Subcommittee that VA must use outreach and marketing to break the cultural barriers that inhibit usage of veterans' services among the female veteran population.

To further our efforts to obtain better benefits and VA service for women veterans, the DAV cosponsored, with the White House Office on Women's Initiatives and Outreach, the VA 2000 National Summit on Women Veterans Issues. The event, held in Washington, D.C., from June 23 to June 25, 2000, attracted nearly 350 participants. In addition to women veterans from across the

country, representatives from Federal and state agencies, congressional staff, veterans' organizations, and veterans' service providers attended. The summit's goal was to create a forum for participants to discuss current initiatives for women veterans, identify issues of concern to the community of women veterans, and develop recommendations to address these matters through legislative, programmatic, and outreach activities. Specifically, the forum provided an update on current Federal initiatives for women veterans, with particular focus on health care for women veterans and related research, homelessness, benefits, minority women veterans' issues, women in war, and the transition of women veterans from military to civilian life and careers. All indications are that this was an extremely beneficial and productive summit.

In June, we also had an opportunity to comment in written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Government's opposition to efforts by American former prisoners of war to obtain compensation from Japanese companies for having been forced into slave labor. We discussed the injustice of our Government acting to prevent this legal action, and urged that it not stand in the way of the POWs seeking compensation for their enslavement and forced labor.

Over the past 12 months, we continued almost nonstop our effort to get legislation to remove the court-imposed well-grounded claim requirement and restore VA's duty to assist. We worked closely with Senator John McCain's office on this, among a number of issues concerning veterans. On June 8, 2000, Senator McCain introduced, in the form of an amendment to the National Defense Authorization bill, legislation to correct the well-grounded claim and duty to assist problem. Although S. 1810, a bill addressing the same problem, was already pending before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, the bill was not moving forward with the speed it deserved, considering the magnitude of this problem. Senator McCain's amendment was accepted and was included in the National Defense Authorization bill passed by the Senate later that month. However, much opposition by members of the Veterans' Affairs Committees in both chambers placed its ultimate inclusion in that legislation in doubt. We therefore continued to support other legislation to remedy the problem. We recommended some changes to a Senate draft bill on the subject, but we expressed serious reservations about provisions in a new House bill, H.R. 4864, that addressed this issue.

After intense negotiations between DAV and congressional staff, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee amended H.R. 4864 in its markup on July 20, 2000 to resolve some of our concerns but did not correct all the problems we pointed out. The House passed H.R. 4864 on July 25, 2000.

The Senate draft bill was one of the subjects of a July 20, 2000, hearing in the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. In addition to recommending changes to the bill to make it more favorable to veterans, we testified in support of a COLA for compensation and DIC, about claims processing by the VA, and about a broad range of other improvements in veterans benefits and programs. In its July 27, 2000, markup of this legislation, the Committee amended S. 1810 to include the provisions from its draft bill regarding the duty to assist and the other benefit improvements. As is customary, the Committee included the compensation COLA in a separate bill.

Meanwhile, we had testified at a hearing on July 24, 2000, before the Health Subcommittee of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on recommendations that would require pharmaceutical manufacturers to offer other Government entities the same discounts they give to VA under special rules and agreements. Because the recommendation would require the pharmaceutical companies to sell a higher volume of medicines at substantially reduced prices, we expressed concern that it would cause them to raise the prices of drugs for all customers, including VA, to make up for the loss in profits. This would in turn require more of the appropriations for health care to be spent on medications and perhaps reduce other medical services for veterans.

Throughout the year, we have commented on or lobbied for or against provisions affecting veterans in several other bills. To strengthen our leverage over Congress, we have forged alliances with other organizations and associations that have goals in common with us. As a result, we have had VA employees' unions and private associations stand along side of us in the budget battle and in other efforts to advance the interests of disabled veterans and their families. We have attended numerous sessions with our partners and VA to discuss and formulate ways to improve veterans' benefits and their delivery. We have worked with our communications staff to promote better public understanding of veterans' issues and the merits of veterans' programs and benefits. As you can see, our activities have been extensive. In many places, direct evidence shows our various efforts have been or are about to be fruitful. We have won many of the preliminary battles and are well positioned to prevail ultimately in this year's quest to improve programs for veterans.

As of the date of this writing, we have several pieces of important legislation in House-passed and Senate-passed bills that have not been passed in uniform bills by both chambers and signed into law by the President. Naturally, one of the most important among these is the VA appropriations bill for FY 2001. The House passed its version of the appropriations bill, H.R. 4635, on June 21 and referred it to the Senate for consideration. The bill provides \$20.3 billion for VA health care, the amount requested in the President's budget and an increase of about \$1.4 billion above the FY 2000 level. The House bill increased funding for medical and prosthetics research to \$351 million, \$30 million above the President's request and last year's amount of \$321 million. For the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), the bill provides \$782 million, about \$26 million less than the President's request. The President had sought this substantial increase to cover personnel costs of 440 additional employees for VA's Compensation and Pension Service. The House bill provides \$107 million for the National Cemetery System, \$10 million over the amount appropriated last year. The bill funds the construction grant program for state homes at \$90 million above the amount the President requested in his budget for FY 2001.

The Senate passed S. 1402, the Veterans and Dependents Millennium Education Act, in July of 1999. On May 23, 2000, the House amended S. 1402 by replacing the Senate's provisions with the provisions from the companion House bill, H.R. 4268. The bill is now again before the Senate. As amended by the House, the bill's major provisions would raise the monthly Montgomery GI Bill allowance and the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance allowance ("Chapter 35" program) to \$600 effective October 1, 2000, and \$720 effective October 1, 2002; provide for automatic annual COLAs in the Chapter 35 program; and authorize payments of Chapter 35 benefits retroactive to the date of the rating for the veteran's disability or death from which eligibility is derived.

As passed by the Senate on July 13, 2000, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, S. 2549, includes several provisions to improve veterans' benefits. Chief among these provisions are those that authorize full concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retired pay and the McCain amendment to restore the VA's duty to assist. The bill would remove the restriction that authorizes VA to furnish a headstone or marker for unmarked graves only. It would also authorize transfer of service members' educational assistance benefits to their dependents, allow individuals enrolled under the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance program to elect to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill program, and maintain health care benefits for certain military retirees who are 65 or older that are lost under current law upon attaining age 65.

The House passed H.R. 4850 on July 25, 2000, along with, H.R. 4864, its duty to assist bill. H.R. 4850 would increase compensation, DIC, and the clothing allowance, effective December 1, 2000, by the percentage of the annual rise in the cost of living. It would also authorize service connection for stroke or heart attack suffered by a reservist performing inactive duty for

training, authorize special monthly compensation for loss of one or both breasts, and permit certain members of the Ready Reserve to participate in the Service Members' Group Life Insurance program.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee's bill to increase compensation and related benefits contains no other changes to benefit programs. S. 1810 includes essentially all the other veterans' benefits changes the Senate intends to make this year. In addition to restoring VA's duty to assist, S. 1810 would authorize special monthly compensation for female veterans who suffer the service-connected loss of one or both breasts. It would authorize Chapter 35 benefits retroactive to the date of the disability or death rating that qualified the dependent or survivor for educational assistance, increase the maximum amount of the housing loan guarantee, extend eligibility for interment in national cemeteries to certain Filipino veterans of World War II, establish benefits for birth defects in children of female veterans, and require review of the accuracy of radiation dose estimates for nuclear testing participants. It would enhance authorities for employment of veterans and enhance life insurance benefits under the Service Members' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance Programs. It would make a number of technical changes pertaining to education benefits, health care, VA property management, and other matters.

Numerous other bills contain provisions beneficial to disabled veterans, and our efforts to obtain a number of benefit improvements are ongoing. We have the means to continue the fight for justice in our benefit programs. Our grassroots network continues to grow. We continue to regularly review and update our tools of the trade. In almost every aspect of our advocacy, our approach relies more and more on modern communications technology. Never in history has more information been so rapidly accessible on a timely basis to so many. The benefits of the Internet are too immense for us to yet fully comprehend, but we intend to use its developing technology to our fullest advantage. As we keep abreast of the rapidly changing world of technology, we will regularly review our business practices to ensure we are accomplishing our goals in the most efficient and effective manner. We will continue to take the pulse of our constituency to ensure we are meeting the changing needs of veterans and bringing the most important new issues to the forefront. We will reflect on and learn from our experiences to help us better see the whole picture, including our picture for the future. We will set the stage for even better things to follow. We will constantly evaluate what we are thinking, what we are doing, and where we are going.

Your role as members of the DAV and Auxiliary will continue to be central to our continued successes as the leading advocate for disabled veterans. We will continue to tap into your pioneering spirit and dedication to enhance our prowess in the legislative arena. Our strength still lies in unified, coordinated action. We lead the field in grassroots lobbying on veterans' issues. We are resolved to succeed, and that is a major ingredient of our success. Without a doubt, our achievements directly reflect the effectiveness of our approach and the dedication of our members.

However, in this world of change, one thing will remain constant—our primary aim and determination to build better lives for America's disabled veterans. Until all of our Nation's disabled veterans are cared for, we cannot close the books on this struggle.

We regularly face serious challenges, and this year was no different, but we weathered the storms, passed significant milestones, and logged many positive accomplishments. We did it together. We have a track record in the past, a strategy for the future, and a committed membership. We look to the future with great expectations and tremendous optimism. Every year with this report it is clear that the future is close. Indeed, it is as close as tomorrow. Let me congratulate all of you on a job well done and tell you I look forward to working with you tomorrow. I extend my deepest appreciation to all of you who helped make this a great year for the DAV.



COMMANDER DOBMEIER: At this time I'd like to introduce Deputy National Service Director for Employment Tony Baskerville, for his presentation of the Employment Awards.

MR. ANTHONY BASKERVILLE: Good afternoon. Building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their family often requires timely and valuable support from outstanding individuals and companies that reach out to veterans and help them find meaningful employment.

That's why the DAV national commanders each year honors individuals and companies that have outstanding records for giving assistance to veterans seeking employment. I am pleased today to present to you this year's honorees for this prestigious award.

Delbert J. Foster, Jr., life member of DAV, works for the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Job Service, providing outreach services to disabled veterans in 32 counties and seven Job Service offices in South Dakota. He has assisted 2615 veterans with counseling, training, referral, job development, and employment placement. Of that number, 277 were disabled veterans. Of those veterans, 1,600 found jobs with Mr. Foster's help; 162 of them were disabled veterans.

Commander, I am extremely pleased to present to you and the delegates assembled here, Delbert J. Foster, Jr. (Applause) Mr. Foster is this year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialist of the Year.

Accompanying Mr. Foster this year is Scott Jensen, who is his office manager. (Applause)

MR. DELBERT J. FOSTER, JR.: National Commander Mike Dobmeier, National Adjutant Art Wilson, Deputy National Service Director for Employment Anthony Baskerville, and all fellow DAV members: I want to thank all of you for this prestigious award.

It's people like you, the Department of Labor of South Dakota, our own state veterans coordinator, Jay Silvers, our office manager, Russ Eng, that give us the latitude to run the veterans program that places the State of South Dakota first or second each year in the nation for veterans entering employment.

I also want to thank past national commander, present adjutant, Department of South Dakota, Chapter 1, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Mr. Gene Murphy, and the best National Service officer in the nation, Larry Bouska of South Dakota, for helping with our efforts for employment of disabled veterans.

Again, I thank you for this award. I'll cherish it for the rest of my life. And God bless. (Applause)

MR. SCOTT JENSEN: On behalf of the great State of South Dakota and our office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, we have a poster that states, "Each and every day is veterans day." I thank you. (Applause)

MR. BASKERVILLE: John R. Graves, Phenix City Employment Security Office, Phenix City, Alabama, is this year's Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year. Mr. Graves, a DAV member, directs all the veterans activities in the Phenix City, Alabama Employment Security Office, which has been selected as the top office representing veterans in the state.

He works closely with Fort Benning personnel in placing veterans leaving service and has personally assisted 657 of 1,071 registered veterans find employment. Mr. Graves has helped 99.6 percent of the veterans who come to him seeking jobs, and has helped over 81 of 131 disabled veterans find suitable employment.

I would like to present to you, Mr. Commander, John Graves, and with him today, his office manager, Rebecca Blalock. (Applause)

MR. JOHN R. GRAVES: To the national commander, his staff, and to all commanders, especially the commander from the State of Alabama -- without his recognition of what we do in the State of Alabama, I would not be standing here today -- on behalf of the Governor, Governor Siegelman, our leader, Miss Alice McKinney, and to our office manager, to our entire staff that we call the team, I would like to thank each and every disabled veteran who is seated here this evening and to let you know that it is people like you who help people like us to do such a great job that we do, trying to help veterans and disabled veterans most of all, knowing that we

can't help them all, but knowing that with your help, that every time we find one person who gets a job to do what it is that he or she would like to do, it makes it so much important that we as a team in our office can be appreciative of what you do most of all.

And for that, and that alone, we thank you. God bless you and God bless America. (Applause)

MS. REBECCA BLALOCK: We feel it's such a privilege to be with such distinguished Americans, and we honor you today, and thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. BASKERVILLE: Physically Challenged Service Industries, Incorporated is an independent, nonprofit contractor that provides general service support to the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, Texas. It has achieved a remarkable rate of hiring the disabled veteran who has provided a variety of services from warehouse support to computer data entry.

PCSI has 34 disabled Americans among its 41 employees or 76 percent of its staff. Of the 27 new hires by the company, 25 have been disabled veterans. PCSI pays salaries that are substantially above the wage normally found in the Killeen-Fort Hood, Texas area. And it has created a much-needed job market for veterans to obtain financially rewarding career-oriented positions in the economy of higher unemployment rates.

Here today representing PCSI is Ace Burden, our Outstanding Small Employer of the Year. (Applause)

MR. ACE BURDEN: Thank you. I'm honored to be here. I would like to thank a few people. Jerry from the Veterans Employment representative of Fort Hood, Texas. I would like to thank Mr. John McKenney, and, of course, the Department of Texas for having us all here.

It's an honor to be able to work with people that care about their jobs; they do a good job. With the help of our disabled veterans, PCSI has grown from three employees three and a half years ago to 400 employees now. It's been instrumental in our success. And I thank you all for having me here. And we will keep doing the best that we can. God bless you all. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. BASKERVILLE: Ace has already indicated to me that his company will be a candidate for Large Employer of the Year next year because they are growing so fast.

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Saginaw, Michigan, Outstanding Large Employer of the Year. Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center has made special efforts to recruit and hire qualified veterans. During the 1998 fiscal year, 42 percent of all new hires were veterans and in fiscal year 1999, 30 percent of all new hires were veterans. For the first six months of fiscal year 2000, 51 percent of all new hires were veterans.

This medical center has taken significant steps to hire disabled veterans. So far, 23 disabled veterans have been hired and the total number of disabled veterans working there has more than doubled from 21 to 44 over the last 30 months.

Mr. Commander, it is my pleasure to bring to the podium Michael Kanuts, representing Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Saginaw, Michigan. (Applause)

MR. MICHAEL KANUTS: Thank you so very much. Many years ago, my grandfather taught me as a young boy that a country's greatness is determined by how it treats three groups of people: those that teach its young, those that care for its soil, and those who have defended its freedom.

This recognition by the Disabled American Veterans acknowledges the efforts made by all the employees of the Aleda E. Lutz Medical Center in helping our country achieve its greatness.

In two weeks, our medical center celebrates its 50th anniversary of service to our nation's veterans. In standing before you, I acknowledge that I am only the delivery man for this award. It is my honor to take this award back and present it to the people that really deserve it, our human resources staff, the managers who made all those selections, and most of all to the employees who welcomed and made our veterans valuable members of the VA work force.

Much of this credit goes to Miss Shelly Pullen, our medical

center staffing specialist and to the Michigan Department of Career Development, specifically Rich Creza, Gregg Smith and Jeff Eagle. These veteran employment representatives have referred many outstanding, quality candidates to our human resources office. Miss Pullen has ensured that these veterans are referred and receive proper consideration for our vacancies. And without their efforts, this award would not be possible.

And I would be remiss if I failed to mention one person, my brother, Chaplain Todd. Y'all get to see him only one week a year; I get to see him 52 weeks a year. And he is always urging us, do more, do more. And when we sort of get tired, he comes down and lifts our spirits.

Lastly, to all of you, I thank you for your hospitality, for this outstanding recognition, and mostly for the work that you do. Standing here, I'm reminded of the great call from the prophet Isaiah, "'Whom shall I send? Who will go for Me?' Then, said I, 'Here am I; send me.'"

When our country called, each of you answered, "Here I am; send me." And you have given so much to me and to our younger generations. You have given us courage. You have given us trust. You have given us moral certainty. And most of all you gave us love. God bless each of you. (Applause)

MR. BASKERVILLE: Mr. Commander, this concludes the Employment Awards for this year. I would ask that the delegates give these great people a DAV hand of applause. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Tony.

At this time, we'll call on Kenneth Musselmann, the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the first reading of the amendments to the National Constitution and Bylaws.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Thank you, Commander. Commander Dobmeier and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order for its first business session on August 21st, 2000, by the committee advisors, Kenneth Musselmann and Fred Bristol.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chair. Kenneth Musselmann was nominated for chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Kenneth Musselmann was elected chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. David Tannenbaum was nominated and elected secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. I will read the resolutions recommended as amendments.

And again, understand this is the first reading, and there will be no discussion on these resolutions today. Tomorrow when I have the second reading, we can then have discussion on the resolutions.

BE IT RESOLVED, amend Article 2, Policy, Section 2.2, Legislative Activities, Paragraph 3, to add the following language: "However, they may support those that are deemed by them to be beneficial to disabled veterans or their dependents."

BE IT RESOLVED --

I guess I should give you the resolution numbers. That was Resolution Number 261.

This is Resolution Number 262.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 8, Section 8.3, Paragraph 1, to add the following sentence: "Installation of department officers shall take place within 24 hours of their election or appointment."

Resolution Number 263.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 8, Section 8.4, Paragraph 2, to omit the words "an independent public accountant" and substitute therefor the words "a certified public accountant."

Resolution Number 264.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 9, Section 9.2, Paragraph 1, to add the following sentence: "Installation of chapter officers shall take place within 30 days of their

election or appointment.  
Resolution Number 265.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 9, Section 9.3, Paragraph 2, to omit the words "an independent public accountant" and substitute therefor the words "a certified public accountant."  
Resolution Number 267.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 11, Section 11.6, to omit the words "hereinafter specified in Article 16" and substitute the words "otherwise specified in these Bylaws."  
Resolution Number 268.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 11, Section 11.11, to omit the words "except as provided in Article 16, Section 16.4, Paragraph D."  
Resolution Number 269.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 17, Section 17.1 to add after the word "respective" in Line 8 the word "DAV" and in Line 9 omit the word "the."  
Resolution Number 270.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 19, Section 19.7, Paragraph 4, to omit the words "Section 90(a-k)" and substitute the words "Section 50301 et seq."

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws in its first reading. And I will be available for the second reading tomorrow.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Ken.

In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to be read? Hearing none, these resolutions will be brought up for discussion and action at tomorrow's session.

Next we will have the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights. And the chairman is Mr. Dick Giese.

MR. RICHARD GIESE: Thank you, Mr. Commander. The National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights was called to order for its first business session on August 21st, 2000, by the committee advisors, Tom Tomlinson and Joe Violante.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chair. Dick Giese was nominated for chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Dick Giese was elected chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Don Pouliot was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and goal of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 2. Provide a ten-year protection for service-connected evaluations.

5. Oppose reduction, taxation, or elimination of VA benefits.

6. Oppose lump sum payments for service-connected disabilities.

7. Oppose subjecting compensation to means testing.

9. Support legislation to provide service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases.

10. And this was amended, as amended: To liberalize criteria for Agent Orange claims.

11. Compensate Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War.

12. Oppose a freeze in the rates of VA disability compensation benefits.

13. Oppose any change that would redefine service connection or restrict the conditions or circumstances under which it may be established.

14. Support legislation to provide that special separation benefits not be withheld from VA disability compensation payments.

16. Amend provisions regarding eligibility for automobile adaptive equipment to include any veteran whose service-connected disability inhibits his/her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

17. Provide an increase in the specially adapted housing grant authorized by Section 2101(a) of Title 38 of the U.S. Code.
18. Provide an open period to apply for service-disabled veterans insurance.
19. As amended: Extend eligibility for veterans' mortgage life insurance for 100 percent service-connected veterans.
20. As amended: To support an increase in the service-connected burial allowance for service-connected veterans and provide for an automatic annual adjustment.
21. Restore eligibility and increase burial and plot allowance.
22. Provide head stones or markers for all veterans.
24. Support cost-of-living adjustments for dependents education assistance program.
25. Oppose any reduction in veterans programs.
26. Support adequate funding for all VA programs.
27. Oppose the use of VA-generated savings for the purposes other than restoring VA benefits and services.
28. Oppose reorganization of the Department of Veterans Affairs as a bureau of the Department of Defense.
29. Support legislation that would exempt benefits paid to wartime service-connected disabled veterans from the pay-go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.
30. Support legislation to ensure that military retirees receive all benefits that were promised them when they entered the Armed Forces.
50. Expand POW presumptions.
52. Increase disability compensation.
58. Oppose the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims.
59. Support legislation to preclude inappropriate remands from the Court of Veterans Appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals.
60. Oppose reduction of the appeal period for VA decisions.
64. Oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security disability insurance benefits or any other federal benefit by VA compensation.
66. Oppose the permanent rounding down of COLAs in veterans benefits.
67. Provide SMC or K award for loss of female mammary gland. That's special monthly compensation, the SMC.
68. Provide a temporary total rating for the period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed.
69. Increase the grant for automobiles or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans and provide for automatic annual adjustments based on the increase in the cost of living.
70. Restore protections against unwarranted awards of veterans' benefits to third parties in divorce actions.
72. Increase the face value of service-disabled veterans insurance.
74. Support legislation to provide for a waiver of premiums for supplemental service-disabled veterans' insurance.
78. Provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled.
79. Eliminate the delimiting date for spouse in the VA's Chapter 35 education program.
85. Extend Commissary and Exchange privileges to veterans with service-connected disability and their dependents.
86. Support a COLA for military retirees.
87. Seek the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.
89. Oppose the dissolution of the military Commissary system.
90. Allow for the payment of fees, expenses and court costs under equal access to justice to unsupervised nonattorney representatives practicing before the Court of Veterans Appeals.
91. Support legislation to allow veterans organizations to solicit contributions on Post Office property.
96. Support a change in regulatory requirements for a temporary total rating under Section 4.30 of Title 38 CFR.
106. We're getting there. Support a change in the payment of

certain accrued benefits upon death of a beneficiary.

118. Extend military Commissary and Exchange privileges and space-available air travel to certain service-connected disabled veterans. These are those that were discharged from service prior to October of 1949.

121. Oppose any authorization of use of members of the Armed Forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

200. Support legislation to repeal the prohibition against service connection for smoking-related illnesses.

218. Expand provisions to allow for clothing allowance where there is irreparable damage to clothing from prescription medication for service-connected conditions.

221. Maintain and retain competent representation for surviving spouses.

248. Support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt.

249. Support legislation to reestablish the presumption that veterans who served in Vietnam are exposed to dioxin.

250. To remove the estate limit applicable to certain incompetent veterans.

251. Support legislation to restore the government's duty to assist claimants for veterans benefits.

252. Support legislation to require judicial enforcement of the statutory benefit-of-the-doubt rule.

271. Support change in law to provide for commencement of payment period for temporary total ratings as of date of entitling event.

272. Support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay.

273. Support legislation to make claims procedures of the Department Veterans Affairs exclusive.

274. Oppose any change in the scope of the review of the VA decisions by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

275. Provide for an adequate number of national cemeteries.

276. Support amendments to the law concerning special compensation paid by the Department of Defense to certain severely disabled military longevity retirees.

277. Extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans.

278. Support legislation to require the Court of Appeals for veterans claims to decide cases by panels of at least three judges.

279. Support legislation to prohibit participation of central legal staff in decisions of the Court of Appeals for veterans claims and oversight hearings on the operations of the court.

And finally, Number 280, support legislation to expand the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to include questions of law in veterans' appeals.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights. And I move the adoption of these resolutions, and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

#### RESOLUTION NO. 002--LEGISLATIVE

##### PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EVALUATIONS

WHEREAS, section 110 of title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

WHEREAS, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for 10 years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; NOW  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports amendment of section 110 of title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at

the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 10 years.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 005--LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REDUCTION, TAXATION, OR ELIMINATION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families as a direct result of their service to the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are part of a covenant between our Nation and its defenders; and

WHEREAS, certain government leaders have continued to attack veterans' benefits in an attempt to tax those benefits, reduce them, or eliminate them completely; and

WHEREAS, these attacks are occurring on a more frequent basis, with more and more attacks every year; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, vigorously supports the protection of veterans' benefits from taxation, cutbacks, and elimination.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 006--LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran on account of and at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, such compensation, by design, continues to provide relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level; and

WHEREAS, by law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims processing system, has suggested lump-sum payments as a way for the Government to avoid the administrative costs of reevaluating service-connected disabilities and as a way to avoid future liabilities to service-connected disabled veterans when their disabilities worsen or cause secondary disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such lump-sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be for Government savings and convenience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 007--LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE SUBJECTING COMPENSATION TO MEANS TESTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of our Nation have heretofore honorably recognized their indebtedness to those who sacrificed in the service of their country by providing compensation as restitution for the personal injuries suffered in such service; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran is rightfully entitled to restitution for the effects of service-connected disability during its continuation, without regard to good fortune or income of the veteran or spouse from sources wholly independent of the Government's obligations to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it is fundamentally unfair for the Government to seek to disclaim its obligation to disabled veterans or their survivors

merely because of the receipt of other, unrelated income; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the special status of disability and death compensation, there are efforts to reduce or eliminate it where the veteran or spouse, or survivor has other income; and

WHEREAS, this degrades compensation by providing it to the extent of the veteran's or survivor's economic needs rather than a measure of restitution equal to personal losses, thereby disassociating compensation from that which merits it and associating it with factors which govern purely gratuitous and welfare benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 009--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR ALL RADIOGENIC DISEASES

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Services have participated in test detonation of nuclear devices and served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan following the detonation of nuclear bombs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government knew or should have known of the potential harm to the health and well-being of these military members; and

WHEREAS, atomic veterans served their country with honor, courage, and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, remedial legislation passed by Congress in 1984 has not been effective in providing compensation to those atomic veterans suffering from radiogenic diseases; and

WHEREAS, by the Department of Veterans Affairs' own admission, approximately 50 claimants have obtained disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation pursuant to Public Law 98-542; and

WHEREAS, the Government has spent tens of millions of dollars to provide dose reconstruction estimates which do not accurately reflect actual radiation dose exposure; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 010--LEGISLATIVE

##### LIBERALIZE CRITERIA FOR AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS

WHEREAS, herbicides, the most potent known as Agent Orange, were used extensively and in great quantities in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, many veterans were exposed in varying degrees to these toxic defoliants and continue to suffer diseases of unknown origin; and

WHEREAS, more than 250,000 Vietnam veterans, concerned over this exposure to herbicides, have been entered on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Agent Orange Registry; and

WHEREAS, the VA Agent Orange Task Force has recommended awarding compensation to veterans who develop diabetes after being exposed to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences, in studies mandated by the U.S. Congress, continues to review and evaluate scientific data to determine whether a direct link exists between dioxin exposure and certain physical disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans continues to support the premise that such exposure is the proximate cause of certain



health disorders; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports liberalizing the criteria for herbicide-related claims, including placing burden of proof for the award of disability compensation on the U.S. Government and not on the individual veteran, and making the U.S. Government responsible for providing needed medical attention, examination, care and treatment, as required by sound medical judgment, and where appropriate, awarding service-connected compensation on the basis of sound medical/scientific findings; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those veterans now carried on the VA Agent Orange Registry be given the opportunity for a prompt examination by the VA to ascertain dioxin levels, and to determine whether shared medical conditions exist among them.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 011--LEGISLATIVE

COMPENSATE PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS SUFFERING FROM ILLNESSES  
CIRCUMSTANTIALLY LINKED TO THEIR SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has a significant concern regarding the multitude of ailments reported by a growing number of Persian Gulf War veterans who were exposed to both identified and unknown health hazards; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans were exposed to numerous and various environmental health hazards, including smoke from oil field fires and other petroleum agents, depleted uranium, chemical and biological elements, desert parasites, vaccines, chemoprophylactic agents and vehicle paints; and

WHEREAS, primary investigations and multifarious studies have been unable to identify the source or sources of these ailments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific/medical community's inability to identify the disease has caused considerable anxiety for these veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a commonality of ailments plaguing Persian Gulf War veterans; and

WHEREAS, these ailments have been unofficially labeled "Persian Gulf Syndrome," "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity" and "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome"; and

WHEREAS, these brave veterans suffering from these unknown ailments are often prevented from providing for their own basic needs and for the needs of their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, vigorously supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) expeditious handling of Persian Gulf War veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for those diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions associated with their service in the Persian Gulf theater and subsequent exposure to certain chemical, biological and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strongly urge that these Persian Gulf War veterans receive priority medical treatment for those ailments that may be associated with their service in the Persian Gulf; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we vehemently urge VA, the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to cooperate in tests and studies to unlock the mysteries surrounding the ailments suffered by Persian Gulf War veterans, including the possibility of exposure to chemical agents by U.S. military personnel.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 012--LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE A FREEZE IN THE RATES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

WHEREAS, no segment of our society is more deserving of federal benefits and services than those veterans who have incurred disabilities while serving their country honorably in time of need; and

WHEREAS, under the guise of "reducing federal expenditures," proposals have been advanced to freeze the current rates of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation benefits; and

WHEREAS, the disability compensation benefits of service-connected disabled veterans should be periodically adjusted to reflect inflationary pressures and the rise in the costs of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans, who have suffered so much for their country, should not be expected to endure further hardships such as would occur should a cost-of-living adjustment be denied to their benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any freeze in the VA disability compensation program if such program is singled out (from all other major federal entitlement programs) for such treatment.

\* \* \*

## RESOLUTION NO. 013-LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY CHANGE THAT WOULD REDEFINE SERVICE-CONNECTED  
DISABILITY OR RESTRICT THE CONDITIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER  
WHICH IT MAY BE ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, current law authorizes service connection for disabilities incurred or aggravated during service in the United States Armed Forces in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, there are various proposals to limit service connection to disabilities caused directly by the performance of duty; and

WHEREAS, disability incurred in the line of duty is sometimes not directly due to a job injury but may be due to less obvious factors attributable to the Armed Forces environment; and

WHEREAS, proof of a causal relationship may often be difficult or impossible notwithstanding an inability to disassociate the disability from service-related factors; and

WHEREAS, current law equitably alleviates the onerous burden of establishing performance of duty or other causal connection as a prerequisite for service connection; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine or restrict service connection.

\* \* \*

## RESOLUTION NO. 014-LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL SEPARATION BENEFITS  
PAYMENTS NOT BE WITHHELD FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, as a result of the downsizing of our military forces, many career military personnel are leaving service prior to becoming eligible for longevity retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are entitled to separation pay; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals are also eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, VA General Counsel, in an opinion rendered on June 22, 1992, held that any monies received as a result of the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) must be recouped from any VA disability compensation payment; and

WHEREAS, SSB payments are in no way related to a disability;

NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 016--LEGISLATIVE

AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE ANY VETERAN WHOSE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY INHIBITS HIS/HER ABILITY TO SAFELY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE

WHEREAS, section 3902 of title 38, United States Code, and section 17.119(a) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, restrict the eligibility for adaptive equipment to those veterans who qualify for the automobile grant as specified in section 3901 of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, not all veterans whose service-connected disabilities prohibit the safe operation of a motor vehicle meet the requirements of section 3901 of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, these service-connected disabled veterans should be provided the adaptive equipment necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports the enactment of legislation that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing the adaptive equipment deemed necessary to any veteran whose service-connected disability interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 017--LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE AN INCREASE IN THE SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING GRANT AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 2101(a) OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

WHEREAS, section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code, authorizes a one-time specially adapted housing grant to veterans who have incurred the service-connected conditions of blindness, with loss or loss of use of one lower extremity, multiple loss or loss of use of extremities, and/or loss of functions which affect balance or propulsion; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this grant is to enable such severely disabled veterans to provide necessary structural adaptations and modifications in their homes for comfort and egress; and

WHEREAS, the current \$43,000 maximum amount authorized for this grant is insufficient to allow such veterans to make all necessary adaptations and modifications; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation which would provide a realistic increase in the grant authorized by section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 018--LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE (RH)

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance (RH) within one year

from the date the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) grants service connection for any disability; and

WHEREAS, many eligible veterans, due to financial difficulties and problems associated with readjustment to civilian life, did not apply for this insurance within the one year eligibility period; and

WHEREAS, many of these service-connected disabled veterans are now prepared and can afford to purchase this insurance but are not able to purchase comparable insurance coverage in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, precedent has been established to extend previously closed "eligibility periods" for certain other VA benefits and services, including insurance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance Program.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 019—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE TO  
SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Mortgage Life Insurance is presently available to veterans entitled to the special adapted housing award under section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain Mortgage Life Insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, their widows and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VA Mortgage Life Insurance to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 020—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS AND PROVIDE FOR  
AN AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides service-connected veterans a \$1,500 burial allowance; and

WHEREAS, the amount of this burial allowance has not been raised for approximately 20 years and its value has therefore been seriously eroded by inflation; and

WHEREAS, the amount of this burial allowance should be increased because this substantial reduction in its value is unfair to today's veterans; and

WHEREAS, the burial allowance should automatically be adjusted for inflation annually to keep pace with the rise in the cost-of-living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable in the case of death due to service-connected disability and to provide for automatic annual adjustments indexed to the rise in the cost of living.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 021—LEGISLATIVE  
RESTORE ELIGIBILITY AND INCREASE BURIAL AND PLOT ALLOWANCE

WHEREAS, all veterans who have served their country honorably and faithfully are entitled to a decent burial and final resting place; and

WHEREAS, the amount payable by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a burial allowance (\$300) and the amount payable as a plot allowance (\$150) have remained constant for many years in spite of the inflationary spiral; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 97-35, effective October 1, 1981, restricted the eligibility for the \$300 burial allowance, greatly reducing the number of veterans who previously qualified; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 101-508, enacted in November 1990, reduced the number of veterans who would have otherwise been eligible for the \$150 plot allowance; and

WHEREAS, these restrictive measures enacted over time were intended purely as cost-savings measures without regard to intrinsic value of this final honor which was bestowed by a grateful nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to (1) increase both the VA burial and plot allowance to a level reflecting the inflationary impact of the intervening years, (2) restore entitlement to the VA burial allowance to those categories of veterans eliminated by Public Law 97-35, and (3) restore entitlement to the VA plot allowance to those categories of veterans eliminated by enactment of Public Law 101-508; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation should provide for automatic annual adjustments in this allowance based on the increase in the cost of living.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 022—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A HEADSTONE OR MARKER FOR ALL  
VETERANS

WHEREAS, section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish appropriate Government headstones or markers at the expense of the United States only for the *unmarked* graves of veterans interred in public or private cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, veterans interred in a national cemetery, post, or veterans' cemetery owned by a state are furnished an appropriate headstone or marker at the expense of the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is inappropriate and unfair to deny veterans and their families their rightful recognition of service to the United States by limiting the availability of headstones or markers at Government expense to gravesites of veterans who have no other marker; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans desires that the U.S. Congress take appropriate action to correct this injustice and inequity to America's veterans and their families; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend section 2306(a) of title 38, United States Code, by deleting the word "unmarked," thereby authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish appropriate Government headstones or markers at the expense of the United States for all graves of veterans interred in public or private cemeteries notwithstanding the presence of other markers on the grave site.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 024—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOR A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT  
FOR THE DEPENDENTS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides educational assistance to children and spouses of veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated permanently and totally disabling and to eligible survivors of veterans who die from service-connected disabilities or whose service-connected disabilities were totally disabling for 10 years or more prior to death; and

WHEREAS, the monthly benefit rate of this program has not been regularly adjusted to keep pace with the rising costs of education; and

WHEREAS, the costs of education are known to have risen substantially, and the value of this educational assistance has been allowed to erode year after year becoming less and less effective in accomplishing the purpose for which the program was intended; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports Congress adjusting the monthly benefit rate of Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance under title 38, United States Code, to offset the rising educational costs since the last adjustment and amend the law to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 025—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY REDUCTION IN VETERANS' PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, there is a concerted effort to streamline and make more efficient the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Vice President's National Performance Review ("Reinventing Government") makes numerous recommendations which impact on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, several of those recommendations appear to be directed at cost-saving measures rather than efficiency and effectiveness; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges Congress to reject any proposed intention to "streamline" government that would reduce or diminish the VA's ability to properly serve and care for our Nation's veterans.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 026—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, understaffing of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs in recent years has hampered the VA's ability to effectively administer programs intended to benefit this Nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the VA budget will lead to further deterioration of all VA programs; and

WHEREAS, this Nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of the country; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 027—LEGISLATIVE  
OPPOSE THE USE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GENERATED  
SAVINGS FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN RESTORING VETERANS' BENEFITS AND  
SERVICES

WHEREAS, a former Office of Management and Budget Director proposed to use savings from reductions in veterans' benefits and services to revamp the welfare system; and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Acts of 1990 and 1993 required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to cut veterans' programs by more than six billion dollars, which includes the loss of compensation payments for certain incompetent veterans, elimination of vocational rehabilitation for some service-connected veterans, elimination of entitlement to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for remarried surviving spouses and the elimination of cost-of-living increases for the Montgomery G.I. Bill educational benefits; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the fiscal year 1996 budget proposed by Congress for veterans' benefits and services called for a seven-year freeze in spending levels for health care and general operating expenses, ignoring the fact that the VA's current spending levels do not permit the timely delivery of health care and benefit determinations; and

WHEREAS, the use of VA-generated savings should be used for restoring VA benefits and services which have been taken away from America's veterans over the past several years; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, goes on record as strongly opposing the use of VA-generated savings for purposes other than restoring VA benefits and services.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 028—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AS A BUREAU WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the people of the United States, through Federal law, in recognition of this Nation's debt to its veterans, established a Federal Department dedicated to serving veterans' needs; and

WHEREAS, a public policy group called the Heritage Foundation, apparently not appreciating the priority of this Nation's obligation to its veterans, in its report entitled "Mandate for Leadership IV," recommended in the name of government efficiency that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) be abolished and reorganized as a bureau under the Department of Defense (DoD); and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2000 budget proposed by the Clinton Administration recommends several alternatives for moving VA discretionary accounts into the Defense function; and

WHEREAS, veterans deserve a Federal Department whose focus is solely upon providing them with the compassionate service they have earned through their special sacrifices; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes such abolishment of VA as a Federal Department and reorganization as a lesser agency under the DoD.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 029—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE BENEFITS PAID TO  
WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS FROM THE "PAY-GO"  
PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, wartime disabled veterans have earned the benefits and services they, their dependents and survivors receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a result of the injuries sustained during their period of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services received by wartime disabled veterans as a result of their service-connected disabilities is an extension of the costs of war; and

WHEREAS, this country has a moral obligation to continue to care for these citizen-soldiers who have risen in defense and support of the ideals of this great Nation and who have returned to civilian life with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to America's veterans, dependents and survivors have not caused this Nation's deficit problems; and

WHEREAS, the so-called "pay-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act require any new benefits or services to be paid out of existing benefits or programs, in effect, requiring one group of disabled veterans to give up a benefit or service so that another worthy group of wartime disabled veterans can receive benefits or services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from ailments associated with their service in the Persian Gulf War are compensated from funds generated by cutting the benefits of other service-connected veterans and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to wartime disabled veterans are unique and are not a "welfare benefit"; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the "pay-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 030--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT MILITARY RETIREES RECEIVE ALL  
BENEFITS WHICH WERE PROMISED THEM WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ARMED  
FORCES

WHEREAS, men and women who enter military service set aside their personal lives, goals, and opportunities to wear the uniform and bear the burdens of our Nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, these men and women were promised certain benefits, such as free medical and dental care for life, full retired pay based on longevity of service, and other benefits, to entice them to remain in the military and make it a career; and

WHEREAS, our Government has reneged on many of its promises to provide these benefits to military retirees; and

WHEREAS, our Nation has a compelling moral duty to honor its pledges to military retirees; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to require our Government to provide military retirees with all benefits promised them.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 050--LEGISLATIVE

##### EXPAND PRISONER-OF-WAR PRESUMPTIONS

WHEREAS, former prisoners-of-war (POWs) suffered cruel and inhumane treatment, together with nutritional deprivation at the hands of their captors, which resulted in long-term adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, POWs were subjected to numerous and varying forms of abuse dependent upon the place, time and circumstance of their captivity by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, for this reason former POWs suffer from a wide range of different physical and psychological maladies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in



National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation which would add those medical conditions which are characteristically associated with or can be reasonably attributed to the POW experience as presumptive disorders for former POWs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge passage of legislation that would expand eligibility for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to surviving spouses of certain former POWs, who were rated totally disabled at the time of death for a service-connected disability and who had been diagnosed as having a disease subject to presumption of service connection for former POWs.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 052--LEGISLATIVE

##### INCREASE DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, it is the historical policy of the Disabled American Veterans that this Nation's first duty to veterans is to provide for the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

WHEREAS, the percentage ratings for service-connected disabilities represent, as far as can be practicably determined, the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such diseases and injuries in civil occupations; and

WHEREAS, compensation increases should be based on the loss of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service-connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payments commensurate with the after-tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in Department of Veterans Affairs compensation rates to bring the standard of living of disabled veterans in line with that which they would have enjoyed had they not suffered their service-connected disabilities.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 058--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMITS FOR FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS

WHEREAS, compensation is a benefit available to service-connected veterans at any time they choose to claim it; and

WHEREAS, veterans who, for whatever reason, do not initially desire to claim and receive compensation should not forfeit the right to claim and receive it at some later time; and

WHEREAS, no reason other than defeating delayed claims exists for imposition of a statute of limitations on compensation claims; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims processing system, suggested a time limit for filing compensation claims as a way to reduce VA's workload; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 059--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PRECLUDE INAPPROPRIATE REMANDS FROM THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, appellants, but not the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), may appeal decisions from the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court); and

WHEREAS, only appellants have the right to challenge the BVA decision, therefore; and

WHEREAS, the Court nonetheless remands cases for further action and a new decision by the BVA based on the VA's motions for remand which contain the VA's arguments of error in its own decision; and

WHEREAS, this practice allows the VA to appeal its own decision, to deprive appellants of their right to an independent review of BVA's decisions by the Court, allows the VA to avoid scrutiny of BVA's decision and consideration of errors specified by appellants, and allows the VA to attempt to gather new evidence on remand in an effort to provide after-the-fact justification for the prior denial; and

WHEREAS, appellants are not permitted remands merely to allow them to strengthen their cases; and

WHEREAS, permitting the VA to take cases back from the Court to the BVA, allows the VA an unfair advantage and is therefore prejudicial to appellants seeking independent review; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to constrain the Court from remanding cases to BVA for reasons argued by the VA, over appellants' objections, and to prevent remands which permit the VA to search for additional evidence in an attempt to justify the BVA denial.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 060--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE REDUCTION OF THE APPEAL PERIOD FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Congress has created a benevolent system for the administration of veterans' benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, under this benevolent system, veterans currently have one year to initiate appeals of adverse decisions; and

WHEREAS, unlike with other legal processes where fairness to opposing parties, practical considerations, and matters of administrative and judicial convenience justify shorter appeal periods, no such reasons exist within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system where service to veterans is paramount; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims processing system, has recommended a reduction of the appeal period from one year to 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the length of the current appeal period is not responsible in any way for the claims backlog and related problems the Commission was created to study, the real cause being the ratio of workload to production capacity; and

WHEREAS, a reduction of the appeal period will therefore not increase VA's efficiency nor reduce the claims backlog; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in the appeal period would be an unnecessary reduction of veterans' rights under the pretense of improving the VA claims and appeal processes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any change in law to reduce the period for appealing VA claims decisions.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 064--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OFFSET PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, there has been consideration given to proposing an offset of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits by payments of any other federal benefit; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to those service-connected veterans who have a compensable disability and who also suffer a permanent and total disability for purposes of Disability Insurance Benefits from the Social Security Administration; and

WHEREAS, such an offset would work a grave and undue hardship on all totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

WHEREAS, benefits received from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or under military retirement pay and other federal programs have differing eligibility criteria as compared to the earned payments of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any measure which proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement by VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 066--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE THE PERMANENT ROUNDING DOWN OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, to maintain the worth of veterans' benefits, they must be adjusted to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down the adjusted rates to the next lower dollar amount will erode the value of these benefits over time and thus not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down veterans' cost-of-living adjustments unfairly singles out veterans for a disproportionate and unfair burden in deficit reduction; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes permanent rounding down of cost-of-living adjustments for veterans' benefits.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 067--LEGISLATIVE

##### PROVIDE SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF FEMALE MAMMARY GLAND

WHEREAS, section 1114(k) of title 38, United States Code, and section 3.350(a) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, grants special monthly compensation for loss of use of one hand, one foot, both buttocks, one or more creative organs; blindness--one eye having light perception only, deafness--both ears having the absence of air and bone conduction; and complete organic aphonia with constant inability to communicate by speech; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant hormonal interrelationship between the female mammary glands and the female reproductive system; and

WHEREAS, the female mammary glands can be a necessary postpartum accessory organ; and

WHEREAS, severe physical disfigurement and complete loss of use results from the removal of the female mammary gland; and

WHEREAS, major reconstructive surgery or utilization of a prosthesis is necessary to replace the amputated organ; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend section 1114(k) of title 38,

United States Code, to add the anatomical loss of a female mammary gland.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 068—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING FOR THE PERIOD THAT AN AMPUTEE HAS A NEW PROSTHETIC DEVICE CONSTRUCTED

WHEREAS, it takes four to six weeks to manufacture a prosthetic device; and

WHEREAS, many employers will not accept an amputee back to his employment until he has his artificial limb; and

WHEREAS, the veteran who does not have an artificial limb is incapacitated and unable to perform gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) *Schedule for Rating Disabilities* does not contain any provision to provide this temporary total rating; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend the 1945 VA *Schedule for Rating Disabilities* to provide a temporary total rating for the period involving the replacement of a prosthetic device.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 069—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE THE GRANT FOR AUTOMOBILES OR OTHER CONVEYANCES AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON THE INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a grant to assist eligible disabled veterans and servicemembers in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the amount of the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of lower-priced automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later amendments established grants in amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been adjusted regularly concurrent with increases in the costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant of \$8,000 represents only about 36 percent of the total average cost of automobiles based on most current available pricing; and

WHEREAS, the automobile grant must be adjusted annually if it is to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living and remain a meaningful amount; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation should provide for automatic annual adjustments in this allowance based on the increase in the cost of living.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 070—LEGISLATIVE

RESTORE PROTECTIONS AGAINST UNWARRANTED AWARDS OF VETERANS' BENEFITS TO THIRD PARTIES IN DIVORCE ACTIONS

WHEREAS, disability compensation and other veterans' benefits were intended and should be provided solely to fill specific needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress intended to exempt veterans' benefits from the claims of third parties to ensure that such benefits were not voluntarily assigned or through legal processes diverted to purposes or persons other than for which they were intended; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of support payments in divorce actions, state courts and the Supreme Court of the United States have arbitrarily created exceptions to the protection for veterans' benefits Congress established in section 5301 of title 38, United States Code, thereby forcing veterans to surrender their benefits to third parties, contrary to the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the courts show little understanding or appreciation for the principle that veterans' entitlements are awarded solely to veterans because of their personal sacrifices, contributions in the defense of our Nation, or consequent personal suffering associated with service-connected disabilities and for that reason should not inure or vest to the benefit of others who have no natural right or valid legal interest in such benefits; and

WHEREAS, courts have, for example, shown no hesitation to force disabled veterans to surrender their disability compensation and sole source of sustenance to able-bodied ex-spouses as alimony awards; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of uniformity in how the various courts treat veterans' benefits in divorce actions because the courts act according to their own will rather than any consensus on the meaning and intent of the law; and

WHEREAS, this situation creates a need for Congress to intervene to override the effect of the law given by the courts; to restore meaning, equity, and uniformity to the law; and to reinstate safeguards against veterans' benefits being siphoned into the pockets of persons who have no right to such benefits; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to amend section 5301 of title 38, United States Code, to restore protections against unwarranted awards of veterans' benefits to third parties by prohibiting courts from directly ordering payment of such benefits to third parties, other than dependent children when justified by the circumstances, and by prohibiting courts from taking notice, or the inclusion of, amounts received as veterans' benefits in determining such awards.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 072—LEGISLATIVE

##### INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE (RH)

WHEREAS, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance under section 1922 of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, honorably discharged veterans released from active military duty on or after April 25, 1951, found by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be suffering from a disability or disabilities for which a compensable evaluation would be payable, shall, upon application, be granted insurance by the United States Government under section 1922(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, this insurance, commonly referred to as RH insurance, is non-participating with no dividends payable; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans are uninsurable by private insurance companies as a result of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, inflation has rapidly increased and diminished the value of the insurance since the maximum was set at \$10,000; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports amendment of section 1922(a) of title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of insurance coverage available under Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance (RH).

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 074—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR WAIVER OF PREMIUMS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, section 1922A(a) of title 38, United States Code, provides for supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, section 1922A(d) of title 38, United States Code, provides that, "no waiver of premiums shall be made in the case of any person for supplemental insurance granted under this section"; and

WHEREAS, such prohibition of premium waiver is based on the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951, which states in part, "[t]he amount of insurance placed in force hereunder. . . at the time of the insured's application for waiver hereunder, may not exceed \$10,000" (section 1912(d), title 38, United States Code); and

WHEREAS, such denial of waiver on supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans constitutes an inequity based on prior established standards; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to allow for the waiver of premiums, for any and all supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans that may be authorized by existing and future legislation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria for total disability waiver of premiums, as mandated in section 1912 of title 38, United States Code, be maintained.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 078—LEGISLATIVE

##### PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

WHEREAS, chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, extends educational assistance to the dependents of service-connected veterans who are evaluated as permanently and totally disabled; and

WHEREAS, there are many service-connected veterans rated 80 percent and 90 percent disabled, whose dependents cannot afford to attend an institution of higher learning or pursue a vocational endeavor because of the reduced earning ability of such veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80 percent or more.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 079—LEGISLATIVE

##### ELIMINATE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER CHAPTER 35 OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

WHEREAS, dependents and survivors eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, have 10 years in which to apply for and complete a program of education; and

WHEREAS, this 10-year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or 10 years from the date of such veteran's death due to service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, because of family obligations or the need to provide care to the veteran, spouses or surviving spouses may not have had an opportunity to apply for these benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the enactment of legislation which would eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 085--LEGISLATIVE

##### EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES TO VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, current Department of Defense regulations authorize military commissary and exchange privileges to a broad category of active and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured while in service to their Nation have earned the privilege to use commissary and exchange stores; and

WHEREAS, the recent downsizing of the military jeopardizes the continued profitable operation of military and exchange stores; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 086--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MILITARY RETIREES

WHEREAS, cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for military retirees were reduced or eliminated as a result of legislation during 1986 and 1993; and

WHEREAS, other categories of federal annuitants and beneficiaries--Social Security and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability compensation and nonservice-connected pension recipients, for example--were not subject to these same COLA restrictions; and

WHEREAS, it is basically unfair--especially in the case of military disability retirees--to provide a COLA to one category of federal beneficiary while withholding such an adjustment from another category; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation which would ensure the timely extension of COLAs to military retirees when similar adjustments are being authorized for beneficiaries in the Social Security and VA benefit programs.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 087--LEGISLATIVE

SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD  
CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR  
AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO DIED DURING  
THESE WARS

WHEREAS, the members of the Disabled American Veterans are deeply concerned for the thousands of American Servicemen still unaccounted for in the aftermath of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, numerous efforts by high level American delegations, including members of Congress, have visited Southeast Asia in continuing efforts to solve the mystery of the whereabouts and fate of these brave men without success; and

WHEREAS, the brave families of these missing Americans continue to live in uncertainty and anguish regarding their missing sons and husbands; and

WHEREAS, there are still today more than 78,000 unaccounted for following World War II, some 8,000 from the Korean War, and over 2,100 in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War who have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans was extremely disappointed with the timing of President Clinton's decision to normalize relations with the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, prior to the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs from Southeast Asia; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges the U.S. Government to ensure this issue be considered as one of America's highest priorities, accelerating efforts to obtain the release of any American who may still be held captive and obtain the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our Nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge passage of legislation that would direct the heads of federal departments and agencies to fully disclose to the American public information concerning United States personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the U.S. Government not to establish Most Favored Nation status with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam until the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam provides the U.S. Government with the fullest possible accounting of over 2,100 personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action from the Vietnam War.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 089—LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MILITARY COMMISSARY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, some members of Congress and other officials have proposed to phase-out the Military Commissary System; and

WHEREAS, the Commissary System is of vital importance to the personnel of our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, active duty personnel, their dependents, retired military and disabled veterans who live on fixed incomes should have high quality food at fair and reasonable prices; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, vigorously opposes any proposal to phase-out the Armed Forces Commissary System.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 090—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR THE PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES, UNDER SECTION 2412 OF TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT, TO UNSUPERVISED NONATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVES PRACTICING BEFORE THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

WHEREAS, attorneys practicing before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court) are allowed to collect reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and court costs pursuant to the provisions of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), in cases where the government was not substantially justified in withholding benefits or services; and

WHEREAS, the Court allows nonattorney representatives employed



by veterans' service organizations to practice, unsupervised, before the Court; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans attorneys and nonattorney representatives practice before the Court; and

WHEREAS, the Court has recently determined that the Disabled American Veterans' nonattorney representatives are not entitled to reasonable fees, expenses, or court costs pursuant to EAJA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation which would allow unsupervised nonattorney representatives to obtain EAJA fees under section 2412 of title 28, United States Code.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 091--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS ON POST OFFICE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this Nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

WHEREAS, it is the first duty of the Disabled American Veterans to assist the service-connected disabled, and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans Chapters and Departments provide assistance to hospitalized and needy veterans such as donations to VA Medical Centers, financial assistance to needy veterans, meal programs, temporary housing, and transportation programs; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Disabled American Veterans on behalf of this Nation's wartime-disabled veterans augments the Government's legal and moral obligation to wartime disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, postal regulations, now being enforced, prohibit any solicitation on post office properties; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to allow veterans' organizations to solicit contributions on postal property.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 096--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING UNDER SECTION 4.30 OF TITLE 38, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, with advances in modern medicine and increasing emphasis on more efficient use of health care resources, health care providers are being encouraged to utilize suitable alternatives to inpatient care; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence, veterans are often treated through home health services or convalesce at home rather than in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, convalescent ratings are currently only authorized where inpatient or outpatient treatment resulted in surgery or immobilization of a major joint by cast; and

WHEREAS, there are instances where the veteran's treatment did not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran has undergone healing, convalescence, or a therapeutic course in the home, with a duration of more than 21 days; and

WHEREAS, exacerbation of a service-connected disability sometimes makes work activities contraindicated for periods of more than 21 days; and

WHEREAS, in such instances, the therapeutic course, convalescence, or restriction from work would occur in the home in lieu of hospitalization for more than 21 days; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports a change in section 4.30 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide for a temporary total rating if treatment or exacerbation of a service-connected disability results in a condition of temporary total incapacity for employment or temporary unavailability for employment by reason of home health care or ambulatory care, bed rest or confinement to the home, or contraindication of work activities for more than 21 days.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 106—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A CHANGE IN THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN ACCRUED BENEFITS UPON  
DEATH OF A BENEFICIARY

WHEREAS, section 5121 of title 38, United States Code, sets forth the requirement for payment of accrued benefits upon death of a beneficiary and limits accrued benefits to periodic monetary benefits due and unpaid for a period not to exceed two years; and

WHEREAS, the current appeals process, including a favorable Board of Veterans' Appeals decision and payment of retroactive benefits can take considerably longer than two years; and

WHEREAS, the spouse and/or dependent children are part of the veteran's "family unit" and suffer the financial loss incurred during the appeals process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation which would provide for payment in full of all due and unpaid accrued benefits to the spouse or dependent children.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 118—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE-  
AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED  
VETERANS

WHEREAS, disabled enlisted personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space-available air travel aboard military aircraft, to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949, for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the VA as 30 percent or more disabling and who retained at least a 30 percent evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 121—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES  
FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMED  
CONSENT

WHEREAS, those who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces make personal sacrifices to maintain our national security; and

WHEREAS, members of the Armed Forces should be accorded special respect and the gratitude of us for whom they serve; and

WHEREAS, their willingness to sacrifice and relinquish their liberty does not surrender their natural right to determine what shall be done with their own bodies and their right to personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, it is unethical and a trespass against the person to use service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and consent; and

WHEREAS, our Government has in the past used military members as human guinea pigs to test the effects of harmful and injurious substances on the body; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration plans to make final a temporary rule allowing administration of experimental drugs to military members without their knowledge and informed consent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 200—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE PROHIBITION AGAINST SERVICE CONNECTION FOR SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHEREAS, until recently smoking of tobacco was an activity fully accepted by society and not only condoned but encouraged and subsidized by the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, because the Armed Forces and the military environment encouraged smoking among service members, higher percentages of veterans smoke or have a history of smoking than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the Government rejects the tobacco companies' defense that responsibility for the health effects of smoking is with the individual who personally chose to smoke but relies on that same excuse to prohibit compensation for service-incurred smoking-related illnesses in veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Government has imposed a dual standard against veterans because it has not sought to hold other Federal beneficiaries personally responsible and prohibited benefits for smoking-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Congress conveniently seized upon the personal choice-personal responsibility excuse and enacted the prohibition against service connection for smoking-related illnesses solely to finance over-budget spending on politically popular transportation programs and not because of any genuine public policy considerations; and

WHEREAS, for all the foregoing reasons, the enactment of this prohibition was an extreme injustice against America's disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to repeal the prohibition of service connection for smoking-related illnesses.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 218—LEGISLATIVE

##### EXPAND PROVISIONS TO ALLOW FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE WHERE THERE IS IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO CLOTHING FROM PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, clothing allowance is payable to veterans whose service-connected disability results in the use of an orthopedic

device that damages clothing; and

WHEREAS, clothing allowance is also payable to a veteran who is service connected for a skin disorder, and the prescription medications for that disorder irreparably damage clothing; and

WHEREAS, veterans service connected for other non-skin disabilities who are prescribed ointments and other medications which irreparably damage clothing are not entitled to a clothing allowance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports expanding applicable regulations to provide that a veteran who is service connected for any condition which requires prescription medications that irreparably damage clothing be entitled to clothing allowance.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 221--LEGISLATIVE

##### MAINTAIN AND RETAIN COMPETENT REPRESENTATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES

WHEREAS, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has previously ruled that, upon the death of a veteran, his designation of accredited representative in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims matters is void; and

WHEREAS, the surviving spouse is therefore left without adequate representation during a highly stressful period; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation that would continue a veteran's designation of representation (power of attorney) before the VA, until such a time as the surviving spouse or other eligible claimant specifically chooses a new representative.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 248--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, current law provides that veterans who retire from the Armed Forces on length of service may not receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to full military retired pay; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans must therefore surrender retired pay in an amount equal to the disability compensation they receive; and

WHEREAS, this offset is extremely unfair to veterans who have served faithfully in military careers inasmuch as these veterans have earned their retired pay by virtue of their long service to the Nation and wholly apart from any compensation they may separately be entitled to for the effects of disabilities due to military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 249--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REESTABLISH THE PRESUMPTION THAT VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM WERE EXPOSED TO DIOXIN

WHEREAS, the herbicide "Agent Orange" contained a byproduct commonly known as dioxin, which is one of the most toxic substances

known; and

WHEREAS, United States Armed Forces used Agent Orange extensively in Vietnam from 1962 to 1971 for defoliation to deny the enemy cover, to destroy the enemy's crops, and to clear areas around the perimeters of military camps and installations; and

WHEREAS, this chemical was applied by aerial spraying, spraying from boats and ground vehicles, and spraying by individuals; and

WHEREAS, military records did not document all spraying and are not detailed enough to allow determination of the precise location of specific military units and individual soldiers in relation to the spraying; and

WHEREAS, knowledge about the initial dispersion, biodegradation, and eventual ecologic disposition of the herbicide is limited, although it is acknowledged that airborne particulates were carried by wind drift; that the chemical was carried away from the area of application by canals, rivers, and streams; that sources of drinking water were contaminated; and that Agent Orange entered the food chain; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1999, VA presumed exposure to Agent Orange in the case of any Vietnam veteran who claimed exposure, consistent with the benefit-of-the-doubt rule and in recognition that circumstances make it near impossible to prove or rule out exposure in individual cases; and

WHEREAS, Congress noted and indicated its approval of this presumption; and

WHEREAS, VA abandoned this presumption in 1999 although the circumstances responsible for this policy and its legal premises had not changed; and

WHEREAS, veterans are now placed in the impossible position of proving exposure when claiming service connection for certain disabilities related to the toxic effects of Agent Orange; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports enactment of a statutory presumption of exposure to dioxin for any Vietnam veteran claiming such exposure.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 250—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE ESTATE LIMIT APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN INCOMPETENT VETERANS

WHEREAS, current law requires the suspension of Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation or pension or emergency officers' retirement pay in the case of a mentally incompetent veteran who has neither spouse nor dependent child and who is being furnished hospital, institutional, or domiciliary care at U.S. Government expense when the value of the veteran's estate equals or exceeds \$1,500, without resumption of benefit payments until the estate is reduced to \$500; and

WHEREAS, such action discriminates against veterans in this group merely because their disabilities are mental in nature; and

WHEREAS, this provision irrationally assumes that mentally incompetent veterans have no continuing financial obligations when institutionalized; and

WHEREAS, this discrimination is unconscionable, often causes veterans in this group financial hardship and personal anguish, and has no legitimate public policy purposes in today's society; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to remove the estate limit applicable to incompetent veterans.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 251—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT'S

## DUTY TO ASSIST CLAIMANTS FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, our grateful Nation bestows special benefits upon veterans because of our indebtedness to them for their extraordinary sacrifices and contributions in maintaining our national security and defense; and

WHEREAS, it would be inconsistent with the high esteem we have for veterans and contrary to the benevolent goals of veterans' programs to treat claimants for veterans' benefits as ordinary litigants or applicants for government assistance; and

WHEREAS, it would be inappropriate for veterans seeking compensation for service-incurred disabilities and other benefits to be confronted by a resistant, contentious, or even an indifferent, passive bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of veterans' special status and in furtherance of the goals of veterans' programs, Congress created a unique system for benefits administration that is intended to furnish claimants every reasonable assistance in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, this assistance has always included help in gathering the evidence necessary to substantiate entitlement to benefits sought; and

WHEREAS, the courts have misinterpreted the law to require that claimants must first, without any government aid, submit certain preliminary evidence before the Department of Veterans Affairs has any duty to assist them; and

WHEREAS, this interpretation of the law defeats the long-standing duty to assist inasmuch as it conditions government assistance upon the claimant's first having done alone the very thing the claimant needs assistance with; and

WHEREAS, many claimants are elderly and ill; and some claimants have limited ability to obtain release of records from public and private sources because of level of education and lack of understanding; and yet others suffer from serious mental illness or are homeless and lack even the resources to correspond with records sources; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to restore the Government's duty to fully assist claimants in developing their claims for veterans' benefits.

\* \* \*

## RESOLUTION NO. 252—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT  
OF THE STATUTORY BENEFIT-OF-THE-DOUBT RULE

WHEREAS, the benefit-of-the-doubt rule in law mandates that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will resolve any question of fact in favor of the claimant when the evidence in support of the fact alleged is at least of equal weight as that in opposition; and

WHEREAS, VA can therefore lawfully find against a claimant on a question of fact only where the greater weight, a preponderance, of the evidence is against the claimant; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is charged with enforcing the laws governing VA claims decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Court will uphold VA's decisions on questions of fact unless they are "clearly erroneous"; and

WHEREAS, under the clearly erroneous standard applied by the Court, a finding of fact against a claimant need only to be supported by a plausible basis in the record to be upheld; and

WHEREAS, the effect of judicial review under the clearly erroneous standard is to render the benefit-of-the-doubt rule unenforceable because VA's finding of fact against a claimant will not be reversed even though unsupported by a preponderance of the evidence and even though only supported by far less evidence such as is sufficient only to constitute a plausible basis; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation that would require the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to hold unlawful and set aside any finding of fact by the VA against a claimant that is not reasonably supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 271--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CHANGE IN LAW TO PROVIDE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF PAYMENT  
PERIOD FOR TEMPORARY TOTAL RATINGS FOR COMPENSATION AS OF DATE OF  
ENTITLING EVENT

WHEREAS, prior to the addition of section 5111 to title 38, United States Code, by Public Law 97-253, the payment period for temporary total ratings for compensation purposes under paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities commenced the date of award of the temporary total rating based on the date of entrance into the hospital for service-connected disability, the date of institution of hospital treatment for a service-connected disability, or the date of qualifying outpatient treatment for service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, section 5111, added by Public Law 97-253, now provides that the payment period for such temporary total ratings does not commence until the first day of the calendar month following the month in which the award is effective, except where hospitalization or treatment commences and terminates in the same month; and

WHEREAS, veterans under a temporary total service-connected disability are, under section 5111, deprived of any increase in compensation to offset the total disability during the first month in which temporary total disability occurs; and

WHEREAS, this deprivation and consequent delay in the payment of increased compensation on account of total disability often jeopardizes the financial security of disabled veterans and often unfairly causes them hardship; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation seeking an exemption of the temporary total ratings from this provision of section 5111 of title 38, United States Code.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 272--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW ALL VETERANS TO RECOVER AMOUNTS  
WITHHELD AS TAX ON DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY

WHEREAS, money received as a result of personal injury or disability is not taxable; and

WHEREAS, disability severance pay is paid to a military member as a result of injury or disease suffered during military service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has, and continues to, tax military disability severance pay as regular income; and

WHEREAS, a United States District Court has held that military disability severance pay is nontaxable income; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has acquiesced in the District Court holding; and

WHEREAS, the three-year statute of limitations prevents veterans who have been discharged for more than three years from recovering the nontaxable money withheld by the IRS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, strongly supports legislation which would allow all veterans to recover nontaxable income withheld from their disability severance pay, notwithstanding the three-year statute of

limitations which would otherwise prevent such recovery.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 273--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO MAKE CLAIMS PROCEDURES OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXCLUSIVE

WHEREAS, Congress designed the claims procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be informal, nonadversarial, and helpful to claimants for veterans' benefits; and

WHEREAS, when Congress enacted legislation to end the long-standing statutory preclusion against judicial review of VA decisions, it stated its intent to preserve the informal, nonadversarial, and helpful characteristics of the administrative claims process; and

WHEREAS, Congress expressly stated its intent that the courts were not to superimpose their own rules on those prescribed in title 38, United States Code, and in regulations of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in accordance with title 38; and

WHEREAS, the courts have ignored congressional intent and have imposed a variety of new rules upon the administrative process to serve the courts' own purposes; and

WHEREAS, this self-serving action by the courts has fundamentally changed VA claims processes in the very ways Congress sought to avoid; and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in increased formalities and made the process more complex and burdensome for claimants and VA, merely to accommodate the courts' desire for a more formal record like that produced in adversarial litigation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to make procedures of VA exclusive for the administrative claims process.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 274--LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY CHANGE IN THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, claimants for veterans' benefits currently have a right to full review of adverse Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) decisions on appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA); and

WHEREAS, BVA allows a large percentage of the appeals it considers because it finds that benefits are wrongfully denied in many cases; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims and administrative appeals processes, has suggested restricting the scope of BVA's review to reduce types of errors it can overturn and therefore the number of appeals it can allow; and

WHEREAS, such a restriction would deny justice to many veterans who would receive favorable decisions by BVA under the current full review; and

WHEREAS, such a change would represent a change in the Government's long-standing philosophy toward veterans, placing administrative convenience and Government savings through denial of meritorious claims above the Nation's obligation to fairly treat and care for its veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any change to restrict the scope of BVA's review of VA claims decisions.

\* \* \*



## RESOLUTION NO. 275--LEGISLATIVE

## PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES

WHEREAS, veterans who have served their country honorably and faithfully are entitled to a decent burial and final resting place; and

WHEREAS, these veterans should be assured of this final benefit; and

WHEREAS, the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has indicated it expects annual veteran deaths to increase nine percent from 550,000 in 1998 to 601,000 in 2003, and peak at 620,000 in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the VA is not committed to build cemeteries in the geographical areas of the United States in which the need for burial space for veterans is greatest, but rather only evaluate the potential establishment of additional national cemeteries in areas of the country identified in the 1987 and 1994 reports to Congress within the framework of the Department's strategic planning and budgeting process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges the VA to develop a plan to establish national cemeteries in areas of the United States determined to be in need of such cemeteries to meet the increasing burial needs of veterans and their families.

\* \* \*

## RESOLUTION NO. 276--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW CONCERNING SPECIAL COMPENSATION  
PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CERTAIN SEVERELY DISABLED  
MILITARY LONGEVITY RETIREES

WHEREAS, only certain former service members who are retired after completing a minimum of 20 years of service and are rated 70 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) within four years of longevity retirement are entitled to receive the special compensation paid by the Department of Defense (DoD) as provided for in Section 658 of Public Law 106-65; and

WHEREAS, certain presumptive disabilities, such as Hodgkins disease associated with exposure to Agent Orange during military service in Vietnam, can take up to 20 years or more to manifest; and

WHEREAS, some severely disabled veterans delay filing their claims for many years post service; and

WHEREAS, it would be more equitable if the law were amended by eliminating the "four-year" provision in the law; and

WHEREAS, all military longevity retirees (and those eligible for longevity retirement) with a severe disability evaluation, rated 50 percent or greater, from the VA should be entitled to receive the special compensation benefit; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair to prohibit a member otherwise qualifying for longevity retirement, who retired from service for disability under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, from receiving special compensation; and

WHEREAS, it is more equitable for all uniformed services longevity retirees (and those eligible for longevity retirement) with a severe service-connected disability, rated 50 percent or more, to participate in the special compensation benefit; and

WHEREAS, certain members pursuing military careers were separated before completion of 20 years service as part of military downsizing and would have attained eligibility but for early separation for the Government's convenience, and should therefore, as a matter of equity, receive special compensation in the same manner as if longevity retired; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve component is a vital part of the uniformed services and in recent years DoD has relied more frequently on our military Reserve components to meet the national

security missions of our country; and

WHEREAS, it was not the intent of Congress to exclude otherwise qualifying members of the retired Reserve from receiving the special compensation benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation that would correct the current inequities in Public Law 106-65 by eliminating the "four-year" provision in the law; by amending the law to extend eligibility to certain retirees rated 50 percent or greater; providing special compensation to otherwise qualifying military longevity retirees who were retired for disability under chapter 61; and by extending payments to those retirees who were retired with 15 or more years of service under an early release authority at the request of the Government; and otherwise qualifying members of the retired Reserve.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 277—LEGISLATIVE

##### EXTEND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO 100 PERCENT SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earnings capacity; and

WHEREAS, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that the Congress may provide; and

WHEREAS, such totally disabled veterans should be extended the same privileges as other personnel currently authorized to utilize space-available military air travel; and

WHEREAS, the extension of such travel to totally disabled service-connected veterans would not place any additional burden upon the administration of this program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to all 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 278—LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE CASES BY PANELS OF LEAST THREE JUDGES

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988, and created the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court) (formerly the United States Court of Veterans Appeals); and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988 granted the Court the authority to hear cases by judges sitting alone or in panels; and

WHEREAS, no other appellate court of the United States permits one judge to decide appeals; and

WHEREAS, the caseload of the Court does not prohibit each appeal being decided by a panel; and

WHEREAS, a citizen's status as a veteran should not reduce the quality of judicial review to which he or she is entitled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges Congress to amend title 38, United States Code, section 7254(b) to grant citizens claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs full judicial review by revising the first sentence of that section to provide that the Court shall only hear

cases in panels of at least three judges.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 279--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL LEGAL STAFF IN DECISIONS OF THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS AND OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988, veterans, their dependents, and others claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are entitled to have VA decisions on their claims reviewed by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court); and

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants expect their appeals will be decided by one or more of the seven judges of the Court, each of whom has many years of experience, was nominated by the President of the United States, and confirmed by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, each of the seven judges of the Court has three law clerks to assist in writing decisions; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 2,400 appeals are filed with the Court each year; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of the total number of appeals filed are disposed of without the necessity of any action by a judge, thereby substantially reducing the caseload of each judge; and

WHEREAS, the Court has adopted an internal operating procedure that requires its Central Legal Staff to review the briefs filed and in all cases write a memorandum that includes a proposed disposition to be placed in the file before the appeal goes to a judge; and

WHEREAS, other Federal appellate courts with caseloads similar to that of the Court have not uniformly adopted procedures that permit less experienced attorneys to pre-judge appeals; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 19-24, 2000, strongly urges Congress to conduct oversight hearings to address this and other practices of the Court and to enact legislation to terminate participation of the Court's Central Legal Staff in the judging of appeals.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 280--LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT TO INCLUDE QUESTIONS OF LAW IN VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, decisions of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court) are reviewable in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Federal Circuit); and

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction of the Federal Circuit to review decisions of the Court is limited by statute to issues of statutory and regulatory interpretation and constitutional issues; and

WHEREAS, under the existing statute, all other issues of law decided by the Court are presently unreviewable; and

WHEREAS, citizens claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs should be entitled to judicial review to the same extent as all other citizens; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, urges Congress to expand the jurisdiction of the Federal Circuit to include review of all purely legal issues decided by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Dick.  
Do I hear a second to that motion?

MR. L.A. STRINGER, SR.: Commander, Warren Stringer, Chapter 22 from Idaho, so seconds.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you.

In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Under these circumstances, I don't know how it's possible, but are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor of accepting the report, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you Dick. And thank your committee. That's a lot of work you did. (Applause)

Now we'll hear from Terry Schow, the Committee on Employment chairman.

MR. TERRY SCHOW: Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order for its first business session on August 21st by the committee advisors, Paul Jackson and Anthony Baskerville.

The first order of business was the election of the convention chair. Terry Schow was nominated for chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Terry Schow was elected chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Daniel Memmesheimer was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and RESOLVED portions of the resolutions.

37. Full funding for DVOPs and LVERs.

38. To oppose the transfer of Veterans Employment and Training Service to the Employment and Training Administration, ETA.

39. To oppose the transfer of Veterans Employment and Training Service, VETS, to the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service.

40. To subject the United States Postal Service to the proposed enhancements of veteran preference.

41. To provide VR&E with state-of-art equipment.

128. To support veterans preference in public employment.

182. To provide increased funding for the TAP and DTAP programs.

183. To support increased federal funding for the homeless veterans initiatives.

232. Affirmative action for employment of disabled veterans.

234. Supporting legislation to allow disability retired service members to receive credit for years of military service and civil service retirement.

283. To support legislation to define veterans preference as not an employment practice within the meaning of the law.

And the last one was to allow two free pulls at the slot machine for anyone who can tell how many reports were given at this convention. (Laughter)

Okay. Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Employment, and I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow.)

#### RESOLUTION NO. 037—LEGISLATIVE

##### PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR THE LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

WHEREAS, for decades, the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS) have been the cornerstone of employment services for veterans throughout the United States Employment Service system; and

WHEREAS, the LVERs are primarily responsible for giving

direction and functional supervision to the veterans program, and to facilitate intensive services to veterans in the Local Employment Service offices; and

WHEREAS, the DVOPS are primarily responsible for providing comprehensive employment services to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, title 38, chapter 41, United States Code, requires that the amount of funds made available shall be necessary to support job counseling, training, and placement services for veterans; and

WHEREAS, the funds made available have not been sufficient to support the appropriate level of LVERS and DVOPS in every state; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funding is critical to the delivery of employment services to veterans in this time of military reductions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to fully fund the LVER and DVOPS programs.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 038--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, Vice President Gore has established a "National Performance Review" to make recommendations to improve government; and

WHEREAS, it recently came to the attention of the Disabled American Veterans that a recommendation is included in that review to transfer the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) to the Employment and Training Administration (ETA); and

WHEREAS, part of that proposal abolishes all the positions at the regional level, as well as the State and Assistant State Director positions; and

WHEREAS, this proposal effectively eliminates VETS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, opposes any efforts by this Administration to transfer VETS to ETA.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 039--LEGISLATIVE

##### OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND COUNSELING SERVICE

WHEREAS, veterans' employment programs began after World War I when the U.S. Employment Service helped place returning veterans in civilian jobs; and

WHEREAS, since 1980 the Department of Labor (DOL) Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) has been headed by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training; and

WHEREAS, DOL/VETS' primary responsibilities include:

Administering veterans' employment program grants (totaling \$157 million in fiscal year (FY) 1998) that fund nearly 3,000 state employment service Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representatives

Administering Job Training Partnership Act IV-C grants (totaling \$7.3 million for FY 1998) and, after July 1, 2000, successor veterans' workforce investment programs. The successor programs, established by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, will serve recently separated and service-

connected disabled veterans, veterans with significant barriers to employment, and veterans of a war, campaign, or expedition. WIA directs DOL/VETS to coordinate veterans' workforce investment programs with related Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and activities, and authorizes not less than \$7.3 million for each FY from 1999 through 2003

Administering homeless veterans' reintegration project grants (\$3 million in FY 1998)

Facilitating Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshops for separating service members. DOL/VETS currently authorizes states to allocate up to five percent of their veterans' employment state grants for TAP workshop facilitation and augments this allocation with a national contract for supplemental facilitation (\$1.5 million for FY 1998), as well as funding to purchase and ship TAP materials (approximately \$400,000 annually)

Monitoring veterans' preference for federal employment, in cooperation with the United States Office of Personnel Management. The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 requires the Secretary of Labor to investigate complaints of alleged violations of veterans' preference rights to federal employment and attempt to resolve them

Supervising the listing of jobs by federal contractors and the subsequent referrals of qualified veterans

Administering a \$2 million contract to operate the National Veterans' Training Institute, which provides training for federal and state employees involved in the direct delivery of employment and training related services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, DOL/VETS is organized with a national, seven regional, and 52 state-level offices by statute; and

WHEREAS, VA has no experience in employment referral and assistance; and

WHEREAS, DOL would continue providing employment-related services to non-veterans, creating a duplication of services detrimental to veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, goes on record opposing all legislative efforts to transfer the DOL/VETS to the VA.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 040--LEGISLATIVE

SUBJECT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS  
IN VETERANS' PREFERENCE

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering legislation to provide certain protections and enhancements to veterans' preference in federal civil service; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would include all federal agencies including the Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, the Postmaster General of the United States has contacted the Postal Board of Governors indicating his concern that such changes to veterans' preference would be "onerous" to the Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service should be subject to the veterans' preference provisions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation that would provide additional protections and other enhancements to veterans' preference and that such legislation should include the Postal Service and the Postmaster General be informed of our strong opposition to his

language directed to the Postal Board of Governors.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 041—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE VETERANS REHABILITATION AND COUNSELING SERVICE STAFF WITH  
STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the current Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling (VR&C) Service has no direct line of authority over the approximately 700 employees located throughout the Regional Office structure; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are responsible to and report to the Regional Office Director; and

WHEREAS, these individuals rely on the goodwill of the Regional Office Director to provide them with needed support including current technological support to include computers, faxes, and even telephones, which are necessary to expedite and streamline the processes and will result in earlier enrollments into a program; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported by the recently established "Design Team" set up to review how vocational rehabilitation does business, some VR&C offices do not have this type of equipment and in at least one instance, they do not even have phones; and

WHEREAS, this type of equipment is essential to help disabled veterans attain their employment goals; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks change that would assure the Regional Office Directors are held accountable and all VR&C staff at the Regional Office level be provided state-of-the-art equipment in order for them to efficiently perform the duties of providing vocational rehabilitation and employment services to disabled veterans.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 128—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has strongly supported federal, state and local veterans' preference laws; and

WHEREAS, attempts are being made to weaken, dilute, and circumvent existing veterans' preference laws; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports veterans' preference in federal, state, and local employment.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 131—LEGISLATIVE

TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS'  
EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING INCLUDING NATIONAL VETERANS' TRAINING  
INSTITUTE (NVTI), SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA), DISABLED  
VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM (DVOP), LOCAL VETERAN EMPLOYMENT  
REPRESENTATIVE (LVER), AND HOMELESS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs that need adequate staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, those programs include the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the Department of Labor, NVTI and SBA, DVOP, LVER, Homeless and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 182—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
AND THE DISABLED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is very difficult for most veterans, who must overcome many obstacles to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) is a much-needed and meaningful step toward easing some of the problems associated with this transition. The ultimate goal of the TAP and DTAP programs is for these individuals to receive vocational guidance to obtain meaningful careers; and

WHEREAS, the level of funding and staffing is inadequate to support the estimated 250,000 discharges per year projected by the Department of Defense through the year 2000; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, hereby goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funding for TAP/DTAP.

\* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. 183—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS  
INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, estimates have put homelessness among veterans as high as 280,000 or about 35 percent of the total homeless population, and these numbers may be a gross underestimate due to the fact many homeless veterans may not be counted because they are living with a parent, relative, or friend; and

WHEREAS, the demographics which make up the homeless veteran population are very diverse and include veterans of every race, creed, and color, and ever increasingly more women, children, and families; and

WHEREAS, there is no single cause of homelessness nor no single cure for it, and the reasons for homelessness vary to include physical, mental and economic problems, substance abuse, and in some cases separation or divorce; and

WHEREAS, there exists a critical need for homeless veterans nationwide to receive very basic medical care, financial counseling, vocational training and rehabilitation and in some cases family counseling, in order to achieve a fair and reasonable chance to break the vicious cycle of homelessness and despair; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been deeply involved and has actively initiated and operated various outreach and assistance programs to address the unique needs of homeless veterans such as the Homeless Grants and Per Diem Program and has worked with dozens of communities at veterans' "Stand Down" operations to create new opportunities for homeless veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for homeless veterans programs is woefully inadequate as evident by the fact that Congress authorized only \$10 million for fiscal year 2000 veterans' programs and the President's fiscal year 2000 budget requested only \$2.5 million for homeless veterans' programs and will only help 3,600 homeless veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports increased federal funding for homeless veterans initiatives such as "Stand Downs" to provide comprehensive medical care, mental and psychiatric care, vocational training and rehabilitation, employment and financial counseling and family counseling, urging that appropriate agencies such as the VA, Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services,



Department of Defense, and other federal, state and local entities assist in this effort; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Disabled American Veterans chapter and department become actively involved in a local, state, or federal homeless veteran program, thus living up to the mandate, "we don't leave our wounded behind," by helping to give these veterans a hand up and not a hand out in returning as productive members of society.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 232—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND LEGISLATION THAT GIVES DISABLED VETERANS PRIORITY IN  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AS A GROUP WITHIN THE OTHER DESIGNATED GROUPS  
FOR WHICH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 gave new and deserved emphasis to the employment problems of people with disabilities and recognized them as a specific group who needs special consideration; and

WHEREAS, the attempt is made in other laws to also address these problems, specifically the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for the handicapped and title 38, United States Code, Chapter 42, for disabled veterans who have barriers to employment. Additionally, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, mandates non-discrimination in employment practices covering race, religion, age, sex, and national origin. Many employers are required to have a written "Affirmative Action Plan" in order to avoid discrimination against any of these groups; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, Chapter 42 also contains specific requirements for federal contractors and federal agencies to take affirmative action to hire and promote minorities and disabled veterans. However, in actual practice there is no breakdown by priority of affirmative action for minorities, disabled veterans or the handicapped as specific groups; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the high incidence of employment problems among disabled veterans is not enough. In order to implement the plans and ensure actual practice of affirmative action, the disabled should be considered separately from minorities for preferential treatment by all entities who have affirmative action requirements under law; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, goes on record urging Congress to enact amending legislation that gives disabled veterans priority in affirmative action as a group within the other designated groups for which affirmative action is required.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 234—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW DISABILITY RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS  
TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE IN CIVIL SERVICE  
RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, military personnel who are not injured from an instrumentality of war during time of war and then receive a disability retirement deserve the full benefits of their disability retirement; and

WHEREAS, men and women who are retired for disability from the military and seek employment with the Federal Government cannot count their few years of service toward civil service retirement unless they waive the receipt of disability retired pay; and

WHEREAS, retired reservists can draw retirement from civil service and the military service for the time of service rendered both the military and civil service during the same period of years without reduction to their civil service time or any requirement to waive military retired pay in order to receive civil service

retirement and can count their military active service time toward civil service retirement; and

WHEREAS, many of these reserve and National Guard personnel can and do receive credit for many years of active duty service time, draw severance pay for up to a full year of their active duty military pay, then elect to join the military reserves or National Guard and concurrently work for the civil service and they are allowed to count their years of active military service toward civil service and military reserve/guard retirement; and

WHEREAS, ex-servicemen and women who only draw Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation for their service-connected disability can receive both the VA compensation and civil service retirement pay without waiver of one for the other; and

WHEREAS, equity should dictate that ex-service personnel who were disabled with less than 10 years of service and who were retired because of their service-connected disabilities (not for length of service) should be allowed to draw military retirement and count those years toward their civil service retirement the same way that those active-duty personnel who were forced to join, after many years of active service, the military reservist/guard units can count the same time for retirement from the reserves/guard and civil service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24, 2000, supports legislation to change the law which now prohibits disabled military retirees, disabled from any cause, except willful misconduct, and who served during a period of declared national emergency, war, or police action, to be entitled to count their service time towards both civil service retirement and Ready Reserve or National Guard retirements; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veteran who elects to count his/her time toward both military and civil service retirement be required to pay a sum equal to seven percent of his/her military pay into the civil service retirement trust fund or FERS (without interest) to cover the pay they received during those years, for the purpose of counting their time toward civil service retirement.

\* \* \*

#### RESOLUTION NO. 283--LEGISLATIVE

##### SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO DEFINE VETERANS PREFERENCE AS NOT AN "EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE LAW

WHEREAS, our grateful Nation bestows upon its veterans special rights and privileges not granted to the general civilian population; and

WHEREAS, among these rights and privileges is a preference in Federal employment under the Veterans Preference Act, which gives former members of the Armed Forces an advantage when competing against non-veterans for positions in the competitive service of the government workforce; and

WHEREAS, all veterans are statutorily entitled to have five points added to their scores on examinations for entrance into the competitive service of the government, and veterans having a service-connected disability are entitled to have ten points added to their scores on examinations for entrance into the competitive service of the government; and

WHEREAS, the United States Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) has overturned certain procedures adopted by the United States Office of Personnel Management for administering veterans' preference with respect to the process of selecting candidates for positions as Federal Administrative Law Judges; and

WHEREAS, the action of the MSPB will adversely effect the hiring of any veteran to fill the position of Federal Administrative Law Judge for the foreseeable future and, more importantly, calls into question the continued viability of veterans' preference in all areas of government hiring; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 20-24,

2000, strongly supports legislation to make clear that the administration of veterans' preference by the Office of Personnel Management, including the use of various scoring formulas applied equally to candidates for employment in the competitive service prior to the addition of any points required under the Veterans Preference Act, is not an "employment practice" within the meaning of the law.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Terry.

Do I hear a second to that motion? Mike 1.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to read? Hearing none, all those in favor of the committee's report say Aye. Opposed? Carried.

Thank you, Terry. (Applause)

I'm just making sure we haven't forgotten any here. And at this time we'll ask the adjutant to make announcements.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Commander, I think the casino is going to be accused of running the speed of our conventions.

You're all invited to join us this evening for what we traditionally call fun night. They have some great entertainment lined up for you. I'm sure you'll enjoy it. We'll see you right here in the Hilton Pavilion at 8:00 o'clock.

Tomorrow morning's business session will begin at 9:00 o'clock. On the agenda will be reports from the National Service Foundation, the DAV Charitable Service Trust, as well as the introduction of the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats. And we'll have the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise, and I'll ask Chaplain Todd to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN TODD: Precious Lord, we come to the close of this session. We thank You for the insights and revelations that we received. We thank You for the men and women that have envisioned our great and grand DAV and have pressed towards the mark of their high calling. In this we say thank You. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Please remember to deposit the questionnaires at the rear of the room.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: The convention stands in recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. Go get your money back.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:05 o'clock p.m., August 21, 2000.)

### THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

August 22, 2000

The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 79th National Convention convened in the Pavilion of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Tuesday morning, August 22, 2000, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

COMMANDER MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: The convention will come to order.

Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Chaplain Todd, would you please lead us in prayer?

CHAPLAIN TODD: This is the day that the Lord has made. May we rejoice in it. Again, Lord, we come before Your throne of grace this morning, thanking You for a new day's journey. We pray now as we enter into this session that You will give us a mind to be all that we can be in representing Your kingdom with one another. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Chaplain.

I'd like to remind you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only

those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his name, chapter number and the state that he represents.

At this time we will call upon Jim Olson, chairman of the Credentials Committee, for a partial report.

MR. OLSON: Thank you, Commander. The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Sierra 1 at the Reno Hilton Hotel. Roll call showed 1520 delegates and 49 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of registration at 4:00 p.m. on August 21st, 2000.

At the present time, we have 595 chapters, 44 departments, 39 national officers, 13 past national commanders, for a total of 1,520 delegates and 49 alternates for a total vote of 10,776.

This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Jim.

And we have kind of a tradition here that might be a little bit fun. Would you please join me in welcoming Imperial Golden Rodent Larry Polzin, Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer John Engwiller and the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats. (Boos)

MR. JOHN D. ENGWILLER, SR.: Good morning. Thank you for inviting us to come before you. At this time, I'd like to introduce our imperial officers. And then afterwards we have a presentation by our Imperial Golden Rodent to the national commander.

At this time, it's a privilege for me to introduce our Imperial Golden Rodent Larry Polzin, Imperial Silver Rodent William Brzezinski, Imperial Blue Rodent Frank Cummings, Imperial Turquoise Rodent Bernard Walkowiak, Imperial Bubonic Plague Gerald Horton, Imperial Black Plague Michael Stokes, Imperial Nightingale Albert Sorrentino, Imperial Cure Rat Andrew Magner, Imperial Hole-y Rodent Pete Buell. I'm the Imperial Red-Eye Gnawer. Imperial Rendezvous Rat Gerald Ogle.

Our Imperial Executive Rat from District 1, William Curley; our Imperial Executive Rat from District 2, Vernon Christian; Imperial Executive Rat from the 5th District, Donald Davis; Imperial Executive Rat for the 7th District, Robert Auchu; from Louisiana, Imperial Executive Rat Terrence Flick.

Let me make sure that I didn't miss anybody, because they tell me afterwards. Imperial Executive Rat George Isdale from the 12th District; Imperial Executive Rat for the 13th District, Raymond Drake; Imperial Executive Rat for the 14th District, Delbert Foster, Jr.; Imperial Executive Rat from the 16th District, Henry Opas; Imperial Executive Rat for the 19th District, Denman Riley; Imperial Executive Rat for the 21st District, Leo Dowling.

And here comes the leadership: Imperial Rodent Number 75 Jimmie Foster; Imperial Rodent 74, Harry Warburton; Imperial Rodent, one of the best-looking ones up here, 73, John Engwiller; Imperial Rodent 70, Paul Bailey; Imperial Rodent 69, Fred Sutton; Imperial Rodent 67, George Zoscsak; Imperial Rodent 65, Oswald Pederson; Imperial Rodent 39, Sam Vigil; and our grandfather of all, Imperial Rodent 37, Charles Merrifield.

At this time, if I could have the national commander come forward, we have a small presentation from Larry Polzin, our Imperial Golden Rodent.

MR. LARRY POLZIN: National Commander Dobmeier, on behalf of the National Order of Trench Rats, I would like to present to you a small token of our appreciation for the support that you have shown to the NOTR this past year and hope that you will always keep the NOTR in your mind and thoughts.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. ENGWILLER: The rat is hand carved from a wood carving group in Florida. And they are very nice. And each year I hope that I can present one to the national organization.

Mr. Wilson, we don't want to forget you, if you would come forward, please. Have you been out here hitting the balls in the water? I tell you, I think you were supposed to keep out of the water. I don't understand.

I'd like to say thank you again to everyone. We will be in the area. It's great to be here again in Reno. And next year, I'll see you in Miami, Florida. Thank you very much. (Applause and boos)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Never let it be said that we can't have a little bit of fun in the DAV.

And we are also here to do some serious business. (Applause) And next on our agenda is Ken Musselmann, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for some of that serious business. Please welcome Ken. (Applause)

MR. MUSSELMANN: Thank you, Commander. Commander and delegates, I will now proceed with the second reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, which are recommended for adoption.

I will read only the number and the RESOLVED portions of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 261.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 2, Policy, Section 2.2, Legislative Activities, Paragraph 3, to add the following language: "However, they may support those that are deemed by them to be beneficial to disabled veterans or their dependents."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution 261.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Mike 2.

MR. HENRY A. VEILLETTE: This is Hank Veillette, Chapter 73, California. Second the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Hank. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 262.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 8, Section 8.3, Paragraph 1, to add the following sentence: "Installation of department officers shall take place within 24 hours of their election or appointment."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution Number 262.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 1.

MR. CECIL STEVENSON: Past National Commander Stevenson, Delegate from Arkansas Chapter 26, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 263.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 8, Section 8.4, Paragraph 2, to omit the words "an independent public accountant" and substitute therefor the words "a certified public accountant."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution Number 263.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Mike 3.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 264.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 9, Section 9.2, Paragraph 1, to add the following sentence: "Installation of chapter officers shall take place within 30 days of their election or appointment."

Comrade Commander, I move to adopt Resolution Number 264.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Mike 2.

MR. DENNIS WEBER: Dennis Weber, Chapter 40, Burbank, California, so move.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: I take it to mean you second that motion.

MR. WEBER: I second the motion, Commander.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 265.

BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 9, Section 9.3, Paragraph 2, to omit the words "an independent public accountant" and substitute therefor the words "a certified public accountant."

Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution Number 265.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Mike 2.  
 MR. VEILLETTE: Hank Veillette, Chapter 73, California, seconds the motion.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.  
 MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 267.  
 BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 11, Section 11.6, to omit the words, "hereinafter specified in Article 16" and substitute the words "otherwise specified in these Bylaws."  
 Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution number 267.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 3.  
 MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.  
 MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 268.  
 BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 11, Section 11.11, to omit the words "except as provided in Article 16, Section 16.4, Paragraph (d)."  
 Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution Number 268.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 1.  
 MR. STEVENSON: Stevenson, delegate from Chapter 26, Arkansas, seconds the motion.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.  
 MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 269.  
 BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 17, Section 17.1 to add after the word "respective" in Line 8 the word "DAV" and in Line 9 omit the word "the."  
 Comrade Commander, I move for the adoption of Resolution Number 269.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Mike 2.  
 MR. MANUEL F. LOZANO: Comrade Commander, Manny Lozano, department commander, Department of Texas, I second that motion.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.  
 MR. MUSSELMANN: Resolution Number 270.  
 BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 19, Section 19.7, Paragraph 4, to omit the words "Section 90 (a-k)" and substitute the words "Section 50301 et seq."  
 I move for the adoption of Resolution 270.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 3.  
 MR. JAMES TANNER: Jim Tanner, Massachusetts Joseph Harold Memorial Chapter 10, seconds that motion.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Jim. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.  
 MR. MUSSELMANN: Comrade Commander, that completes the resolutions that the committee recommended for adoption. At this time, I move to dismiss the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with the thanks from the convention.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 2.  
 MR. RONALD D. TEARS: Ron Tears, Chapter 15 from the great state of New York, would like to second that motion.  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor of discharging the committee with the thanks of the convention, please say Aye; opposed. Carried. And thank you very much.  
 MR. MUSSELMANN: Thank you. (Applause)  
 COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Our next guest is someone who really needs no introduction. Dick Marbes lost his right leg in military service, served as the DAV in many posts and as national commander in 1983 and '84. A resident of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dick Marbes has been actively involved in the DAV for more than 30 years. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm DAV welcome to Mr. Dick Marbes. (Applause)  
 MR. RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you very much, Commander. I am proud to be here as the chairman of the Charitable Service Trust. National Commander Dobmeier, National Adjutant Wilson, national officers, delegates and guests: I'm very proud today to present

the annual report of the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

I want to tell you about the trust's outstanding record of service and growth over the last year.

But before I do that, I want to pay special thanks to the endless contributions of Past Chairman Chad Colley. Chad stepped down as chairman this year. But his remarkable legacy of contribution and leadership is a record that will never be equaled. His leadership has taken the trust to the prestigious place that it enjoys today. Chad's insight and wisdom provided an endless resource for which we are all deeply grateful.

Each member of the board is recommitted to his legacy of service and achievement. We have been provided with the vision and direction to move forward to even greater achievements. All of this has been Chad's contribution. Thank you, Chad. And we will work to honor your legacy. (Applause)

I'd like to also extend sincere appreciation to John Peluse of Pennsylvania, who served on the board from 1993 to the present. Thank you, Jack, for your leadership. (Applause)

As you may know, the DAV Charitable Service Trust was founded in 1986 to respond to the rapidly growing needs of disabled veterans and their families in the wake of huge government spending cuts. Various VA programs and those of other federal agencies and departments were cut as the federal budget deficit continued its relentless growth.

DAV refused to stand on the sidelines as efforts to cut veterans spending increased each year, and the political climate of neglect and forgetfulness became more callous.

The trust was also created to assist donors who wish to support DAV through special gift arrangements, such as pledges through the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way, state and corporate workplace campaigns, or through employee matching gift programs.

Those who benefit from the Charitable Service Trust are disabled veterans who rely on a variety of service programs, including those of the DAV, the VA and other public and private service organizations.

The DAV Charitable Service Trust's primary goal is to address the real needs of disabled veterans, and those needs include providing shelter and other assistance to homeless veterans; meeting the special needs of veterans suffering extraordinary disabilities such as blindness, and amputation; supporting physical and psychological rehabilitation projects which help some of our nation's most profoundly disabled veterans.

The scope of the Charitable Service Trust also extends help to the families of disabled veterans. Where our government made promises it did not keep, the DAV fulfills those promises to the fullest extent possible. The trust, like you, never forgets our mission, to improve the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

In 1999, the trust received net pledges and contributions totaling more than \$962,000. The Charitable Service Trust is very proud of these contributions and the hard work expended by so many in DAV, including our tremendous corps of National Service officers.

Each year, our NSOs are instrumental in expanding the list of new contributors to the Charitable Service Trust. NSOs attend CFC kickoffs and fairs to tell federal and civilian workers about the benefits of the trust.

New marketing materials are developed each fall to promote the trust when the workplace campaigns begin across the nation. Bulletin board posters, easel displays and giveaway items are some of the materials we have provided to deliver the message of the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

During 1999, I am proud to tell you that the trust provided more than \$622,000 to various charitable programs that directly benefit disabled veterans. Those programs include providing \$500,000 to support the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program to ensure that veterans have transportation to VA medical centers for needed care; granting more than \$35,000 to provide food and shelter to homeless veterans in addition to

medical, vision and dental aid; and awarding \$67,186 to support significant therapeutic initiatives.

This is a rich record of success in serving disabled veterans in a special flexible way that is so necessary in our rapidly changing world.

There are a few programs I would like to tell you more about, programs that distinguish and show the pride of the DAV.

Serving veterans in Massachusetts and the New England region, the trust supports an innovative specialized transitional housing program that serves homeless veterans who are diagnosed with terminal illnesses and no longer able to care for themselves.

The trust is providing funding to help provide a comprehensive mix of supportive services to assist the terminally ill veteran find appropriate housing and services to assist in his final transition to death. This includes specialized counseling, medical services, mental health counseling, food service support, and support of service planning.

In addition, the trust is helping fund a low-cost subsidized transitional housing project for homeless veterans in northeastern Wisconsin. This housing facility provides single room occupancy housing with communal meals at a cost that allows residents to transition into their own permanent housing and employment.

The trust continued its commitment to the unique therapeutic opportunities offered by Outward Bound programs aimed at veterans suffering post-traumatic stress disorder.

Another program supported for the first time is a research program on amputees conducted in conjunction with the University of Miami School of Medicine. This significant program, conducted by the university's Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, is working to produce an adequate measuring instrument that will determine the amputee's ability to regain mobility and assist in obtaining appropriate prosthetic components to reach their highest level of function.

The trust also supports the National Amputee Golf Association's initiative to help amputee veterans gain new assurance in their abilities to move out into the mainstream of life.

The trust helps support therapeutic workshops for veterans suffering from mental illness, spinal cord injuries, and substance abuse.

And funding is provided to support nursing research programs that ensure quality health care for all of our nation's disabled veterans, and to increase awareness of issues of concern to veterans and the nurses who care for them.

These programs are designed to care for veterans, to instill new confidence in them, as well as new hope, and a new lease on life.

I and other members of the DAV Charitable Service Trust Governing Board are proud to share this record of achievement with you. And those members are: National Commander Mike Dobmeier, Vice-Chairman National Adjutant Art Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer Lew Snowbeck from Minnesota, David Tannenbaum from Virginia, David Nixon of Texas, and Bruce Nitsche from Florida.

When the Charitable Service Trust made its first grant in 1988, \$111,000 was awarded to seven veterans' programs which benefited 326,000 veterans. In 1999, we provided more than \$622,000 to help hundreds of thousands more of our disabled brothers and sisters.

The DAV Charitable Service Trust has finished another outstanding year. But needs remain. Programs need our support. And veterans more than ever need our assistance. The DAV Charitable Service Trust looks to you for help.

And I want to encourage all of you to help promote the trust by telling others of DAV's important work. By encouraging others, you make this trust work. And never think for one moment that there isn't a sincere and grateful thank you for everything you do.

This report is an expression of thanks to all those who have helped, to all those NSOs who so tirelessly give their time to help the trust, and to those always watchful for their fellow disabled veterans.



As you move through this first year of a new century, I'm sure that you will remember your brothers and sisters who served during the Korean War. We are again marking an anniversary of a war in which we were called to serve with honor and distinction. I want you to remember that the Charitable Service Trust continues the legacy of service, honor and distinction.

Thank you for all you have done and will do in the future to ensure that we help build better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Comrade Commander, that concludes my report.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Dick. (Applause)

Could I have a motion to accept that wonderful report? Mike

1.

MS. MAGGIE L. CHRISTENSEN: Maggie Christensen, Chapter 58, California, makes a motion to accept his report.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 3

MR. ROBERT N. PETUCCI: Comrade Commander, Bob Petucci, Chapter 185 New York, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Bob. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you, Dick.

Now we have another fellow named Dick. Dick Cosgriff, a disabled World War II veteran, was originally elected president of the National Service Foundation in 1976 and has served in that capacity since that time.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me now in a warm welcome to the president of the DAV National Service Foundation, Mr. Richard J. Cosgriff. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD J. COSGRIFF: This is the report of the National Service Foundation for the 79th Annual Convention being held in Reno this year. National Commander Dobmeier, National Adjutant Wilson, national officers, and guests all: I am pleased to submit to you the 1999 annual report of the National Service Foundation.

As you know, the Foundation serves in a leadership role in helping the DAV's national organization create and fund programs of service to disabled veterans and their families. Our record of success this past year truly reflects the pride and accomplishment of our organization, and if you are a Foundation supporter, you also should share in that great pride.

Whether your Foundation support comes from the chapter, Auxiliary unit, or your dugout, whether it comes from your DAV or Auxiliary department, or whether it comes from you as an individual, your support and contributions ensure the services of the disabled veterans and their families.

I personally on behalf of the board want to thank you. After all, you are the starting point of the Foundation. It could never have achieved the successes that it has if you hadn't been there to express your compassion for your fellow disabled veterans.

The Foundation is in fact the ultimate expression of kindness and compassion that lies at the very fabric of each of its contributors.

I am honored to serve as the Foundation's president. And the distinguished board members who assisted me during the year of 1999-2000 are: National Commander Dobmeier, who we appreciate all the work he's done for us throughout the country during his travels; the Foundation's vice-president who also builds us up during the year in his travels, National Adjutant Art Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer Bill Leach; Directors Boni Maile -- who is unable to be with us today because of illness -- Gary Burns and Dennis Joyner; and the National Finance Committee chairman, Tommy Johns.

We thank our administrator, Nancy O'Brien, and her staff at National Headquarters for their wonderful and professional assistance. They represent one of the reasons why we have a first-rate Foundation that achieves remarkable successes. We wouldn't be where we were today if it wasn't for Nancy and her staff.

Buoyed by record growth, the Foundation faces the new century with confidence. On December 31st, 1999, we had total assets of \$26 million. And if you go back 20 years ago, we had around

\$300,000. (Applause) Thank you very much.

This is a 14 percent increase over 1998. Our assets showed a 17 percent increase in the General Fund, which now stands at \$12.3 million; a 13 percent growth in a Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, which ended the year at \$11.6 million. And the Colorado Trust, the most important trust today, is included here with more than \$2 million.

And we also want to report that we have \$194,794 from the Trench Rats Special Legislative Fund. This is a fund that they contribute to each year. (Applause) And the interest in this fund goes to assist in the National Legislative Fund. We'll take care of that a little later.

As you may know, the National Service Foundation does not conduct any public solicitation. Therefore, the Foundation's success is attributed to decisions of the leaders of the DAV, the Auxiliary, and at every level of the membership. And we appreciate that, to think that all this money is coming from within the organization.

Individual chapters, Auxiliary units, our departments, the Trench Rats, and dedicated DAV and Auxiliary members like yourself play a very important role in this Foundation. You have our lasting gratitude and thanks from the thousands of disabled veterans that you have helped us help. And we appreciate that.

During the past year once again there was an increase in the number of awards presented to our foremost donors, and these awards included: certificates of commitment to 22 chapters, two auxiliaries that contributed at least \$1 for each member in their ranks; certificates of commitment to 15 departments that gave at least \$10 for each of their chapters; 188 commendation plaques for donors whose cumulative giving topped \$1,000 during the past year; and the greatest of all, the Grand Memorial Honor Roll, the plaque that stands at the DAV National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., honored 33 additional donors, recognizing them for a total contribution of \$5,000 or more.

In the year ended December 31st, 1999, DAV National Service Offices, which we are very proud of, were responsible for donations of \$814,000, an increase of nearly \$112,000 over the previous year. (Applause) The National Service officers and their director receive all credit for that amount of money.

I would like to call on National Service Director Ken Wolfe -- is Ken here? -- to assist us in recognizing the winning National Service Offices by category based on contributions received.

The first one you should all remember, because this is the tenth year of this award, and the tenth year that Ken has been assisting, and it's getting to be a habit. Togus, Maine, Bruce Kaplan, supervisor. And accepting on behalf of Bruce will be Gary Burns. (Applause)

MR. GARY BURNS: Thank you, Dick. Commander Mike, Art Wilson, the line officers up here, Ed Heath in particular, and particularly also all of you people out there: I accept this on behalf of the Togus National Service Office. Bruce Kaplan is not here. He's recovering from surgery of about five weeks ago, but it's his intent he'll be on the stage in Miami to receive Number 11 on a roll for the State of Maine.

We've dominated this award since 1990, since its inception. That's the last ten years of the last century. And it's our goal to dominate it again for at least the first ten years of the next century.

Dick gave Ken Wolfe credit and gave the National Service officers credit, but in actuality the credit goes to that membership in the State of Maine who continue to support this, the Norm Newells, the Norm Michauds, the Ralph Watermans, Leo Soucy, Greg Holmes, all you people that not only contribute personally financially, but also put the time in to make this happen.

We challenge the other officers in our division. Come take this away from us sometime. I'm fading out of the picture slowly, but I'll still be around. I want make sure we keep this for as long as we possibly can.

I thank all of you, particularly from the State of Maine. We greatly appreciate this. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. COSGRIFF: Division II out of Syracuse, New York. Harold Schultz is the supervisor. He's unable to attend the convention this year, but Brian Austin will accept in his behalf.

MR. BRIAN AUSTIN: Commander Dobmeier, Adjutant Wilson: Unfortunately, Mr. Schultz and his Associate National Service Officer Paul Breuer were unable to be here to accept this award. So it's an honor for me to be here to accept it on their behalf. I want to extend a special thanks to them and their support staff, Annie.

Also, I think it's important to recognize some of the National Service officers in Buffalo who also make it possible for this: Paul Wekenmann, the assistant; Chaney Tupis, associate National Service officer; Dave Ross; Robert Porter who was there at the time; and the newest edition, Mike Scholl.

Most importantly, though, I would like to thank the members of New York in their generosity to make this possible. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. COSGRIFF: In Division III, Indianapolis, Indiana. Joe Carroll, supervisor, will accept the award.

MR. JOSEPH S. CARROLL: Thanks, Dick. Thank you, Commander, Adjutant Wilson. I accept this award on behalf of the Indianapolis National Service Office, express my appreciation and thanks for the hard work of Tony Craig, assistant supervisor; National Service Officers Martin J. Main and Eric McGinnis; support staff, Pat Campbell, Maureen Pose. And thanks to all the delegation from the great state of Indiana. (Applause)

MR. COSGRIFF: This next division, it makes you feel real good, because the gentleman -- we don't want to mention any names -- but the gentleman several years ago suggested that we should let the Foundation fade away, it had served its purposes, and that they would never contribute to the Foundation because they could use the money in their own state. And to see them as leader of Division IV, Boston, Massachusetts. Daniel Stack, supervisor. (Applause)

MR. DANIEL P. STACK: Thank you very much, Dick. Well, fortunately, Massachusetts has a great ability to work with the National Service Office in getting the award this year. And I'd like to thank our commander, Gerry Bussiere, and Ed Finn, our past commander; and Tom Daley for all their help this year. We brought in over \$128,000, and that's strictly from the generosity of the Massachusetts veterans and the department.

I'd also like to thank my staff for all the hard work they did: John Rogers, Matt Carpenter, LeRoy Canady, Mason Sullivan, Tim Varner, and mostly Bob Sinclair. Bob Sinclair alone brought in \$38,000 in donations last year. Thank you very much. We appreciate their work. (Applause)

MR. COSGRIFF: In Division V, St. Petersburg, Florida. Andrew Marshall, supervisor, will accept the award.

MR. ANDREW MARSHALL: Commander Dobmeier, Adjutant Wilson: On behalf of the St. Petersburg, the biggest and best office, we accept this award again. My short staff here: Brian Lawrence, David McCord, John Paul, John Brocks. Can't remember all of them. Some of them have been here and gone like Marv Brooks, Dan Rule. We have four trainees in the office who are active in the Service Foundation right now.

And these are the ones who do the work and are responsible for St. Petersburg receiving this for about the fourth or fifth year in a row. Thanks to them and the Department of Florida. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. COSGRIFF: I would like to call on Ken Wolfe now for a few remarks.

MR. WOLFE: Thank you, Dick. It's always an honor to appear before those of you who are so active and do so much to make the DAV the great organization that it is. The National Service Foundation does an awful lot to take care of veterans that we serve, their dependents and their orphans as well as assisting our National Service officers.

We have been blessed, and we thank each and every one of you, and please carry that message back to the membership in your chapters. Thank you, Dick.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, Ken. (Applause)

What Ken didn't tell you, that half of this next year has already gone by, because we are on a calendar year from January 1st to June 30th, and the Service Offices throughout the country have already picked up almost half a million dollars towards next year. (Applause) And we certainly appreciate what they are doing.

Please join me in thanking these officers for outstanding performances. And also to thank Ken Wolfe for his assistance in awarding these awards today. I appreciate it. (Applause)

All funds remain with the Trust Division of the Cincinnati Fifth Third Bank. Deloitte & Touche, whose report will be incorporated in the official records of this convention, conducted our annual audit. As a charitable organization we also report to the Internal Revenue.

It's taking me a little longer to get this up, because I have to give some checks away. The National Order of Trench Rats shows a balance of \$194,794. I am submitting to Commander Dobmeier, a check in the amount of \$8454, the amount of interest earned on this restricted fund during the last year.

It is the request of the National Order of Trench Rats that this gift be designated to support the National Legislative Program each year. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Dick. And thank the National Order of Trench Rats. It's another example of making sure that this great legacy continues on into the future.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

As mentioned earlier, the Colorado Trust, which has become a very important part of our organization, was an idea that was introduced by National Adjutant Art Wilson four years ago.

It is maintained as a separate fund within the National Service Foundation, and its use is limited to programs of service for disabled veterans and their families. Expenditures for service projects are decided with advice from one representative from each district of the 21 districts we have in the United States. So all the requests go before that district before it comes to us with a recommendation.

Since the inception in 1996 through December 31st, 1999, over \$6 million has moved through the Colorado trust. And for that we can thank your department adjutant, Art Wilson. (Applause)

This includes the initial \$500,000 grant from the Department of Colorado, which got the trust under way, and where the name "Colorado Trust" comes from. And if we ever get another \$500,000 contribution from any one organization, any one chapter or department, this name will be changed, but we are happy with the Colorado Trust.

Contributions from chapters, departments and members across the nation; matching funds and contributions from the DAV national organization; and appropriations from the National Service Foundation, which supervises this trust, keeps this trust in a monetary position.

Using these funds, as of December 31st, 1999, grants totaling in excess of \$4.3 million have been awarded to chapters and departments. These grants have been used to support the Transportation Network, which I'm sure you're all familiar with, Hospital Service Coordinator Programs, and other worthy service initiatives at local and state levels.

Almost from the beginning, there have been chapters and departments which raise more funds than they have opportunities to serve, and unfortunately we have others without the necessary resources to fund important services that are needed in the communities.

Thanks to the Colorado Trust, we have reached equilibrium. Wealthier chapters and departments have a golden opportunity to ensure that no disabled veteran goes without the DAV services which less fortunate chapters and departments would be hard pressed to provide without help from the national organization.

And this is coming through the Colorado Trust, again through the ideas of National Adjutant Art Wilson. (Applause) Thank you very much.

My thanks to the chapters, departments and members whose generosity enables the trust to fulfill this mission.

I also want to thank the national organization which has matched one for one every dollar that our chapters, departments and members donate to the Colorado Trust. That is a tremendous giving. And thanks again.

Mr. Commander, this concludes my report. And as tradition would have it, the Foundation now stands ready to accept donations from the convention floor, and these donations will be placed in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, the Trench Rats Fund, or the Colorado Trust as specified by the donor.

Thank you very much.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Dick.

MR. COSGRIFF: Mr. Commander, before I conclude I would like to call on the national adjutant, because he has a sizable contribution for us. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: I'll take a moment of privilege. Before this line starts coming up here. The National Service Foundation was the original idea to perpetuate this organization, and a lot of us feel pretty strongly about that. And I've managed each year to give a little bit personally. And I feel the Dobmeier family has been blessed this year especially. So I have a little check to give you.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: I'll go first, with a contribution from the national commander and his wife for \$2500.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Now, see, you stole all that thunder. I received a letter -- and I brought this to the Board of Directors at our meeting on Saturday -- I received a letter from American League umpire, retired, Larry Barnett. As you know, Larry still works for disabled veterans, still visits hospitals on behalf of DAV, but is again working for the Commissioner's Office of Baseball, now supervising and evaluating his peer umpires.

The letter indicated -- he started out by saying:

Dear Art:

Sharon and I would like to give the enclosed check for \$5,000 to the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation in the name of Bernard F. Kistler, Andy Kistler's brother.

I'll be working with baseball during the National Convention so we wish you guys all the best. Please say hello to everybody for me.

So on behalf of Larry and Sharon Barnett, Mr. President, here's the check.

I also was asked by a member, a good friend of mine, Richard Ferraro from New Jersey, to present this check on behalf of his chapter in the amount of \$1,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. DENNIS WEBER: I'm Dennis Weber, state commander of California. On behalf of the State of California, I'd like to present to the Colorado Trust a check for \$50,000.

MR. GILBERT G. BROWN: Gil Brown from the Greater Daytona, Florida Chapter 84 presents a check for \$1,250.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. MICHAEL W. TEMPESTA: I'm Mike Tempesta from Fresno Chapter 1 in California. You may notice that we also have a candidate running from that little chapter. I won't mention his name. There's a check for \$2500 for the Foundation. And we would also like to express our deep appreciation for all the years that Dick has put in on this great organization. Thank you, Dick.

MR. COSGRIFF: You're not buying votes. He assured me that he's not buying votes with this \$2500.

MR. WILBUR L. TRAHAN: Dick, behalf of the Department of Mississippi, I'm Willy Trahan, and I would like to present you with this check for \$1,000, sir.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

NEC JOHNS: Tom Johns, treasurer, Omaha Beach Chapter Number 7 from the free state of Maryland, is proud to present a \$1,000 to the Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MEMBER: From the beautiful state of Massachusetts, the

Department of Massachusetts donate our usual \$1,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you sir. Thank you very much.

MR. RICHARD MANNERS: Richard Manners, representing the Department of New Jersey. I'm the commander and I'm accompanied by my adjutant, Charles Carroll. And at this time, we would like to present the Foundation a check for \$5,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much. Thank you.

MR. DAVID GERKE: David Gerke, Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri. I'd like to present a check for \$7,500 for the National Service Foundation, and \$7,500 for the Colorado Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Great, great! Thank you.

MR. JAMES H. FOX: Good morning. Jim Fox, adjutant treasurer of the Blind Veterans National Chapter, and we would like to make this donation in memory of our departed comrades from the Blind Chapter.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. GREGORY S. HOLMES: Greg Holmes, the Department of Maine, would like to present \$1,000 in the name of Chrissy Ann Burns.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. JOSEPH J. McDOWELL: J. McDowell, commander, Department of Arizona. On behalf of the department, Past Commanders and Adjutant Association, I'd like to donate this check to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, 200.

MR. RANDALL E. GARNER: Randall Garner from Wichita Chapter Number 4. On behalf of the Service Foundation, we'd would like to donate from the great state of Kansas and Wichita Chapter Number 4 \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. RUSSELL E. HAUN: Russ Haun, commander, Department of Kansas. I would like to present you with this check for \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. TED ANDERSON: I'm Ted Anderson representing Chapter 19, Lakewood, California. I present to you this check of \$50.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. SHELLEY DYER: Shelly Dyer, Chapter 6, California, \$1,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, thank you.

MEMBER: Chapter 60, California. We're giving you \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, dear. Thank you very much. That's the first kiss I've had all morning.

MR. WILLIAM H. GANN: Bill Gann, Chapter 34. On behalf of our members, and the Department of Kansas, I'd like to give you a check for \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. DAVID SPURGIN: David Spurgin from the Department of Arkansas. I would like to present a check from the department for \$1,000; also, from Chapter 1, for \$100; and Chapter 46, for \$100.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. RICHARD E. GIESE: Dick Giese, state commander from Florida. I have two checks here. The first one is for \$100 to the Perpetual Service Fund, and that's in the name of our immediate past commander, Chuck Heiney. And this check here -- I was going to bring Al Linden up with me, but he's still recovering from having to sign this one. And he wasn't able to come up. But anyway, we are happy to donate this check to the Colorado Trust in the amount of \$25,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much. Give our sympathy to Al.

MR. WILLIAM A. BOWMAN: Bill Bowman, Chapter 7, Lincoln, Nebraska. Here's a check for \$200.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. HARVEY E. MARKEN: Harvey Marken, commander, Chapter 11, Salina, Kansas. I'd like to present a check for \$1,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. COLLIE M. MATTFELD: I can talk for hours. I love the spotlight. I love a microphone. Can I have an hour? I'm Collie Mattfeld. I'm the adjutant for Chapter 2, San Diego. That's Dick Cosgriff's old chapter and I'm proud of him. I'm proud of the chapter. And on behalf of Chapter 2, I want to present a check to DAV Service Foundation for \$2,500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. EDUARDO POSADA: I'm Ed Posada, Chapter 12, past commander, Florida. With my deep appreciation for the NSOs of St. Pete, I'm proud to donate \$50 to the Service Foundation from my own personal account. And Linden, there'll be more for the state coming up.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

DR. JOSEPH LAZZARINI: I'm Dr. Joe Lazzarini from Atlanta. I would like to give this personal donation of \$1,000 to the Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much sir.

MEMBER: For the Department of South Dakota, I'd like to present this check for \$500 in honor of our NSO, Larry Bouska.

MR. COSGRIFF: I want to tell you something. My doctor just retired, and he's gone to your state for hunting.

MR. FRANK DALTON: Frank Dalton from Louisville, Kentucky, Chapter 6, \$100.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. THOMAS F. MAZZA: Tom Mazza, commander, Department of New York, the Empire State, has two checks here for you, Dick: one check for the National Foundation for \$1,000 and the Colorado Trust for \$25,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much. Thank you.

MR. DELBERT J. FOSTER, JR.: Delbert Foster, Arthur H. Muchow Chapter Number 1, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It's my privilege to present this check for \$250 in honor of our NSO, Larry Bouska.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. MARSHALL HARLESS: Marshall Harless, commander of Chapter 14, Salem, Virginia, would like to donate on behalf of Herb Wallach \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. JAMES C. WILSON: Jim Wilson, commander, Department of Minnesota, would like to give you for the Service Foundation \$2500, and for the trust \$2500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MEMBER: Chapter 20, Des Moines, Iowa, would like to give \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. BILL E. TAYLOR: Bill Taylor, Chapter 31, Dallas, \$500 for National Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. ROY CURRAN: Roy Curran, Chapter 30, Shreveport, Louisiana, would like to present a check for \$1,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. JACK FRANQUI, JR.: Jack Franqui from Arizona. I would like to present this \$200 for the NSO office of Phoenix.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. A.L. TORRES-RODRIGUEZ: Angel Torres, Chapter 5, Puerto Rico. I like to donate \$200 to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. DICK HAAN: Dick Haan Chapter 1, Minnesota. On behalf of our members I'd like to present two checks: a check for \$5,000 to the Service Foundation, and another \$5,000 for the Service Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. RICHARD D. MANN: Dick Mann, department commander of that fine state of North Carolina, on behalf of our members, \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

MR. FRANK GREENWOOD: Frank Greenwood, department commander for the great state of Nevada, \$100 to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

NEC 18TH DISTRICT FLOYD W. BUELL: Pete Buell, Chapter 12, Henderson, Nevada, \$200 for the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

MEMBER: On behalf of Chapter 103 Commander Jim Rule and all its members, I would like to present a check to the Service Foundation for \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. CHARLES W. CRAFT: Charlie Craft, commander for the Department of Virginia. We wanted to change the name of the Colorado Trust Fund. We wanted to give the \$500,000, but we don't

have it with us this morning. So we'll let it stay. Five thousand dollars from the Department of Virginia.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MS. MARY BEAMER: Mary Beamer, from Newport News, Virginia, commander of Chapter 2. I pledge \$500.

MR. COSGRIFF: That's the second kiss.

MR. SLOAN H. HOOPE: Sloan Hoopes representing H.H. Mackenzie Chapter Number 3, Department of Virginia, pledges \$1,000 in appreciation of the excellent work done by the NSO Office at Roanoke, Virginia.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MS. CAROLINE D. MASON: Good morning. Caroline Mason, department commander, Colorado, presents a check for \$5,000 for the Colorado Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much. I'll give you one, too.

MR. PAUL JACKSON: I'm not going to kiss you. Paul Jackson from the great chapter of Murphy Borelli Number 7. Over 5,000 members give \$5,000 to the Colorado Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. CHARLES H. CLEMENTS: Charles Clements from Cincinnati Chapter 1, where Judge Marx started this great organization 80 years ago. It's the mother chapter. And I would like to present this check for \$5,000 to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. JACOB N. STAFFORD: I'm Jacob Stafford, Wyoming/McDowell County Chapter 56, West Virginia. We have a check for \$275 which represents a dollar per member.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

MEMBER: Outstanding job, Dick. I stayed up all night to win some money so I can donate on behalf of my chapter, Chapter 4, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. But I only won \$200 in chips. Good as cash.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. LAVERAL R. PIEPER: Junior Vice-Commander Laverl Pieper of the Department of Wisconsin: 100 for 1500 bucks.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. CHRIS HALL: Chris Hall, chapter commander, Chapter 10, Arlington Fairfax, Virginia, would like to give you this check for \$100 in the name of Arnold Sillis. And I also have a personal check from Kimberly Wright for \$50 for the Service Foundation also.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MS. JULIE BOTTS: Julie Botts, Chapter 11, San Jose, California. We'd like to present a check for \$500 to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. ALEX FLASH: Alex Flash, commander, District 1, Seattle, Washington, a check for Colorado Trust for \$2,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MS. KATHRYN I. SCHERLEK: Kathy Scherlek representing Chapter 67, Pennsylvania, \$1500 for the Colorado Trust, and \$1500 for the National Foundation. And I get the last kiss of the line.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

MEMBER: Chapter 17, Long Beach, California, \$1,000.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. FELIX ELFRESCO, SR.: This is Felix Elfresco, Sr., Chapter 17, Long Beach. Our adjutant and treasurer, Alex Andreas, is donating \$1500 for his son, Artemio, who died in Vietnam.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

MR. ROBERT C. FREITAS: Bob Freitas, past commander, Department of Hawaii, pledges \$500 to the Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. PATRICK L. RATHBURN: Pat Rathburn, commander of Chapter 45, Oconto County, Wisconsin, \$100 to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. FRANK DROGO: Frank Drogo, alternate National Executive Committeeman from District 1, State of Massachusetts, would like to donate \$100 in the name of Tom Daley, our adjutant. And I'd just like to give you a few ideas. Maybe the other states could do what Tom did.



Tom fought for income tax abatement and won. He fought for \$1500 a year for disabled American veterans and won. He fought for widows and widowers to continue to receive the 100 percent real estate abatement instead of dropping down to the 90 percent rate and won. He fought for the State of Massachusetts to donate \$1 per veteran to the World War II Memorial and won. That was \$569,000. He fought for the gold star mothers and wives to receive 1500 per year and won.

Tom is continually fighting for more from Massachusetts for the disabled American veterans. John is a great man to have in our National Benefit Protection Team.

I challenge all Massachusetts residents who benefited from Tom's work to match or better my donation of \$100.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. LEW SNOWBECK: Lew Snowbeck, Minneapolis, \$100 for the Foundation, and \$100 for the Charitable Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. HENRY SADLER: Hank Sadler. On behalf of the 14th District, in memory of Hiram Fuller and Bob Hanna, a cash donation of \$146.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MEMBER: On behalf of all National Service officers across the country, the National Guild of Attorneys-in-fact would like to donate \$1,000 to the Colorado Trust and \$1,000 to the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. ISSAKA LATIN: Good morning. I am Issaka Latin, past department commander of Puerto Rico. At the time, the new commander didn't authorize any donation, but I give from myself, \$100.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir, very much.

MR. JOSEPH M. GRABOWSKI: Joe Grabowski, department commander of the evergreen state of Oregon, is happy to donate \$200 to the Colorado Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Gerald E. Humphries, adjutant, Chapter 11, great state of Mississippi, wishes to present this \$1,000 check in the name of the National Service Office.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. JEFFREY A. PURDY: Hi! Jeff Purdy, delegate, Chapter 3, Green Bay, Wisconsin. I want to give a personal donation for \$100. And also for Dick Marbes, the past national commander.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

MR. THOMAS F. GRAHAM: I'm Thomas Graham, Chapter 70, Waycross, Georgia, also the state Finance Committee chairman. We make a pledge for \$500 to the Colorado Trust; also \$500 to the Service Fund. And here's \$20 for my personal donation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

MEMBER: From the 7th district in the State of California, \$50.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. HENNIS: Coy Hennis from North Carolina. I want to personally give \$100 for Mike Walsh and his staff in the Membership Department for the good job they do.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. WALLY TYSON: Wally Tyson, adjutant, North Carolina. Mr. President, rather than give it to the Hilton Corporation, 25 cents at a time, here's the whole hundred in honor of our NSOs of Winston-Salem.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you.

MR. ROGELIO EVANGELISTA: Aloha from the land of paradise, the Island of Maui. I'm Rogelio Evangelista. I would like to donate \$100 from me and my wife to the National Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

MR. CLARENCE Y. OSAKO: Clarence Osako from Chapter 2, Maui, Hawaii, \$100 for the Service Foundation.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

MR. GEORGE KITAGAWA: George Kitagawa from Maui Chapter 2. I would like to donate \$100.

MR. COSGRIFF: I appreciate it very much.

MR. BILLY JONES, SR.: Billy Jones, commander of the State of New Mexico, the land of enchantment, \$100 for the Colorado Trust.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you, sir.

You're last.

MR. DON POULIOT: Last but not least -- here's another one. As I said, last but not least, it's a pleasure to present this check for \$100, a personal check. It may not seem like much but I've been doing this for years. And with this donation, I have now given \$2,000 to the Foundation. And I also have a check here from one of our sister chapters, \$500.

It's a pleasure to work with Dick. He told me, he knew I was going to be up here, and I told him I'm going to be last but not least. He said, "Where are you getting your money?" And I told him, "Aluminum cans." My name is Don Pouliot. I'm not running for office so you can talk to me.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you. That check for \$500 from Chapter 70, Escondido.

MR. JAMES TANNER: Jim Tanner from Massachusetts. I want to answer the challenge of Frank Drogo. I'm going to donate 100 in the name of Tom Daley for all the fine work he's done for the veterans of Massachusetts. Thank you.

MR. COSGRIFF: Thank you very much.

The tentative figures we have at this time is \$86,500 to the Foundation and \$125,000 even to the Colorado Trust. And I think the Colorado Trust -- (applause) -- and I think in the future, it looks like Art Wilson should stand up here as the instigator of the Colorado Trust and accept the money for the Colorado Trust along with me as the Foundation. What do you think of that? (Applause)

If there's any corrections in these amounts -- because they were trying to take them as you were donating them -- they will be corrected tomorrow morning. Thank you very much. Thank you, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to offer to take those chips down and multiply them for you, but I know Art wouldn't let me get away with it.

Could we have a motion to accept that excellent report from Chairman Cosgriff for the National Service Foundation? Mike 3.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, Florida, makes that motion to accept his report.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. Mike 1.

MR. JOHN E. GOODMAN: John E. Goodman, delegate from Chapter Number 26, Department of Texas, would like to second that motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

Thank you, Chairman Cosgriff. (Applause)

**Deloitte &  
Touche**



***DISABLED AMERICAN  
VETERANS NATIONAL  
SERVICE FOUNDATION***

*Financial Statements for the Years Ended  
December 31, 1999 and 1998 and Independent  
Auditors' Report*

**Deloitte Touche  
Tohmatsu**

**Deloitte &  
Touche**



**Deloitte & Touche LLP**  
250 East Fifth Street  
P.O. Box 5340  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5340

Telephone: (513) 784-7100

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors,  
Disabled American Veterans  
National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation") as of December 31, 1999 and 1998 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation at December 31, 1999 and 1998, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Deloitte & Touche LLP*

February 4, 2000

**Deloitte Touche  
Tomatsu**

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

	1999	1998
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH, (including \$834,351 and \$748,382 relating to The Colorado Trust in 1999 and 1998, respectively) (Note 2)	\$ 967,567	\$ 1,173,257
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE (Note 2)	156,270	119,782
PREPAID EXPENSES	28,185	23,707
INVESTMENTS - Marketable securities (including \$1,193,386 and \$1,196,071 relating to The Colorado Trust in 1999 and 1998, respectively) (Note 2)	<u>25,071,307</u>	<u>21,728,388</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$26,223,329</b></u>	<u><b>\$23,045,134</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Due to DAV (Note 3)	\$ 61,413	\$ 68,500
Due to DAV legislative program (Note 2)	8,454	7,887
Other liabilities		10,250
Total liabilities	<u>69,867</u>	<u>86,637</u>
<b>NET ASSETS (Note 2):</b>		
Unrestricted net assets:		
General	7,524,676	6,472,633
The Colorado Trust	1,500,000	1,000,000
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	11,633,817	10,325,967
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>4,773,901</u>	<u>4,033,703</u>
Total unrestricted net assets	<u>25,432,394</u>	<u>21,832,303</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets - The Colorado Trust	526,274	932,400
Permanently restricted net assets - National Order of Trench Rats		
DAV Legislative Fund	194,794	193,794
Total net assets	<u>26,153,462</u>	<u>22,958,497</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>\$26,223,329</b></u>	<u><b>\$23,045,134</b></u>

See notes to financial statements.

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

-3-

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES (Note 3)	\$ 112,388	\$ 111,051
TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES	16,475	15,049
INSURANCE	3,673	3,532
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,200	3,700
AWARDS	3,130	729
PRINTING, POSTAGE AND SUPPLIES	17,339	10,457
REGISTRATION FEES	15	60
INVESTMENT TRUSTEE FEES	32,852	31,097
MISCELLANEOUS	<u>1,169</u>	<u>349</u>
 TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	 <u>\$ 193,241</u>	 <u>\$ 176,024</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

	1999	1998
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 3,193,965	\$ 3,436,218
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Increase in unrealized appreciation on investments	(740,198)	(1,013,779)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(1,080,909)	(1,484,450)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	(36,488)	19,418
Prepaid expenses	(4,478)	(9,454)
Due to DAV	(7,087)	25,922
Due to DAV legislative program	567	(1,027)
Other	(10,250)	134
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,315,122</u>	<u>972,982</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(18,877,643)	(14,999,373)
Proceeds from sale of investments	17,355,831	14,908,853
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(1,521,812)</u>	<u>(90,520)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Contributions of permanently restricted assets	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(205,690)	884,962
CASH, Beginning of year	<u>1,173,257</u>	<u>288,295</u>
CASH, End of year	<u>\$ 967,567</u>	<u>\$ 1,173,257</u>

See notes to financial statements.



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

---

**1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS**

The Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation") is a financial auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The purpose of the Foundation, as set forth in Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation, is as follows:

"To receive and maintain a fund or funds of personal or real property, or both, to solicit and obtain contributions from the public, and, subject to the restrictions set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, to use and apply the whole or any part of the income and principal of said fund exclusively for the promotion of social welfare (including incidental nonpartisan legislative activity in furtherance of such purpose) within the meaning of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, primarily for the assistance, aid, maintenance, care, support, and rehabilitation of disabled veterans and their dependents, either directly or by contributions to the Disabled American Veterans, a Congressionally-chartered organization, or any chapter or department thereof."

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Financial Statements** - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis.

**Contributions** - Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. The Foundation recognizes contributions with donor imposed restrictions that are met in the same period as unrestricted contributions.

**Unrestricted Net Assets** - All contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") for permanent investment in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund as a reserve for future needs. Investment income derived from these invested amounts is used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated for use by DAV. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation. The Board designated \$1,500,000 at December 31, 1999 and \$1,000,000 at December 31, 1998 for The Colorado Trust, which is included in unrestricted net assets.

**Temporarily Restricted Net Assets** - In 1996, The Colorado Trust was established to provide funds for service programs of needy DAV state departments and local chapters. Funds contributed to The Colorado Trust are matched 100% by DAV, up to a maximum of \$3,000,000 per year. In 1999 and 1998, respectively, The Colorado Trust received \$269,906 and \$178,251 in contributions which were matched by DAV. In 1999 and 1998, DAV made an additional contribution of \$230,094 and \$321,749, respectively, to The Colorado Trust.

**Permanently Restricted Net Assets** - Contributions by the National Order of Trench Rats for the DAV Legislative Program are permanently restricted. Investment income of \$8,454 and \$7,887, in 1999 and 1998, respectively, from the National Order of Trench Rats DAV Legislative Fund is transferred to DAV and is temporarily restricted for use by DAV's Legislative Program.

**Investments in Securities** - Investments, which consist of equity securities, corporate bonds and U.S. Treasury Notes, are recorded at fair or market value. The fair value of the Foundation's investments is determined based on the quoted market price of the related securities. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue.

The cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31 are summarized below:

1999	Cost	Market	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,399,567	\$ 2,399,567	
Corporate Bonds	6,573,094	6,402,885	\$ (170,209)
U.S. Treasury Notes	3,865,035	3,751,157	(113,878)
Common Stocks	6,714,146	11,528,748	4,814,602
Common Stock Funds	745,564	988,950	243,386
Total	<u>\$20,297,406</u>	<u>\$25,071,307</u>	<u>\$4,773,901</u>
1998			
Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,895,822	\$ 1,895,822	
Corporate Bonds	4,916,277	4,995,698	\$ 79,421
U.S. Treasury Notes	3,806,109	3,939,633	133,524
Common Stocks	6,407,344	10,113,060	3,705,716
Common Stock Funds	669,133	784,175	115,042
Total	<u>\$17,694,685</u>	<u>\$21,728,388</u>	<u>\$4,033,703</u>

**Income Taxes** - As a not-for-profit service organization, the Foundation has been approved as exempt from federal income taxes as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to the Foundation are tax deductible by the contributor.

**Use of Estimates** - The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### 3. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The DAV provides the Foundation with the use of DAV personnel, facilities and equipment. DAV charged the Foundation \$112,388 and \$111,051 in 1999 and 1998, respectively, for personnel services.

At December 31, 1999 and 1998, the Foundation owed \$61,413 and \$68,500, respectively, for personnel services and administrative charges. Facilities and equipment are provided by the DAV at no charge.

In 1999 and 1998, respectively, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made a \$500,000 and \$450,000 contribution to The Colorado Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grants administered through The Colorado Trust.

As discussed in Note 2, DAV contributed \$500,000 to The Colorado Trust in both 1999 and 1998.

In performing the duties of their positions, the DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of the Foundation. The DAV National Finance Committee Chairman serves as an ex officio member of the Board.

#### 4. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets are released from restrictions by incurring expenses to satisfy the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors and are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	1999	1998
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Colorado Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 421,813	\$ 228,060
National Transportation Network Van Program	1,323,744	1,493,784
Other Grants to Service Programs	-	64,000
Miscellaneous expenses	395	9,998
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,745,952</b>	<b>\$ 1,795,842</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda. Art, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT WILSON: We even collect money fast.

There are several very informative seminars on the agenda beginning in the afternoon today and continuing on through tomorrow. Be sure to check your schedule. And please attend as many of these as possible. They are of course great learning tools for us that can be used when you return home.

The Nominating Committee will meet again tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock in Carson Room 4. It's on the Casino level.

You can pick up free arch supports from the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Carson Room behind the information booth.

Many of you know this but I would like to tell you about it anyway. We regret to inform you of the death of Donald Houska, senior vice-commander of the Department of Iowa. It happened while he was here at the convention. There are viewings and arrangements being made in Iowa, and I want to share them with you for your information.

Viewing will take place on Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Purcell Davis Funeral Home in Marshalltown, Iowa. The funeral will take place on Thursday, August 24th at 10:00 a.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church in Marshalltown, Iowa. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Eunice Houska, 1012 Broadmoor Drive, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158. Perhaps you weren't ready to write that down. We will have that available in the office if you need that information.

The final business session of this convention will begin at 9:00 on Thursday morning during which time we will have the nomination and election of officers.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Art.

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise, and I will ask Chaplain Todd to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN TODD: As we come to the close of this experience, this moment, Lord, we thank You for the moments that we've had to fellowship and to enjoy each other's camaraderie. We pray as we go forth from this place that You will keep us in Your hand of protection. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: The convention stands in recess until 9:00 o'clock Thursday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:28 o'clock a.m., August 22, 2000.)

## FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 24, 2000

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 79th National Convention convened in the Pavilion of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Thursday morning, August 24, 2000, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Michael E. Dobmeier.

COMMANDER MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: The convention will come to order, please.

Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Chaplain Todd, would you please lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN TODD: Precious Lord, as we reflect upon these few days in which we have shared our hearts, our minds and spirits together, we say thank You. We look outside and see the beauty of this day, at the foothills of these majestic mountains and the grandeur of all that You have created from time immemorial. We say thank You.

When we think of those moments in which we've had to realize our hurts and our pains and our sadness of life, we recognize, according to Your Word, that You said in this world we shall have trials and tribulations, but "be of good cheer; I've overcome the world."

We thank You, Lord, for allowing us to be overcomers here in DAV. For many of us who have sacrificed so much in terms of mind and body and spirit, so many of us have overcome circumstances and situations that have caused us many times to turn our heads to the wall and cry out, "Why me, Lord, why me?"

But then we know in the midst of all of our pains and in the midst of all of our hurts, we hear a small whisper that says, "Fight on, press on towards the mark of your high calling, be all that you can be in representing Me."

And Lord, this day, as we come to closure of this week, we say thank You. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen and amen.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Be seated, please.

Once again, in order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his name, chapter number and the state he represents.

At this time, would you please welcome James Stewart of South Carolina, newly elected president of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for the year 2000-2001. (Applause)

MR. JAMES STEWART: Good morning. Commander Dobmeier, Adjutant Wilson, national officers, national staff, members of the State C&A Association and delegates: I am very humbled to stand before you this morning with the opportunity to serve the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for the next year as their president.

And now at this time I would like to introduce the newly-elected officers and staff for the year 2000-2001. If you would please rise and remain standing until I finish the introductions: Vice-President Irvin Eddy; Executive Committeemen Jim Powers; Wally Tyson; Greg Reed; Don Smith; Jim Clem; Bob Freitas; Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum.

Could we give them a big round of applause, please. (Applause)

Over the last three and a half to four years, the C&A Association has made some great strides. The association put in place a Commanders and Adjutants Seminar in 1998 and orientation at our National Headquarters. With the assistance of the national staff and the various directors, we have brought our national commanders, adjutants, and this past year, we allowed and invited to come in our senior-vice commanders, which would also give them the opportunity to participate in this great project.

And we plan to continue this in the future. We also plan to work toward other projects and undertake other projects in the

future.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this great convention, our delegation. And Commander Dobmeier, Adjutant Wilson, C&A stands ready to work with the newly elected staff and appointed staff over the next year.

At this time, I would like to ask for you and Commander Dobmeier to step forward, if you would, please, sir. Commander Dobmeier, from the C&A, we have a check for \$1500 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

And as the saying goes, the check's in the mail. The C&A will present a check to the national organization as a bronze sponsor for the Winter Sports Clinic.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Terrific! (Applause)

MR. STEWART: And last but not least -- and yes, I did say least -- here's a personal check from me in the honor of the NSOs and the staff at the NSO Office in Columbia, South Carolina, for \$150.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. (Applause)

At this time, it has become a tradition for us to hear from the Chaplain of the Four Chaplains, and today our guest is Rev. Marvin Gant. Reverend Gant.

REV. MARVIN GANT: I bring greetings today from the Chapel of Four Chaplains, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It is my privilege today to be presenting the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award. No tradition in our American society is more precious or characteristic of voluntary service to our neighbors in need. It represents both selfless, civic and part of our religious heritage.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national nonprofit organization which was founded upon one shining moment in our heritage, when four Army chaplains giving their own life jackets upon the USAT DORCHESTER linked arms with one another.

The story basically is as the DORCHESTER was torpedoed in those very cold waters outside of Greenland, those four Army chaplains, George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington, gave out selflessly life jackets to those aboard, even their own.

And to many in those cold waters, as the ship was sunk there, they remembered those four chaplains with their arms linked one to the other, going down with their ship, without life jackets, singing hymns to one another.

It's a great testimony to kindred spirit and patriotism. But even more, it's significant because the identity of those four chaplains are that two were Protestants, one Catholic, and another of the Jewish faith.

Today, as it has for many years, the Chapel of Four Chaplains serves in the memory of these brave men. It carries a message of inter-faith cooperation and selfless service to our great country.

To recognize them and encourage acts of volunteerism, brotherhood and sacrifice among Americans of every age and station in life, the chapel established the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award Program. The Humanitarian Award, then, is given for a lifetime or a career of outstanding humanitarian service which has profoundly affected the quality of life in one's community or nation.

It is my privilege today to give the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award this year to Commander Michael E. Dobmeier. Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Chaplain. Another highlight in a great year.

Would you all please welcome the newly-elected Golden Rodent of the National Order of Trench Rats, William D. Brzezinski. (Boos)

MR. WILLIAM D. BRZEZINSKI: What a crew! I'd also like to introduce Larry Polzin, the immediate past Imperial Golden Rodent. (Boos)

I'd like to take a moment to say this to you. The National Order of Trench Rats is just like you. We drive vans taking patients to their appointments at the VA, sometimes spending many hours waiting for them to get done to take them home. We serve coffee. We visit veterans in hospitals. We put the flags on the graves of the veterans' cemeteries.

But the big difference is that we've learned that you have to laugh at yourself sometimes, and you have to have that release, because, let's face it, after a while, being around sick people, as much as we love taking care of them, can be depressing.

And what the National Order of Trench Rats has learned is that if you can laugh at your own disabilities and have fun at a meeting, then it's easier to go out there that next day and take care of those patients.

So we're changing in the National Order of Trench Rats, just like the DAV is. This is a new millennium. This is 2000. And change is good. And we plan to continue to change and be a partner to the Disabled American Veterans and continue to have things going great, as they have been in the past.

So when someone comes up and asks you if you want to become a member of the National Order of Trench Rats, remember this: We're all doers in the National Order of Trench Rats. We are out here doing exactly what you're doing. So think of that when they ask you.

At this time, I'd like to call forward Commander Dobmeier and National Adjutant Art Wilson for a couple of presentations. What we have here is a check for the Colorado Trust for \$2,000 and a check for the National Service Foundation for \$1,000 from the National Order of Trench Rats.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. BRZEZINSKI: We also have -- we passed several resolutions at our meeting yesterday, and I'd like to read the first one.

WHEREAS, God has seen in His infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Ernest G. Balcom, Imperial Rodent Number 68; and

WHEREAS, he did by his acts and diligence as an imperial officer help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service of disabled American veterans; THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at the 76th National Rendezvous in Reno, Nevada, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of \$100 as a memorial to him to be placed in the trust account of the Perpetual Rehabilitation Funds of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation, the income of which shall be used from time to time toward the maintenance of nationwide rehabilitation activities of the Disabled American Veterans and their dependents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED his name be inscribed in the Memorial Honor Rolls so all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the Disabled American Veterans as exemplified by Ernest G. Balcom, Imperial Golden Rodent 68, 1992-93.

Also, God has seen in His infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Curtis L. Guigelaar, Imperial Rodent Number 72. And God has seen in His infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Harry J. Mulligan, Imperial Executive Rat of the 12th District. We present these also. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: At this time I would like to announce that the registration of delegates is closed. And I'm going to call on the chairman of the Credentials Committee, Mr. James Olson, for his report.

MR. JAMES OLSON: Thank you, Commander. This is the final report and reflects the total registration as of noon, August 23rd, 2000. At the present time, we have 602 chapters, 45 departments, 39 national officers, 13 past national commanders, for a total of 1,539 delegates and 49 alternates, for a total vote of 10,842.

This completes the final report of the Credentials Committee Commander, and I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a second to that motion? Mike 1.

MS. MAGGIE CHRISTENSEN: Maggie Christensen, Chapter 58, California, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor, say Aye; opposed. Carried.

At this time, we will not discharge the committee because we

might need them in a few minutes.

I'd like to call on my friend, Dennis Joyner, to give us a report on the Nominating Committee.

MR. DENNIS JOYNER: Thank you, Commander. Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Nomination of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on August 21st, 2000, by the committee advisors, Bill Leach and Gene Murphy.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chair. Dennis Joyner was nominated as chair. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Dennis Joyner was elected chair.

The next order of business was the nomination and selection of secretary. Michael Tempesta was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee met on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and again this morning, and we interviewed 15 candidates for national office. The candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee are as follows:

For the office of national commander, Armando C. Albarran from Texas; the office of senior vice-commander, George H. Steese, Jr., from California; for the office of 1st junior vice-commander, Edward R. Heath, Sr., from Maine; the office of 2nd junior vice-commander, Alan W. Bowers from Massachusetts; for the office of 3rd junior vice-commander, Jim Sursely from Florida; for the office of 4th vice-commander, Paul W. Jackson from Colorado; for the office of judge advocate, Edward G. Galian from New York; and for the office of chaplain, Clarence Brown, PhD from New Jersey.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers. And I move the adoption of this report and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National convention.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Mike 2.

MR. FRANK L. WEBB: Frank Webb, Houston, Texas Number 9 seconds that motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you. All those in favor of discharging the Nominating Committee please say Aye; opposed. Thank you, Dennis. (Applause)

You have heard the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers, and they have nominated Armando Albarran for national commander. Here to second that nomination is Past National Commander Oliver Meadows of Texas. Oliver.

MR. OLIVER MEADOWS: Commander Dobmeier, national officers, national staff, fellow members of the DAV, and guests: I rise on behalf of my fellow Texan, Armando Albarran, and I want to use a little Texas joke in making my remarks. You know, Texans have an undeserved reputation of being loud, boisterous, ego driven, and that's led to lots of Texas jokes. In fact, I think there are more Texas jokes than there are mother-in-law jokes.

But one that's common goes this way. Old Tex is carrying on about Texas and bragging about this and that, and his non-Texan buddy is getting a little tired of it, and he finally says, "Oh, come on, if the Alamo had had a back door, there wouldn't be any Texas." (Laughter)

So that leads me to another little line of thought. It's a good joke, it's a good put-down, but it's not true. The Alamo did have a back door, and I'll explain that to you in a few brief references here. Fifty years after the American Revolution, Texas was part of Mexico, and it set up its own revolution. It declared its independence from Mexico and set about to defend that act.

Mexico was headed by a military dictator called Santa Anna, who called himself the Napoleon of the West. He got his army together and it was a pretty impressive army, 5,000 men, calvary, artillery, and started marching north to put down the Texas rebellion.

Texas didn't have much of an army. It had a sort of a militia set up, a few thousand militiamen in loosely-organized groups. But they set about to meet the threat of Santa Anna. And Colonel Travis was ordered to occupy the Mission of San Antonio, which would later become the Alamo. He had about 200 men in his little group, and he occupied the mission.



There wasn't much to San Antonio then. It was just a little village with a few houses, along the little San Antonio River. And the Mission of San Antonio consisted of a chapel, a few stone buildings, and high rock walls around a little compound of about two acres.

Colonel Travis occupied that mission, and soon received word that the army of Santa Anna, composed of 5,000 men, artillery and cavalry, was marching on Texas. So he sent out a request for reinforcements and got no response. As Santa Anna and his army came closer, he sent out a second request and got no response, and no reinforcements.

So he assembled his men in the courtyard of the Alamo, and legend has it that he drew a line in the sand with his sword, and told his men, "Now is the time. The Mexican Army is only two days' march away, and if there's any of you that want to leave now, now is the time to leave." And nobody stepped across the line. They to the man made the choice of staying in the compound.

The Alamo did in fact have a back door. And there was a key to it. And it was personal choice. There was not a man there that exercised that personal choice.

Now, that brings me to this point. We all have personal choices in our lives, and we all have a back door in our lives. And some succumb to the back door and wander the alleys of life, and others make choices, make good choices, take command of their lives and shape their lives.

Now I want to talk to you about the choices that Armando made. He went straight into the Army, after graduating from high school. He was a good soldier. He did his basic training. Then he did an advance infantry training course and became part of the 173rd elite Airborne Division and soon found himself in Vietnam.

In the process of doing his duty in Vietnam, with his unit, clearing an area that was frequented by Viet Cong, he tripped a device, and that device caused the loss of both of his legs. It's a miracle he's here, but those miracles happen. And they did get him out of there, got him to medical care, and he found his way back to the United States and entered the hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Brooke General Hospital.

Now here's where Armando made one of those first choices. He turned away from the back door. He didn't succumb to self-pity and depression. He took the other route. He took command of his life. He took command of his medical treatment and spent a year building himself back up and getting himself ready to move on with his life.

He had a medical discharge, and immediately set about to resume his education. He got a bachelor's degree. He did a lot of work on his master's degree, and he picked his chosen profession, and that was a specialist in rehabilitation.

He worked for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, the U.S. Department of Labor, and finally settled in the Veterans Administration as a vocational rehabilitation specialist. He worked there 23 years, helping other people, and he has now retired from federal service.

The next choice that Armando made that had a great influence on his life was to become active in the DAV. And when he did it, he did it with the same enthusiasm that he had in pursuing his education. He's one of those DAV members that's done everything. He started at the chapter level, held about every office there, worked at the district level and the department, was a department officer, served on the National Executive Committee of this organization, and then moved up into the line of chairs for the national organization.

He showed his vigor early in his rehabilitation. He established one of these basketball wheelchair competitions in San Antonio.

He's done it all. He's moved up the line. And now he sits on the right-hand side of our national commander.

Now there was still another choice that Armando made that had great influence on his life. It was a choice -- and probably the most important choice that he made -- the choice of his wife, Tillie. He's married. He has three children. And he no doubt, like many of us, had lots of encouragement and help from his wife.

I think we'll meet his wife and children a little later.

We've reached the point, Commander, that I'm going to assert that Armando is right for the DAV. And I believe the DAV is right for Armando. And therefore I'm going to second the nomination. I'm going to second the nomination on behalf of the Texas members here in this audience and the 65,000 members of the Texas DAV, and call for and commend to you Armando Albarran as the next national commander of the DAV. Thank you very much. (Standing ovation).

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Oliver.

Are there any other nominations for the office of national commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national commander? Hearing none, I close nominations and declare Armando Albarran elected as national commander and instruct the national adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his nation.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for the office of Armando Albarran for national commander of the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: The Nominating Committee has nominated George Steese for the office of national senior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations for the office of national senior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national senior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national senior vice-commander?

Hearing none, I close the nominations and declare George Steese elected as national senior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Edward R. Heath, Sr. for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander?

Hearing none, I close the nominations and declare Edward R. Heath, Sr. elected national 1st junior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Alan W. Bowers for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander?

Hearing none, I close the nominations and declare Allen W. Bowers elected national 2nd junior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Jim Sursely for the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations for the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander?

Hearing none, I close the nominations and declare Jim Sursely elected national 3rd junior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Paul W. Jackson for the office of national 4th junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations for the office of national 4th junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 4th junior vice-commander? Are there any other nominations for the office of national 4th junior vice-commander?

Hearing none, I close the nominations and declare Paul W. Jackson elected as national 4th junior vice-commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Edward Galian for the office of national judge advocate. Are there any other nominations for the office of national judge advocate? Are there any other nominations for the office of national judge advocate? Are there any other nominations for the office of national judge advocate?

Hearing none, I close the nominations and declare Ed Galian elected as national judge advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Clarence Brown for the office of national chaplain. Are there any other nominations for the office of national chaplain? Are there any other nominations for the office of national chaplain? Are there any other nominations for the office of national chaplain?

Hearing none, I close nominations and declare Clarence Brown elected as national chaplain. (Applause)

I will now instruct the national adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these officers.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, cast one ballot for George Steese for national senior vice-commander; Edward Heath for national 1st junior vice-commander; Alan Bowers for national 2nd junior vice-commander; James Sursely for national 3rd junior vice-commander; Paul Jackson for national 4th junior vice-commander, Edward G. Galian for national judge advocate; and Clarence Brown, PhD for national chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you.

At this time, I would like the newly elected officers and their wives, if present, to be escorted to the stage. And their families as well.

At this time, I'm going to call on the newly elected officers to make their remarks, starting with our friend, Armando. (Applause)

COMMANDER-ELECT ALBARRAN: National Commander Dobmaier, National Adjutant Art Wilson, department and chapter commanders, honored guests, friends and delegates to the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans: All I can say is wow! Thank you for the honor of serving as your National commander. It is an honor that I will never forget, nor will I forget the responsibility that goes with it. I'm so proud to represent you and so very humbled by the overwhelming support you have given me.

As Martin Luther King said in his last address in Memphis, "I have been to the mountaintop." Leadership in the DAV is a lot like that. I stand at the pinnacle of the DAV, the highest point I could ever hope to achieve. Supporting me are a million disabled veterans who look to me for strong leadership, strong initiatives, and strong advocacy.

As a disabled veteran, I do not have internal strengths within me. I have an endless external source of strength: my family, the outstanding DAV staff, under the leadership of Art Wilson, and most of all, the strength of all of you. With those strengths I feel invincible. (Applause)

Each year, you learn more and more about the commitment you made when you first displayed your for-higher-office banner. Climbing to the mountaintop, you perform many and critical missions for the DAV. You sharpen your skills and you learn everything. You pay your dues while you're climbing the ladder of responsibility.

As I assume the highest office of national leadership, those that have come before me offer great inspiration. They include all the fine, dedicated men from Judge Max to Mike Dobmeier. I am filled with gratitude for all of those who have helped me to get here and humbled by their sacrifices.

Thanks to you and your support, I join a great legacy of hope and courage. I pray that I am worthy of the task and ask his guidance as well as yours.

I say with complete candor that I did not get here alone. I want to thank a few of those outstanding individuals who have given me the strength, courage and fortitude to assume this office. I could never have gotten here without the help of my campaign chairman, Bill Morin; Larry Geddie, Dennis Nixon, my campaign managers; members, Jose Garcia, Bruce Burgess, Manny Lozano, Kathryn Henson, Bill Bones, and the rest of my Campaign Committee, the Department of Texas. (Applause)

No leader could achieve any hope of greatness without a talented professional staff. Art Wilson has assembled the best people whose expertise and leadership maintains the DAV's pre-eminence among veteran service organizations. We are the best because they are the best. (Applause) And I promise each of them, as I do each of you, that I will do my best to serve your interests.

No leader could ever be without those that support and respect them. The DAV membership is a group composed of the best our

nation has to offer. From the worn and scarred World War II veterans to the youthful, enthusiastic Gulf War veterans, you all have my thanks for trusting me with the office of national commander. (Applause)

My greatest supporters are the members of my family. They have been understanding when the DAV calls. They recognize the importance of my service to the DAV, and they ask for nothing in return and earn my undying love.

Let me introduce my family. My beautiful wife of 31 years, Tillie, will you please come up here? (Applause) My three children, Adam and his fiancée, Michelle; Angela and her husband, Stewart Saunders; Amy and her fiancé, David Beard. And I'd like to introduce my twin brother who is here with us today, Albert Albarran. (Applause)

One other special lady who is not here today, my mother who is 91 years old, was planning to be here with us, but a month ago she suffered a heart attack. But thanks to God she's doing fine, and I want to tell my mother and all my family, I love you very much. (Applause)

Being here today, I can hear the words that were said to me many years ago, words that put me on the road to reaching the highest leadership of the DAV. Like you, I have learned firsthand the critical role our organization plays in the lives of all disabled veterans, their dependents and their survivors.

I have learned it as a combat disabled Vietnam veteran. I learned more as a member of my community and as a husband and father. And finally, I have learned so much from other DAV members who I work with so closely in building better lives for America's disabled veterans. (Applause)

But the words that whisper to me today came from 35 years ago after I was wounded and recovering from my wounds at Brook Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Those words of, "How can I help you?" came from an always-smiling DAV National Service officer by the name of Herman Bartwell. Herman has passed from us now, but his memory is always with me, and his legacy of caring for veterans has become a part of me.

Herman was a jolly guy who operated a one-man office in San Antonio. He loved his job, and he loved working for the veterans he served. My family supported me there, but it was Herman who came to see me again and again.

I can remember his understanding and compassion as he sat by my bedside and talked to me. He told me what benefits I could expect, and he handled my claim. But he also offered compassionate friendship. He cared, and he was willing to help.

Herman helped me in many other ways. He asked if I wanted to help other veterans in the hospital. As soon as I was allowed to leave my bed, I was off with Herman visiting other wounded veterans, writing letters for them, talking with them, and trading some of Herman's compassion for me by giving some of it to them.

It was once said that no man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child. I can tell you that no legless man has ever stood so tall as when he helps his fellow veteran. (Applause) I learned that from Herman, who, while he had legs, he was the tallest man I have ever known.

He was a friendly Goliath, because he always wanted to do something for you. In later years, I remember Herman's demeanor. As I helped veterans even while I was still in the hospital, I was motivated like him. I've always tried to serve veterans wherever and whenever needed.

When I meet people, I've always asked if they were veterans. And as Herman asked me, "How can I help you?"

Ultimately, all that any of us can do for the DAV is to do our share during our time. We cannot guarantee the past, nor can we guarantee the future. We can, and we must, be vigilant in the time we are allotted. For some of us, that allotted time is approaching an end. Our World War II veterans are in their 70s. Our Korea veterans in their late 60s. And our Vietnam veterans in their 50s.

We can no longer expect that World War II generation to shoulder the load of the DAV. The Korean War generation can also expect to lighten its pack. Now is the time for the men and women

of my generation, and those of more recent conflicts, to realize their potential and their duty to each other as more active members of the DAV. Will you join me? (Applause)

The strength of any organization lies in its membership. The stronger and the larger the membership, the more it can accomplish. Well, I, as your DAV national commander, when I sit in the halls of Congress to advocate benefits for veterans, it is you who speaks, not I.

I can advocate with all the will and might that I can muster. But it is your strength that I need: the strength of the DAV, its volunteerism, its dedication to help other disabled veterans, and its ability to tell Congress to fulfill the promises made to the men and women who served and sacrificed for our nation.

As a member, each mile you drive to help a disabled veteran, each new member you sign up, each program you volunteer for makes our DAV stronger. Don't look beyond yourself to get things done. Step forward, serve, and initiate a desire to serve.

By doing those things, you help build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. And you make the DAV a Titan that demands the attention of Congress and an Administration that may think we have gone away.

Now is the time for each of us to accept the responsibility to keep the DAV great. The future may be dark, but we can burn a trail that will last into another new century if we pick up the mission of our World War II and Korean veterans. I stand ready to lead the way. Are you prepared to follow me? (Applause)

The DAV's responsibility to each disabled veteran is amplified by the service we perform. At the forefront of that responsibility is the pride we have in our National Service Program, our NSOs, DSOs and CSOs. This wonderful group of men and women each day define the DAV's mission.

Today, we are witnessing a new wave of National Service officers expand services to our fellow veterans. They do a superlative job. Each of them continues the outstanding tradition of service. They are dedicated and talented young people who have put your interests first. (Applause)

We all are honored by the job they do, and they are most deserving of our support. They do more than handle our claims. They look out after our interests. They are the caretakers of our future. And they are the instrument in which the DAV focuses its initiatives. They are the doers.

This is also true of the department and chapter service officers. I promise to each of them that I will not fail them in delivering their message.

As your national commander, I welcome the responsibility for advocacy of the DAV's programs to help the homeless. We have made great strides in helping our fellow veterans who face difficulties we might not imagine. Our goal is to help them find suitable, gainful, useful and permanent employment.

I will fight for the best rehabilitation services for these veterans. My goal is to ensure that disabled veterans get their fair shot at a good job. No longer can we abide by the fact that one in three persons that are homeless is a veteran. We can help, and we will. Will you help me help them? (Applause)

I will also do whatever must be done to continue the outstanding record of the DAV Transportation Network. Since 1987, the DAV has donated 992 vans costing more than \$19.3 million to VA medical centers. Ford has greatly helped us with that. But if it wasn't for the DAV, how many sick and disabled veterans would have been left without transportation to VA medical centers?

All of us should be proud of our record. But are we all doing what must be done to preserve that record? Step forward, if you can. All of these vans would be worthless without drivers, coordinators and managers.

The DAV Transportation Network is more than vans. It's the men and women of the DAV donating their time to help their fellow veterans. The DAV needs your help to continue this outstanding program. The forum is there for you to participate. Join me in helping this program grow even greater.

You know, leadership extends far beyond the office of the

national commander. It extends to department and chapter levels. It is there where the greatest strength of the DAV lies. In many cases, chapters have the manpower needs, and those needs can be best fulfilled with welcoming new members, those who haven't done it before but can bring creativity and new energies to the job. And those young members need the guidance and wisdom of those who have traveled the road before.

Wisdom and energy are an irresistible force that can ring the halls of Congress. Together we can ensure that this great organization's future will be vibrant and strong.

When you return home, look for those bright young veterans who can bring new strength to the DAV. They are out there. When the DAV needed help, you were there.

The most important mission during the coming year will be to represent you. I can promise that I will do that with every power that I can command. When all is said and done, I want each of you to be able to say that there was no more powerful advocate than the DAV national commander. (Applause)

I will tell Congress without hesitation what veterans want and need. I will use my energy and strength that you have provided me to ensure that the promises our nation made to veterans are fulfilled. (Applause)

The DAV has achieved much over last year. Past National Commander Dobmeier played a major role in securing needed VA care funding, an end to the distasteful VA practices of forcing veterans to present their own well-grounded claims, and some movement towards allowing some form of concurrent receipt of military longevity retirement pay by disabled veterans. (Applause)

Next year the DAV will be faced with a new Congress and a new Administration. Depending on who is elected, veterans will face a renewed challenge to benefits and compensation. There will be a new call to cut veterans spending, to curtail veterans programs, and to break the promise.

You have an opportunity to stop it. Know the candidate who supports veterans. And use your vote to send a message to Washington that veterans still count. (Applause)

We are meaningful, and we are important. Let Congress know that veterans vote, and vote for those candidates that have the best interests of veterans at heart.

I can tell you with certainty that if you don't vote, you won't count. And elected officials will ignore the rights of veterans with impunity. The choice is yours. Vote or lose.

Finally, I want you to know that I am proud to have taken the course set out for me 34 years ago. I have had a wonderful life, helping build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. As I appear before you today, I remember less about the Viet Cong ambush that took my legs and remember more the dedication of the DAV and Herman Bartwell. (Applause) Because that dedication has become a part of me.

I am grateful to Herman for pointing me towards the destination where I arrived at today. I am grateful to all of you who have voted me DAV national commander. I feel joy, fulfillment, and a deep pride for having served veterans as a member of the Disabled American Veterans. And I look forward to the opportunity to serve veterans as the national commander.

I want my year of leadership to be a testimony to Herman Bartwell and to all the National Service officers like him. They represent the best of all of us, loyalty, commitment, integrity, hope and compassion. In this way, I can say, thanks, Herman, thanks, DAV; you are all great. Wherever Herman is, I know that he is proud of our corps of DAV NSOs who have followed so remarkably in his footsteps. (Applause)

My path takes me in the footsteps of Judge Marx. Those are some big steps, but I know that each of you will be with me, lending strength, sustaining me, to tackle the jobs that faced me, and successfully complete them. I am ready to begin. Please go with me. Accept this great challenge as I gladly do.

God bless America. God bless the DAV. And God bless those who love, guard and defend our precious freedoms. Thank you very much. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Armando, they may have gotten your legs but they didn't get your heart.

And I can guarantee you, ladies and gentlemen, that Armando will use that same heart to lead us through the coming year. And I can guarantee you, Armando, that each and every one of us will be right behind you.

And it's my pleasure to present you with your commander's cap. (Applause)

We will now hear from our newly elected senior vice-commander, George Steese.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT GEORGE STEESE: Thank you very much. Commander Dobmeier, I want to say to you that you have truly led us, and especially the line officers. You have been there for us. And we are very, very grateful to you for your guidance. (Applause)

To Commander-Elect Armando, I can only offer you my total support this year. I know it's going to be a good year. (Applause)

To Art Wilson and the staff, I thank you for making me look so good when I go out on my trips. Without you -- and by the way, I do appreciate the trips, especially the ones overseas, Puerto Rico. Thank you.

Anyways, to the delegation of California: You are my strength because you truly have been behind me all the way. To Ken, to Mike, Dave, Dick Cosgriff, to Hank, all of you, Pat, I thank you for your continued support. And for you, I am doing this, and I will be the best delegate I can. That's all I can say.

To the membership out there, I have been to many of your states and visited with many of you. And I thank you for your hospitality. I have never, ever been left to fend for myself. You have truly been there for me. And your support this week also and your encouragement helps keep me going. And I want to tell you that you are the finest group of members any organization could have.

Now I want to introduce my family. And two years ago, I stood up here and it was a big occasion for me. I turned 50. And my wife and I had been married 28 years. However, I got those mixed up and I said that my wife and I were married for 25 years. And then I introduced my daughter. And later my daughter thanked me for not turning around and saying, and she is 27 years old. (Laughter)

So my wife, June, back here -- if you will stand, June. My wife June and I have been married 30 years. (Applause) And she is truly the woman that knows me best and has given me encouragement and encourages me to go on. My daughter Elly and her husband. (Applause) Elly is 28 years old, and some day they are going to make me a grandparent. No pressure. (Laughter)

And finally, my mother, who has been with me from Day 1. She always encourages me. She has always taught me to go forward to help others. And she is here today. And I'm very proud to say she is my mother. Esther. (Applause)

I thank you for your support, your devotion to me and to this organization. And I will do the best I can. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: And now our newly-elected 1st junior vice-commander, Mr. Ed Heath. (Applause)

1ST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT EDWARD R. HEATH, SR.: I thank all of you. It's been another fantastic year, and I'm just real proud to be here.

For those of you who remember a short, brief year ago in Florida, you will probably understand why my next rule will be to introduce you to my lovely wife of 25 years and my best friend, Sylvia. (Applause) I had to do that. It's been a long year in some ways. (Laughter)

I'm also very fortunate today to have with me another member of my family, a daughter who has been a very special daughter and has played a special role in my life, my daughter, Ceri, and her friend Greg. (Applause)

Commander Dobmeier, it's been an honor and a pleasure to represent you at the various events all across these United States, and you've certainly been someone that all of us could emulate and look up to. Thanks for your leadership. (Applause)

Commander Albarran, I'm just looking to the next year to go out and say, "I'm here on behalf of your national commander. Armando Albarran, who's one of the greatest individuals I've ever known." And I'm going to be proud to carry his message. (Applause)

And I continue to thank Art and his staff in Washington and Cincinnati.

And if I keep thanking people, he'll make me shut up and sit down so I want to just go right along here. Especially the Maine delegation and my good friend and retired, recently-retired NSO, Gary Burns, who always takes his job very seriously and not himself very often. (Applause) Gary is one of those great guys that can just keep on getting everything done and making you laugh all the time you're doing it. But he does work hard.

In addition to that, I want to thank Commander Greg Holmes, Adjutant Norm Newell, the people that have been here to help me out, Cliff Workman, Ralph Waterman, Norm Michaud. I know there's some people out there from Vermont, Bob Nicodemus, and guys from Rhode Island, the young NSO down there taking Jeannette's place. And Jeannette is having some problems with her family, seriously ill, and our prayers go out to her. And the rest of the New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont delegates.

Also, a thank goes to Tom Daley, the adjutant for Massachusetts, for coordinating the hospitality room that Alan and I share, and it's been real helpful to me, anyway, and I hope to Alan, too.

There are too many people to continue to thank personally. But I'll just do the best I can to continue in the tried and true DAV tradition of building better lives for America's wartime disabled and their families. And thank all of you very, very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Well said, Ed.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, your newly-elected national 2nd junior vice-commander Alan W Bowers. (Applause)

2ND JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT ALAN W. BOWERS: Thank you, Mike. Carrying Mike's message this year has been a real pleasure. He has been a sterling leader in the format of the previous leaders of this organization, and it's really easy to sell that message. So thank you, Mike.

Armando, those are powerful words. But it's a powerful message that we need to spread. Thank you.

And to Art for the privilege of serving this organization, and for your support. Each time as I went out, I needed information, obviously, and the professional staff certainly came through accurately, timely. It's a great staff.

Following Ed's advice, I'd like to start by introducing my first and greatest fan, my wife Teresa. Terri. (Applause)

To the committee that helped reelect me, to the co-chairs, Adjutant Tom Daley, Natural Service Officer Dan Stack; to the members, NEC John Gilpin, Commander Gerry Bussiere, Jim Tanner, Roger Hamel, Stan Embree, Ralph Hesselton, Wes Henderson, Mike Hurley. And to the lady in the office that keeps it all together, to Ann Hurley. And to the total Massachusetts delegation, when you showed up out there at the gate with those hats on, you blew everybody away. You make me look good. You've always made me look good. Thank you. (Applause)

And a special thanks again to Dan Stack and the troops in the NSO Office. And congratulations on receiving that recognition for your support of the Foundation. And to Bob Sinclair, who once again has been a membership recruitment leader.

And to the NSOs all across the country, you build better lives every single working day. Thank you. (Applause)

And to the Nominating Committee, thank you for giving me the privilege of working with this great team, and the privilege of working with the great national staff at Washington and at Cold Springs.

And finally to each of you. In your communities and in your neighborhoods and in your precincts, some of those folks don't know the DAV. But they know you. And by your actions, you expand and enhance our reputation of service. So thank you for all you do for the DAV. (Applause)



COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Now, ladies and gentlemen, your newly-elected 3rd junior vice-commander, Jim Sursely. (Applause)

3RD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-ELECT JAMES E. SURSELY: Good morning, everyone. It's truly a pleasure for me to be here with you this morning. And let me first of all extend my thank you to each and every one of you for your outpouring of love and support in allowing me to be your new national 3rd junior vice-commander.

I have always said and I'd like to reaffirm my intentions, and that is that I've always viewed this as being both a challenge and an opportunity. And the challenge would be for me as an individual and a national officer to live up to the great reputation of the gentlemen here to my right and to the left, who've set the bar so high and such a great standard for me to live up to.

I look forward to that. And I can meet that challenge. And I also view it as an opportunity, an opportunity for someone who has had a chance to participate in the DAV for almost 30 years, who the DAV has given to me tirelessly, and I view that as an opportunity for me to give something back to this organization who has been so wonderful to me. And I thank you for that.

Let me congratulate Mike Dobmeier. Mike, everywhere I've gone, people sing the praises of the wonderful job you've done this year. And I also just want to add that the DAV is a better place because of the time you have given us. And I thank you. (Applause)

Armando, as a newly-elected commander, and as a fellow combat Vietnam veteran, I'll tell you this: You lead, and I'll follow. (Applause)

Let me take this opportunity, if I can, to thank many of the people from the Department of Florida. First of all, my own home chapter, Central Florida 16 in Orlando; District 10 in Florida; of course, the Department of Florida, which is District 7; three past national commanders who have been a great help in their leadership and guidance: Al Linden, Denny Joyner and Harry McDonald. Thank you all very much. Without you, this wouldn't be possible. (Applause)

Now, when I knew the convention was going to be in Reno, I asked a lot of my family if they had any desire to come out and participate in the convention. So I'd like to think that they are all here because of me. But the Sursely family has a reputation of liking to drop those quarters into those machines. So maybe it's a mixed thing of why they are here, but we are certainly glad they are here.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce them if I can. My mother, Jen Sursley from Rochester, Minnesota. (Applause) Mom, we are certainly glad you're here. My sister, Diana and her husband, Ron Hollihan from Rochester, Minnesota (applause); my sister, Sandi and her husband Dave Gordon from Gig Harbor, Washington. (Applause) Dave is a combat Vietnam veteran. And one of my best buddies and my oldest son, Dax Sursely, from Billings, Montana. (Applause)

Thank you all not only for being here but for all the wonderful things you've done for me over the years to make this easy for me.

And thank you. I pledge my undying support to the DAV. Anything I can ever do for you folks, just step forward and ask. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, your newly-elected 4th junior vice-commander, Paul Jackson of Colorado. (Applause)

4TH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER ELECT PAUL JACKSON: Thank you. Commander Mike, newly-elected Commander Albarran, Adjutant Art Wilson, my fellow line officers, members, guests, and my friends: I am humbled, nervous, and all of those things. But I'm so grateful for the Nominating Committee to bring me out.

And Commander, I will say to you as the others, I've got your back. I will be there for you -- (applause) -- and I will be there for the delegates and all of the members that love the DAV.

And at this time I would ask that Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, and the Colorado delegates, please stand. Please stand. (Applause)

I am not going to name a lot of people because I have told

them over and over again how much I appreciate them.

And before I forget it, I want to introduce my lovely wife, Jean. They know her as "Driving Miss Daisy" Jackson. (Applause)

I don't have a note, but I got a fax from my daughter. And she said, "Daddy, as far as I'm concerned, you are always a winner. Go get them, Action Jackson. Love, Pie." (Applause)

Again, thank you very much. I'm here to work, Commander. I'm here to work. Thanks again. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Now our newly elected national chaplain, Reverend Brown. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT CLARENCE BROWN: Good afternoon or good morning. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord my Strength and my Redeemer.

And to Mr. Arthur Wilson and Mr. Dobmeier, our new commander, all past commanders, new commanders, and adjutants, and other officers, members and friends, and to the New Jersey State Department, commanders, adjutants, Charlie Carroll and all other members and supporters -- I ask that the States of Delaware, Connecticut and New Jersey stand. (Applause) God bless you.

I welcome my wife at this time, Annie Brown, who I have been married to for 45 consecutive years. (Applause)

To Reverend Todd, our past national chaplain. (Applause)

Also to these two particular youngsters, Chucky Carroll and also Tony Barile's son. They've been strong supporters, putting up my fans and passing out all that material that's needed. I want to say thank you to them and God bless everybody here this morning, this afternoon.

I asked the DAV, Connecticut and Delaware and New Jersey simply to stand too, because they are my strong supporters as well as everyone else, and they are just like a part of my family, actually. I love the DAV. (Applause)

You know, the DAV, the real value of life, I feel, is spiritual. I feel faith. I feel love. I feel family and charity and hope for our veterans in the United States of America. (Applause)

I ask you to trust me as your national DAV chaplain. I will do my best and never let you down. And you can call on me at any time. I'm 100 percent for the DAV, and our new commander as well.

God bless the DAV and the United States of America. And again, I'm so grateful for you to appoint me. God bless you and may heaven shine upon you. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: We will now continue with the -- oh, I'm sorry. One of my very best friends in the world! Why do we even elect him? He's always here anyway. (Laughter and applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE EDWARD G. GALIAN: This happened to me before. (Applause) And the last time it happened I said, "Am I just an asterisk in this organization or what?" I can't believe it.

Commander Dobmeier, Commander-Elect Albarran, all the other officers in this organization and, in particular, I want to acknowledge everybody sitting at this table to my left. They are really the one who lead this organization. But you never mentioned Sandy Buchanan. We always talk about Adjutant Wilson, Rick Patterson, Dave Gorman. But Sandy Buchanan has done more for me in the last couple of weeks than anybody has ever done for this organization. (Applause)

Thank you very much, Sandy. She runs this organization, I think. Right, Arthur, big help? (Applause)

Folks, I really have heard everything I wanted to hear from all these men. They have said it all as to what this organization is all about. I really should just stand up here and say "Thanks." But whoever heard of a lawyer making a one-word oration? You're not going to hear it today either.

I must thank my Chapter 76, the National Amputation Chapter, for supporting me all the years that I've been a part of the Disabled American Veterans. I must also thank the entire Department of New York. Why don't you all stand up and let these fellows see who you are. These guys are the greatest. They're the greatest. (Applause)

And they are really greater than you think. You know, if it wasn't for the Department of New York, which is incidentally the

membership recruiting factory of the Disabled American Veterans, where do you think California, Florida, and Arizona would be today? (Laughter) If we recalled all our New Yorkers from those three states, I don't think any one of them could develop a quorum and hold a convention. (Applause)

I just want to congratulate Armando this way: Armando, I've been there. It's marvelous. You're going to have a fantastic year. And I know you're a great leader.

And to my great pal here who loves to forget me, Dobmeier, you have done a fantastic job with this organization. And I want to be the first to welcome you to another organization. Well, first of all, you're already a part of -- in about an hour, you will be a member of the Past National Commanders Club. Congratulations.

But there's another organization that's really wonderful. And your title thereafter will be "Mike who?" (Laughter) It's known as the Who Club that all past national commanders become a part of automatically. And it has a lot of advantages. First of all, you can't be expelled. You can't be fired. You don't have to be the first one to a meeting or the last one out. You don't have to make reports.

Of course, there's a disadvantage, too. There's no expense account or per diem either. But I've been there, too. And I've enjoyed every minute of it.

Folks, I thank you all very, very much from the bottom of my heart.

I must say this, though. My wife of 53 years is not here for the first time since about 1975. She and my family are preparing to go on a cruise, and they are back in New York packing. But I spoke to my wife yesterday, and she says please thank all her friends for their friendship over the years, and she hopes to make the next year's convention.

So thank you all again. And I will pledge to be with you and help our entire slate of officers in whatever they want to do, and our staff, our wonderful staff at Washington, D.C. and Cold Spring. Anything I can do, I'm here to help. Thank you very much, folks. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: I must admit that I'm embarrassed, and I apologize, Ed, because there's a gentleman who's dedicated his life to this organization.

And now we will continue with the unfinished business of the convention. Could I have a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee? Mike 2.

MR. MANUEL F. LOZANO: Manny Lozano, department commander, Department of Texas. I make a motion that we dismiss them.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Manny. Mike 2.

MR. ROBERT A. MELCHER: Bob Melcher, NEC alternate, District 7, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Bob. All those in favor of discharging the Credentials Committee, say Aye; opposed. Carried. Now I will ask the national adjutant to read the list of newly-elected members of the National Executive Committee.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. NEC 2nd District Carmen A. Vitale; alternate, Raymond B. Desmond, Sr. NEC 4th District Salvatore LoSauro, New Jersey; alternate William C. Phillips. NEC 6th District, David L. Tannenbaum from Virginia, and the alternate is Jacob N. Stafford from West Virginia.

NEC 8th District, Edward G. Roberson from Pikeville, Tennessee, and the alternate is James E. Collins from Kingsport, Tennessee. NEC 10th District Joseph M. Connelly from Michigan; alternate, Richard A. Staub from Michigan. NEC 12th District Raymond E. Dempsey from Illinois and the alternate, Norman Resner from Illinois.

NEC 14th District, Henry H. Sadler from Minnesota, and the alternate is Wayne W. Blue from Minnesota. NEC 16th District, Larry Polzin from California, and the alternate is Al Tortolano from California. NEC 18th District, Bob Freitas from Honolulu, Hawaii, and the alternate is Lewis Kaoui from Hilo, Hawaii. NEC 20th District Mike Baker from Texas, and the alternate is Kathryn Henson from Texas. (Applause)

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Thank you, Art.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: We'll ask Reverend Todd for a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN TODD: Lord God, for 79 years, we have pressed towards the mark as DAV members, families, and friends. We pray now as we enter into a new year of fellowship, celebration, speaking for those who are unable to speak for themselves, pressing towards a higher calling, and setting great standards for veterans and their families throughout this great nation -- we pray now, Lord, that You would give us the mind and the spirit and the strength to do what needs to be done to ensure the blessings of America are upon the households of veterans who are hurting, VA hospitals where men and women are suffering and in need of medical care.

We pray that You allow us, Lord, to have the voice and the mind and the spirit to communicate the words to Congress, the national administrations of this great nation in convincing them that veterans should be first. For without veterans, Lord, we would not be in a free and democratic society.

Lord God, we thank You for this moment. We thank You for this day. We thank You for the leadership of DAV. Encourage our hearts, Lord, to do what needs to be done in carrying out the great purpose of building better lives. In His Holy Name we pray. Amen and amen. And go in peace.

COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Ladies and gentlemen, please remain standing. The Arizona Honor Guard will now retire the colors.

(Retiring of the Colors)

Ladies and gentlemen, the 79th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 o'clock a.m., August 24, 2000.)

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 78TH NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY HELD AT RENO, NEVADA**

**August 19-24, 2000**

**OPENING BUSINESS SESSION**

**August 21, 2000**

The Opening Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Ballroom of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Monday morning, August 21, 2000, and was called to order at 9:35 o'clock a.m. by National Adjutant Maria M. Tedrow.

ADJUTANT MARIA M. TEDROW: Will the national sergeant-at-arms please present National Commander Paula Raymond to the platform. (Applause)

And now the national sergeant-at-arms will have the national officers escorted to the platform: Senior Vice-Commander Carol Gray of Michigan; 1st Junior Vice-Commander Renee Jones of North Carolina; 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Linda Trulio, New Jersey; 3rd Junior Vice-Commander Jan Bennett from Nevada; 4th Junior Vice-Commander Gertrude Tidwell from Oklahoma; National Judge Advocate Sheila Allred, North Carolina; National Chaplain Bonita Mitchell from Missouri; Immediate Past National Commander Evelyn Dorsey.

And now, will the national sergeant-at-arms present the past national commanders. We first have Past National Commander, Pauline Wright from Colorado; Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy from Missouri; Past National Commander Florence Valgardson from Utah; Past National Commander Sally Wilton from Arizona; Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker from Arkansas; Past National Commander Katherine Pearson from Minnesota; Past National Commander Rose Schilpp from Missouri; Past National Commander Claudia Roy from Vermont; Past National Commander Bonnie Newell from Colorado; Past National Commander Jane Troutman from North Carolina; Past National Commander Barbara Hicks from Ohio; Past National Commander Margaret Hass from North Dakota.

Now will the national sergeant-at-arms please present the state commanders or the delegates who will cast the state department vote. State commander of Nevada, Past National Commander Evelynne Dunn. Would you please bring her up on the stage.

Alabama, Elaine Coll, department commander; Arizona, Yvonne Pitts, department commander; Linda Spurgin, senior vice-commander, Arkansas; Florence Swisher, immediate past commander, California; Kyla Wagner, commander of Colorado; Arline Phillips, Delaware; Juanita Giles, D.C.; Kathryn Egan, commander of Florida; Doris Hoffman, commander of Georgia; Glenna Finley, commander of Idaho; Wilma Tripp, commander of Illinois; Deb Hohman, commander of Indiana; Lei Dean, commander of Iowa; Mildred Bura, commander of Kansas; Geneva Walker, commander of Kentucky; Sadie Davis, commander of Louisiana; Sherri Holmes, commander of Maine; Carol Simmons, commander of Maryland; Ellen Drogo, commander of Massachusetts; Cornealia Jansen, commander of Michigan, senior vice-commander; LeeAnn Karg, commander of Minnesota; Janett Reese, commander of Mississippi; Caroline Wessing, commander of Missouri; Cynthia Murphy, commander of Montana; Arvis Wilson, commander of Nebraska; Jeanne Gideon, commander of New Hampshire; June Becker, immediate past state commander of New Jersey; Ramona Ganong, New Mexico, state commander; Emma Prine, commander New York; Patricia King, commander of North Carolina; Anna Bradsteen, commander of North Dakota; Ellen Keller, commander of Ohio; Phyllis Psikal, commander of Oklahoma; Marcia Read, commander of Oregon; Mildred Nigliazzo of Pennsylvania; Donna Folcarelli from Rhode Island, and she also is the commander; Ruby Nelson, commander from South Carolina; The commander of South Dakota, Shirley Joachim; Mary Roberson of Tennessee, commander; Ruth Gates, commander of Texas; Jean Chapman, commander of Utah; Pamela Cleveland, commander of Vermont; Mary Lee Hall, commander of Virginia; Penny Courts, commander of Washington; Ellen Griggs, senior vice-commander of

West Virginia; Kathy Hicke, commander of Wisconsin; Mildred Long, commander of Wyoming; and Mildred Velazquez, commander of Puerto Rico.

And now, sergeant-at-arms, would you please see that the Colors for the State of Nevada are presented.

(Presentation of Colors)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Post Colors. Sergeant-at-Arms, please present the National Colors. National Sergeant-at-Arms, would you direct that the Colors be posted. National sergeant-at-arms, would you please dismiss the national and host state department Color bearers and also the pages on the stage.

I would like to ask National Chaplain Bonita Mitchell to please come forward.

CHAPLAIN BONITA MITCHELL: Commander Paula. Father, we come before You to help us start this convention and to give our thanks to You for Your help and guidance this past year, not only to our Commander Paula and her officers, but also to all of our hard-working and caring Auxiliary members. Without Your help and love, we could not be this strong Auxiliary as we have come to be.

We ask that You be with those that cannot be with us. Help and guide all of us through this convention. May each of us come away knowing that with Your help we have done our job. Thank You, Father, for being here with us. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: And now would our 3rd National Junior Vice-Commander Jan Bennett come forward for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You may be seated.

Good morning. You know, every year, since I've been national adjutant, it has always been my privilege to introduce the leader of the organization, the one that you selected and elected to lead this organization through this year. And I mean this sincerely when I say that you have always picked capable women.

And with Paula Raymond, that is no exception. She has traveled the country. She has made her opinions well known, not only to the Auxiliary, but also to our parent organization. And she will tell you about her travels later. She is a strong but compassionate and understanding person. And you know, when you look at her, with that smile -- because she's got a smile in a million -- you can't help but know, hey, this is somebody special.

And today, it is my privilege to introduce to you that somebody special, our national commander, Paula Raymond. (Standing ovation)

COMMANDER PAULA K. RAYMOND: Thank you. Boy, that feels good to be called somebody special. I want to welcome you all to the convention and thank you all for coming. I sincerely hope that you enjoy yourself, but that you also find the convention productive.

At this time, I would like to introduce our National Convention chairman, Evelynne Dunn, and she's also past national commander from right here in Nevada. (Applause)

MRS. EVELYNNE DUNN: Good morning everyone. Here I'm up here again. Madam Commander, national officers, past national commanders, members and guests of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary: I welcome you on behalf of the great silver state, Nevada, and the City of Reno, the greatest little city in the world. I might add, it's not so little anymore, but I assure you it's still great.

It is a city nestled in the shadow of the great Sierra Nevada Mountains. The loveliness of the lake and the sky lie within the mountain's crest. Lake Tahoe, with its clear blue water is just two hours away. Boating, water-skiing and swimming are there for your pleasure. But I must warn you that the water at Lake Tahoe is very, very cold, just ten degrees difference between the winter and the summer.

If you're out and about looking for a piece of history, Virginia City with its silver mines and antique silver baron mansions are just south of the city via Geiger Grade.

Reno is a city of singular beauty with the Truckee River flowing through it. In crossing the bridge over the river, they say you can see the glitter of gold from the many rings tossed into the river by the newly divorced. This used to be the city where

people came for divorce.

Beautiful parks line the river for a relaxing stroll in the afternoon. And Harrah's is famous for their automobile collection. It's just a stone's throw from this hotel.

Reno is the home of the University of Nevada, Reno Campus, and famous for their athletic teams.

Again, I say welcome to Reno and encourage you to enjoy the many amenities the city has to offer.

A convention that comes together is the work of many hands, and so I would like to introduce the willing individuals who worked so hard to make this convention a success. Ladies, would you please rise when I call your name, and please hold your applause.

Carol Murray, that's my daughter. And I know she's not here, but she's a hard worker. JoAnn Mullen. I don't think she's here either. But she also is a hard worker, and I expect her later on today. Leslie Chambers, again, she's not going to be at this convention because she's a working mom. Erin Murray, I know you're here somewhere. She's back there. Thank you, Erin Murray, for being here.

The members of Unit 7, are you here? The members of Unit 11, please stand. Members of Unit 34, members of unit 13. If you're here, please rise.

I would like to extend a special note of gratitude to Rosa McDuffy from Unit 11. She worked very, very hard for this convention, and she was not able to be here.

Last but not least, my very dear friend, Helen Parcellle. As a mentor, she served as my mentor for the National Convention chairperson. There she is back there.

There you go. (Applause)

I will tell you that even though we are a large state in area, we are a small state in population. We may be small, but we are mighty.

My congratulations to the 1999 officers for a job well done, and my best wishes go to those who will be elected at this convention.

Thank you, Maria and the national staff for your guidance and help this year.

And may you have a successful and productive convention. Thank you very much. (Applause)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I'm not going to make you do this all over again, but I goofed. I had a page here that was out of place, and I missed it. And it's called the Convention Call. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary state that the supreme powers of this organization shall be vested in the Annual National Convention, composed of the national officers and representatives of the state departments and units.

In accordance with these directives, I, Maria M. Tedrow, National Auxiliary Adjutant, declare the 78th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened at Reno, Nevada. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Ritual of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary as most recently amended. To all present, take due notice, thereof, and govern yourselves accordingly.

Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Now we're official.

We have with us a group of very distinguished individuals. Over the years, they have led this organization, and they have led it very well. Now, they serve as mentors to those of us that run for office and those of you out there. And they do that very well. And I'd like to introduce them again.

Pauline Wright -- these are the past national commanders present today -- Dorothy Van Hoy; Florence Valgardson; Maria Tedrow; Sally Wilton; Lonsita Shoemaker; Katherine Pearson; Rose Marie Schilpp; Shelia Allred; Claudia Roy; Bonnie Newell; Jane Troutman; Barbara Hicks; Margaret Hass; Evelynne Dunn; and Evelyn Dorsey. (Applause)

Thank you, ladies, and I want to thank you all because you've all been a big help to me through the years.

At this time, I'd like to ask Past National Commander Evelynne

Dunn to step forward again to bring greetings.

MRS. DUNN: Good morning, again. At this time, I'd like to bring the greetings from the past national commanders for a lady of sterling quality, a lady of sterling character, and a lady of sterling accomplishments, Ms. Paula Raymond.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you so much. (Applause) It's the paperweight. I've been giving this paperweight out all year, and I kept saying, "Maria, I want a paperweight. Can I buy one?" "No." (Laughter) Thank you so much. (Applause)

And thank you, ladies. Thank you all so much.

At this time, I would like to dismiss the Nominating Committee. I understand that they've been busy already this morning, and they are going to be even busier for the rest of the day. So thank you, all, and work hard.

While they're leaving the room, could we have the Credentials chairman come forward for a preliminary Credentials report. This is Peggy Truttman.

MRS. PEGGY L. TRUTTMAN: Madam National Commander, Madam National Adjutant Maria, and all the national officers and the past commanders and members: The Credentials report is as follows: Total units registered, 292; total departments registered 44. Total 336. Delegates registered, 615; alternates registered, 34; guests, 72, making a total of 721. Total unit votes, 1,911; total department votes, 44. National officers, 8; PNCs, 15. And the grand total of votes is 1,978. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much.

Do I hear a motion at this time that the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee be accepted as read?

MRS. JACQUE ELHAGE: Jacque Elhage, District 8, Louisiana, Unit 21.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Is there a second?

MRS. LINDA BARBEE: Linda Barbee, Unit 27, North Carolina, and I second.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

Ladies, we need to go to the mike and state your name very clearly. The stenographer cannot catch it if you don't go to the mike and state your name very clearly. I promised her I would ask you to do that.

Our first order of business is the adoption of the National Convention Rules. Printed copies of the Convention Rules have been furnished to all registered delegates. The Chair will now entertain a motion for adoption of these Rules.

Thank you. Sally Wilton, past national commander, moves that we accept these rules. Is there a second?

MRS. MARIANNE PIEKIELNIAK: Marianne Piekielelniak, Unit 2, Department of Virginia, I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

At this time, I would like to ask Carol Gray, our senior vice-commander to take my chair.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Carol A. Gray assumed the chair.)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER CAROL A. GRAY: Good morning. Every year at this time it's the privilege of the national senior vice-commander to introduce for her personal report the lady who has led us through this entire year. And at this time, before she grasps that brass ring from her carousel, I introduce to you for her personal report, National Commander Paula Raymond. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Disneyland is advertised as a place where dreams come true, and they certainly did for me. It was an honor to be elected national commander, and I have had a wonderful year.

My year began almost immediately after the National Convention when I left for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend the sharing and caring river boat cruise for disabled veterans on the Ohio Monongahela River, with the participants coming from the various VA medical centers and veterans home. There was food, games, dancing, entertainment, and everyone left with a smile.

Next, it was off to the Galt House for the Auxiliary's national fall conference. Once again, the programs presented by



the national officers and chairman were exceptional, unique, and educational. Not only did we learn about our Auxiliary and its programs, but we went away inspired to reach new heights within our units and departments, and everyone had a wonderful time.

October found me in Massachusetts for a commander's visit, and what a great time we had. I could spend days at the Yankee Candle Company.

In November, I was privileged to participate in the annual Veterans' Day activities in Birmingham, Alabama.

And, you know, when you live in the Midwest, Florida in January is heavenly. And it was a pleasure to attend their Auxiliary conference in Orlando in January.

In early February, I was asked, along with National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, to attend the DAV's strategic planning meeting in Cincinnati.

Later that month, it was off to Washington D.C. for the DAV Midwinter Conference. While there, I brought greetings from the Auxiliary, attended several of the seminars, and visited with Illinois legislators. It was an honor to be seated at the table with Commander Mike Dobmeier when he gave testimony before the Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.

My testimonial dinner was in March, and the members of my unit, Alton 3, really made it special, one I will never forget. Many thanks to all of those who came and sent cards.

Later in March, I had the opportunity to attend the DAV Winter Sports Clinic in Gunnison, Colorado. What a wonderful sight to see the look on the participants' faces when they make that first trip down the mountain. The whole town of Gunnison comes out and participates in the parade, and they do love those veterans.

The dedicated Auxiliary members are there on the go constantly, always looking for something that needs to be done, someone that needs help.

In April, I went to beautiful Salt Lake City for a commander's visit. Salt Lake is preparing for the Olympics, and there's a lot of activity going on throughout the city. The VA Hospital was beautiful there, and I enjoyed visiting it. And it is also preparing for the Olympics.

I also had the opportunity to go and hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and they really are a wonderful group.

Continuing on, in April, I attended the testimonial dinner for National Commander Mike Dobmeier in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

And the end of April, found me in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, for the Auxiliary National Finance Committee meeting. The preparation of our annual budget takes a lot of time, and the members of this committee worked very hard.

In May, I attended the state conventions in North Dakota and South Dakota. In addition, I was asked to participate in the annual Memorial Day parade in my own hometown of Alton, Illinois. This was especially nice since Alton has one of the oldest consecutive Memorial Day parades in the country dating back to the Civil War.

May also found me back again in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, for the Educational Loan Committee. And it's really great to see the participation in this program growing each year.

In June, I attended the state conventions in Texas, Washington, Indiana, Puerto Rico, and New York. Several of these conventions had juniors in attendance, and it was a real pleasure to see them so willing and eager to be a part of the Auxiliary.

June also found me in Detroit, Michigan, at Ford world headquarters for the DAV drive-away 2000, and what a sight to see all those new vans driving around the test track before heading out across the nation.

In July, I was invited to Freedoms Foundation to participate in the judging of essays and scrapbooks. This was my first trip to Freedom Foundation, and I found it not only interesting, but the campus is beautiful. President George Washington paid us a call while we were there, and he is a most interesting man.

In addition to the official duties of the office, I have also had some very unique experiences. I've danced the hula, toured a parking garage, thrown snowballs, climbed a simulated mountain, and

pushed a race car. As a result of weather problems, I have spent a good deal of time in airports, visited places not on my agenda, and arrived without my luggage. But no matter what, the Auxiliary members were always there ready to assist me.

To the national officers, the National Executive Committeewomen, and chairmen, my sincere thanks and appreciation for your support. It has been an honor to work with you this year. Your strength, focus, and dedication are exceptional.

To National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, mere words cannot express how I feel. Your friendship and wise counsel were of great help, and I truly appreciate all the little details that you took care of to make my year so special. Thank you so much.

To the staff at National Headquarters, my thanks for all that you have done. You truly are a great staff.

There are many, many individuals that I have to thank for giving me the opportunity to have this wonderful year. While some are not here with us, I want you to know who they are. Mr. Gary Liepscher, president of VNA Health Care, and my boss, along with the staff in my office, who have willingly done not only their job, but my job during my absences. And I know that it was not always convenient.

To the members of my unit, Alton 3, the State Department of Illinois and the members of the 12th District, many, many thanks.

To my family, who, when I asked them to build me a carousel in three weeks, did so without reservation. To my children, Darren, who cannot be with us, and my daughter Karen, they've always been there, every year it was, "Go for it, Mom." And then they were there to back me up. Karen, I thank you for being my laundress, my housekeeper, my chauffeur, all these years.

And last but not least, to my mother, Nellie Smithee, for always being there to listen to me. Whether it was good or bad, she had to hear it all. She offered her opinions, gave her advice. I did not always take it. She's not only my mother; she's my best friend. And I could not have done this without her. And I'd like to ask her to stand up. (Applause)

And I want to thank each and every one of you because a national commander's year is only as good as her membership, and we have the best. Thank you all so much. (Standing ovation)

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you, Paula. Beautiful report, beautiful lady. We've had great leadership this year. We've enjoyed our ride on her carousel.

And Nellie Smithee, if you're listening to me, at this time the Chair will entertain a motion to accept this report.

MRS. NELLIE SMITHEE: Nellie Smithee, Alton Number 3, Illinois. I move the adoption of our national commander's report.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you. Do I hear a second?

MRS. KATHLEEN S. TEDESCO: Kathy Tedesco, Roll of Honor Number 120, New York, seconds.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER GRAY: Are there any questions? All in favor; any opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. (Applause) (Whereupon, Commander Raymond resumed the chair.)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you so much, Carol.

At this time, we will now have the Membership Awards. Monetary awards are given in each category of each program for the first-place winner. Checks will be mailed out from National Headquarters after the convention. To present the Membership Awards is our first junior vice-commander, Renee Jones.

1ST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER R. RENEE JONES: Thank you, Commander. And as she said, the check's in the mail. National Commander Raymond, national officers, past national commanders, NECs, members and guests to the 2000 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary in Reno, Nevada: Thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Membership chairman.

Unfortunately, we did not reach our national quota; however, it was not because we didn't try. If you signed at least one Auxiliary member during this year, would you please stand. (Applause) Thank you so much for your efforts.

We had a total of 1183 members recruited by 1232 membership recruiters and a total of 1391 comp. memberships given and 981

popsicle orange applications sent to National Headquarters. Congratulations to the monthly winners who received \$100 each for their membership efforts.

We did have several state departments who did reach quota and many units, and that is why we are wearing orange today. Congratulations to the State Departments of Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and Wyoming. And a special congratulations to Wyoming for being the first department to reach quota. (Applause)

Congratulations also to the National 1st District.

We had 385 units to reach quota, and this is something to brag about, but our membership numbers are continuing to decrease, so we need to get to work and fast.

And without further delay, and what you're all waiting for, the National Membership Awards: Group 1, 10 to 50 members. The highest number of members increase is a tie. I think this is Hazard Unit 64, Kentucky. Yea! Come on down. (Applause) And Lewis G. Watkins, Unit 41, South Carolina. Both of these units had 14 members increase. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members. Highest number of members increase, Northampton Unit 92, Massachusetts. 28 members increase. (Applause) Come on down!

While she's coming, I will continue with Group 3, 101 to 200 members. Highest number of members increase, Springfield Unit 68, Massachusetts, 29 members. (Applause)

Group 4, 201 or more members. With the highest number of members increase, Cape Cod, Unit 96, Massachusetts, 39 members. (Applause)

In addition to the certificate, the check that will be in the mail will be for \$50 to the unit. (Applause)

Group 5, the new unit with the most new members, Oil Capital Unit 21, Texas. Texas, come on down! Thirty-four members. (Applause)

Group 6, the department with the largest percentage increase, the Department of Wyoming with eight percent. (Applause)

Group 7, the department with the largest numerical increase, the Department of Massachusetts, 75 members. (Applause)

The Membership Recruiter of the Year, first place -- and this is a very special moment I like to share. In 1990 I won this award. The winner this year is Charlene Listenbee, Texas Unit 21. (Applause)

MEMBER: Yesterday, she was on the committee for Mae Holmes whenever the phone call came through that her brother, who was a life member of the DAV Bonham 129 had passed away at the Dallas VA, and she had to fly home. So I would like everyone to keep her in your prayers.

1ST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JONES: We will do that. Thank you very much. And the commander from Texas is going to take this award back to her.

The second place, Jan Walters, Indiana Unit 19. Is she here? (Applause)

Let me just tell you that Charlene recruited 30 new members and Jan 27 new members. (Applause)

MRS. JAN WALTERS: I'd just like to say that I'm very proud to receive this award, and I try very hard every year to build our membership up for the Auxiliary. (Applause)

1ST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JONES: I would like to say thank you to Maria and national staff for their assistance with membership. We know they are doing all the processing every month. And you girls have been a wonderful help to me and the Auxiliary.

On a personal note, I would like to say should we have anyone in the room today who is not a member of this great organization, this is my personal invitation to you to join. Don't delay, sign up today.

Thank you, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Renee. And like Renee said, while we did not meet our quota, I'm still proud of the job we did. I think we did fantastic, and we'll just do better next year.

At this time, I would like to ask our Finance Committee chairman, Jeanne LePorte to come forward and give the Finance

Committee report and the budget.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Prior to the budget being read, Madam Commander, we have a guest here, Jack Archilds of Henderson, Nevada, Southwest Region director, Freedoms Foundation, who would like to come to your station. (Applause)

MR. JACK ARCHILDS: Thank you. It's not often I get to address a group of so many fine-looking young ladies and older ladies. And it's a real pleasure to be here with you today, and I look forward to visiting more with you and your fellow members in the DAV.

I represent the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Pennsylvania. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains is an organization and an institution that has existed in our country since World War II.

No tradition in American society is more precious to or characteristic of our culture than that of voluntarily reaching out to neighbors in need. Such selfless service is part of both our civic and our religious heritage.

The Chapel of the Four Chaplains, a national nonprofit organization, is founded upon one shining manifestation of our heritage, that of the four Army chaplains who, after giving their life jackets to soldiers who had none, linked arms with one another and went down with the U.S. Army Transport DORCHESTER after it was torpedoed on February 3rd, 1943.

This historical event began at Torpedo Junction, the U-boat infested icy water of the North Atlantic during World War II. On January 23rd, 1943, the U.S. Army Transport DORCHESTER, an old coastal steamer quickly pressed into military service, left New York Harbor bound for Greenland. The DORCHESTER was escorted by three Coast Guard cutters. Two patrolled the flanks, the third, the TAMPA, was 3,000 yards in front of the convoy.

Most of the men were seasick and green with nausea. The weather was bitterly cold with gale force winds. Ice began building on the decks, slowing the DORCHESTER to ten knots.

Moving among them were four Army chaplains, George Fox, Alexander Goode, Clark Poling, and John Washington. The chaplains talked with and listened to the men, soothing apprehensions, offering encouragement, sharing jokes. By their concern and their camaraderie with the men and one another, they brought solace.

On February 2nd, 1943, the TAMPA's sonar detected the presence of a submarine. She dropped back and swept the periphery of the convoy, but failed to find the sub's position. That evening, the TAMPA returned to the patrol area up front and the other ships followed.

The captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing with life jackets close at hand. They were only 150 miles from Greenland. With daylight, there would be air cover from the American air base there.

It was just after midnight on February 3rd, 1943. An enemy submarine fired a torpedo toward the DORCHESTER's flank. The missile exploded in the boiler room, destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas. Many on board died instantly. Some were trapped below deck. Others, jolted from their bunks, groped and stumbled their way to the decks of the stricken vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard.

Overcrowded lifeboats capsized; rafts drifted away before anyone could reach them. Men clung to the rails, frozen with fear, unable to let go and plunge into the dark, churning water far below.

The testimony of survivors tells us that the sole order and the only fragment of hope in this chaos came from the four chaplains, who calmly guided men to their boat stations. They opened the storage locker and distributed life jackets. Then they coaxed the men, frozen with fear, over the side. Soon, the supply of life jackets was exhausted, and several survivors reported watching in awe as the four chaplains either gave away or forced upon young men their own life jackets.

These four men of God had given away their only means of saving themselves in order to save others. The chaplains gathered together and led the men around them in a prayer and a hymn. They

linked their arms together as the slant of the deck became severe. And just that way with their arms linked in brotherhood and their heads bowed in prayer, they sank beneath the waves.

It was a heroic act. It was not the only heroic act aboard the DORCHESTER, but it was especially significant because of the identity of these four young men: two Protestants, one Catholic, and one Jew.

Today, as it has these many years, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains serves the memory of these brave men and carries their message of inter-faith cooperation and selfless service to every part of our country.

To recognize and encourage acts of volunteerism, brotherhood, and sacrifice among Americans of every age and every station of life, the Chapel established the Legion of Honor Program. The Bronze Medallion is an award given by the chapel in recognition of exceptional selfless service on the part of an individual who contributes to the well-being of others at the national or world level and to a spirit of inter-faith cooperation.

Today, we have a past recipient in our presence, but we're going to have a new recipient in our presence in a moment.

Paula Raymond was elected the national commander of the quarter-million-member Disabled Veterans Auxiliary at the organization's 1999 National Convention in Orlando, Florida. You heard that she is from Alton, Illinois. And at a very young age -- and I'm sure most of you know her history -- she came in and became a senior member in the junior member Auxiliary.

Following that, she moved on through various offices at the state level and has moved, as she has recited to you today, through national officer positions, rising to your commander of this fine organization. She's also related that she's a native of St. Louis, and I think her mother -- saw her mother here, very proud of her. And I know she thinks as highly of her mother as the mother thinks of her daughter.

It's a great pleasure for me to present to Paula the Bronze Medallion from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. (Applause)

I'm sure she'll share this with you later in the meeting, but it is, indeed, an honor and a privilege to present you with the medallion. (Applause)

And I know Paula probably says, "I've got so many plaques," but we also have a plaque for Paula recognizing her today from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. So, Paula, another memento for your year and successful year as commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you so much.

MR. ARCHILDS: It's been a pleasure. I appreciate the opportunity.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you.

At this time, I would like to ask the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to come forward for the first reading of the Constitution and Bylaws.

I'm sorry. Let's get Jeanne LePorte up here first, since she had started, for the Finance and budget.

NEC 2ND DISTRICT JEANNE LePORTE: Good morning. National Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, alternates, and guests: I would like to start by asking for the NECs who served on the Finance Committee to please kind of step forward from the back and wave at us.

We have Carolyn Johnson from District 8; Sunny Barzelogna from District 7, and Ruth Koon from District 9. And I would like to personally thank these three ladies for all the excellent work that they did. (Applause)

The National Finance Committee met April 29th, 2000, at the Holiday Inn in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, for the purpose of writing a budget for the National DAVA for the fiscal year January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

Present at the meeting were members: National Commander Paula Raymond; Chairman Jeanne LePorte, District 2; NEC Carolyn Johnson, District 8; NEC Sunny Barzelogna, District 7; and NEC Ruth Koon, District 9. Also present without a vote were National Senior Vice-Commander Carol Gray, National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, and National

Assistant Adjutant Judy Hezlep.

The committee was presented with two previous budgets, actual expenses for one of those years and a blank slate for the year 2001. After much work, lots of discussion and opinions from all of the committee, a budget for the year 2001 was completed. We believe it is a good budget.

Madam Commander, Paula, I, Jeanne LePorte, delegate, Unit 30, Syracuse, New York, move the adoption of this budget.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. It has been moved that we adopt the budget as presented. Is there a second?

MRS. TEDESCO: Kathy Tedesco, Roll of Honor 120, Buffalo, New York, would like to second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Kathy. It has been moved and seconded that we accept the budget as presented. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried. Okay.

Now we're going to do Constitution and Bylaws. Ladies, I would like to present to you, the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker. (Applause)

MRS. LONEITA SHOEMAKER: Thank you, and good morning. National Commander Paula, national officers, past national commanders, members and guests of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary: Now, you've got to be patient with me because this is the first time I've done this. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee met in the Nevada Room Number 4 on August the 20th, 2000, at 10:00 o'clock and considered the proposed Bylaws for the year 2000 that will be read now.

Before I read the Bylaws, I would like to introduce the committee and ask you to stand. The first would be our advisor to the committee, National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred; and District Number 1, Ellen Drogo; District Number 2, Betty Nelson; District Number 3, Ann Young; District Number 4, Sophia Mate; District Number 5, Rhea Lynn; District Number 6, Mary Lee Hall; District Number 7, Kay Egan; District Number 8, Susan Henry; District Number 9, Ruby Nelson; District Number 10, Cornealia Jansen; District Number 11, Dorothy Jane Clark; District Number 12, Kathy Hicke; District Number 13, Debra Hohman; District Number 14, Miriam Kiser; District Number 15, Dorothy Van Hoy; District Number 16, June Adema; District Number 17, Mildred Long; District Number 18, Yvonne Pitts; District Number 19, Annie Rose Cameron; District Number 20, Patrice Rapisand; and District Number 21, Loneita Shoemaker.

And I thank all of ladies for your work. (Applause)

Okay. You have the proposed Bylaw amendments for the year of 2000 in front of you. We will read them at this time. Article Number I, National Convention, Page N-4, Section 1. Add a new Paragraph 2 which would read:

The National Executive Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall have the authority to approve minutes of all National Conventions of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

The rationale: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised states in part that in sessions lasting longer than one day, such as conventions, the minutes of meetings held the preceding day are read and are approved by the convention at the beginning of the next day's business. Or, the convention may authorize the Executive Committee to approve the minutes at a later date.

Article Number III, Duties of the National Officers, Page N-13, Section 1, National Commander, Paragraph 4, delete entire Paragraph 4.

The rationale: To remove the title "director" and to provide for a "chairman" with duties in Section 8.

Article III, Duties of the National Officers, Page N-16, Section 8, National Education Loan Fund. Add new Paragraphs 2 and 3, which would read:

The National Education Loan Fund Committee shall be a revolving committee composed of the national senior vice-commander, the national commander, the immediate past national commander and a chairman. The immediate past national commander after serving three years on the committee shall serve an additional year as the chairman of the Education Loan

Fund Committee.

The Education Loan Fund chairman shall direct the activities of the Loan Fund Committee and submit the committee's report to the National Convention.

The rationale: After completing three years as a member of the Education Loan Fund Committee, the immediate past national commander would provide experience and continuity while serving the one year as a chairman.

Article VII, Membership, page N-24, Section 5, Membership Classification, B, Life Membership, Paragraph 6. Amend by deleting on Line 4, the words, "(effective July 1st, 1994)," also amend by deleting on Line 5, "\$6" and "(effective July 1st, 1994)" and inserting "\$7" and "(effective July 1, 2001)".

Article VII, Membership, Page N-24, Section 5, Membership Classification, B, Life Membership, Paragraph 6 would then read:

The following annual distribution shall be made from the Life Membership Fund during the lifetime of a member: \$1 to the unit; \$1 to the state department; and \$7 to National Headquarters (effective July 1, 2001).

Rationale: The change in this paragraph would then provide corrected per capita information found in Article VIII, Finances, Section 2, Per Capita Tax.

Article VIII, Finances, Page N-27, Section 2, Per Capita Tax. Delete the entire Section 2 and substitute the following:

The national per capita tax for annual senior members is \$7 (effective July 1, 2001).

The national per capita tax for life members is \$7, (effective July 1, 2001).

The national per capita for junior members is \$2, (effective July 1, 2001).

Rationale: National per capita on annual and life senior members has not increased since 1994, neither has there been an increase in junior members.

Article I, State Organization, Page S-1, Section 3, Delegates, Paragraph 1. Amend by deleting "current membership dues have" and inserting "membership is in a chartered unit and their dues for the current membership year has."

Article I, State Organization, Page S-1, Section 3, Delegates, Paragraph 1 would then read:

Each elected state officer, each past state commander, and each active resident past national commander shall be entitled to one vote provided their membership is in a chartered unit and their dues for the current membership year has been received by National Headquarters.

The rationale: The change in Paragraph 1 would provide a clarification that all delegates must belong to a chartered unit.

Article II, State Convention, Section 1, Governing Power, Page S-1. Add a new Paragraph 3 which would read:

The Executive Committee of a state department, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall have the authority to approve all minutes of their respective state department conventions.

Rationale: As provided in the rationale for Article I, National Convention, a convention may authorize the Executive Committee to approve convention minutes at a later time.

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 2, State Finance Committee, Paragraph 1, first sentence, Line 3. Amend by deleting "elected from various units in the state" and inserting, "to be elected by the post-convention state Executive Committee. No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee."

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 2, State Finance Committee, Paragraph 1, first sentence would then read:

The State Finance Committee shall consist of at least three and no more than seven members to be elected by the post-convention state Executive Committee. No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee.

The rationale: At a post-convention SEC meeting, business for a state department's new fiscal year would begin, which would

include appointing and electing committees.

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 3, State Nominating Committee, Paragraph 1, first sentence. Amend first sentence, Line 2, by deleting, "elected from various units in the state," and inserting "elected by the pre-convention state Executive Committee or during the first business session of the state convention."

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 3, Paragraph 1, first sentence would then read:

The Committee on Nomination of State Officers shall consist of members elected by the pre-convention state Executive Committee or during the first business session of the state convention.

Rationale: This would clarify when all state Auxiliary departments would elect the committee on the nomination of state officers.

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-11, Section 1, State Executive Committee. Add new Section 5, which would read:

Section 5. State Standing Rules Committee. The State Standing Rules Committee shall consist of at least three members elected or appointed. No two members from the same unit shall serve on this committee. The number of members on the committee and the procedures shall be provided in the State Standing Rules and the Supplement to State Bylaws. Any vacancy shall be filled by an appointment made by the state commander and approved by the state Executive Committee. The committee shall consider all properly prepared resolutions, amendments, revisions, and present their recommendation(s) to the convention delegates.

Rationale: This addition would provide information as to the method of selecting a State Standing Rules Committee and their duties.

If adopted, old Section 5 will become Section 6 and old Section 6 will become Section 7.

Article XV, Unit Finance and Dues, Page U-11, Section 1, Membership Dues, Paragraph 2, last sentence. Amend by deleting the entire sentence and substituting, "Time of distribution to the state department and to the unit shall be made according to the policies set forth by National Headquarters."

Article XV, Unit Finances and Dues, Page U-11, Section 1, Membership Dues, Paragraph 2 would then read:

The total amount of dues paid by each senior member shall be sent directly to National Headquarters. Time of distribution to the state department and to the unit shall be made according to the policies set forth by National Headquarters.

The rationale: This would allow National Auxiliary Headquarters to determine when distributions would be paid, since the Auxiliary must depend on the programs made available to them through the DAV Membership Department.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: At this time, Maria has some announcements.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: For those that are attending the Nor'Easter, it will be at 11:30 in Nevada 6 and 7. The Nevada rooms are downstairs.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: At this time, we're going to recess. We will reconvene this afternoon at 1:00 o'clock sharp. And you will caucus after the door prizes.

The meeting recessed at 11:10 o'clock a.m., August 21, 2000.)

#### SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

August 21, 2000

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Ballroom of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Monday afternoon, August 21, 2000, and was called to order at 1:25 o'clock p.m. by Commander Paula K. Raymond.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay. We are ready to start. We have a most exciting afternoon planned. The first thing we are going to



do is Constitution and Bylaws. I am once again going to ask that you please, please, please be courteous to the people sitting in front of you. If you're sitting behind them and you're constantly chattering, they cannot hear. And we don't want to miss anything.

So at this time, I'm going to ask the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Past National Commander Lonsita Shoemaker to come forward. And we're going to begin. Because we have to release the Nominating Committee again.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Are you ready?

Article I, National Convention, Page N-4, Section 1. Add a new Paragraph 2 which would read:

The National Executive Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall have the authority to approve minutes of all National Conventions of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. SUSAN MARIE HENRY: Susan Henry, Tennessee 116. I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Susan. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article III, Duties of National Officers, Page N-13, Section 1, National Commander, Paragraph 4, delete entire Paragraph 4.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. KAY EGAN: Kay Egan, District 7, commander, State Department of Florida. I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Kay. Is there discussion? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article III, Duties of National Officers, Page N-16, Section 8, National Education Loan Fund. Add new Paragraphs 2 and 3, which would read:

The National Education Loan Fund Committee shall be a revolving committee composed of the national senior vice-commander, the national commander, the immediate past national commander and a chairman. The immediate past national commander after serving three years on the committee shall serve an additional year as the chairman of the Education Loan Fund Committee.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You have heard the motion to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. SOPHIA MATE: Sophia Mate from New Jersey 41, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. Is there discussion? Hearing none, all in favor; opposed. So be it.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: On the same page at the bottom:

The Education Loan Fund chairman shall direct the activities of the Loan Fund Committee and submit the committee's report to the National Convention.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this paragraph.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It has been moved that we adopt this paragraph. Is there a second?

MRS. JANE WILLETT: Jane Willett, Greater Buffalo Number 1 seconds.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. Is there discussion? All in favor; opposed. Carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article VII, Membership, Page N-24, Section 5, Membership Classification, B, Life Membership, Paragraph 6. Amend by deleting on Line 4, the words, "(effective July 1, 1994)," also amend by deleting on Line 5, "\$6" and "(effective July 1, 1994)" and inserting "\$7" and "(effective July 1, 2001)".

Article VII, Membership, Page N-24, Section 5, Membership Classification, B, Life Membership, Paragraph 6 would then read:

The following annual distribution shall be made from the Life Membership Fund during the lifetime of a member: \$1 to

the unit; \$1 to the state department; and \$7 to National Headquarters (effective July 1, 2001).

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. MARY LEE HALL: Madam Commander, Mary Lee Hall, District 6, state commander. I second it.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Mary Lee. Is there discussion? All in favor; opposed. Carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article VIII, Finances, Page N-27, Section 2, Per Capita Tax. Delete the entire Section 2 and substitute the following:

The national per capita tax for annual senior members is \$7 (effective July 1, 2001).

The national per capita tax for life members is \$7, (effective July 1, 2001).

The national per capita for junior members is \$2, (effective July 1, 2001).

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: A motion has been made to adopt the amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. PIEKIELNIAK: Marianne Piekieniak, Unit 2, Department of Virginia. I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Marianne. Is there discussion?

MRS. FRANCES J. COSTA: Point of discussion, Fran Costa, Unit 56, Massachusetts. On the junior per capita, I don't know if this is going to affect our membership because there are many units who pick up the membership for their juniors and pay their per capita of a dollar each.

And if you have 2- to 300 juniors and the units are paying for their juniors, that's going to double their amount. And I'm afraid that this is going to hurt our membership, because with the floundering units that we have across the nation, really, how many are going to be able to afford to continue to keep their juniors? Just a point of discussion.

MRS. EVA MAY PEKAKIS: Madam Commander, Eva May Parakis from Oakland Unit Number 7, Oakland, California. Our unit has a discussion on that as well. It seems to me that most of our members and possibly yours, too, in the Auxiliaries are life members. If National needs more money, why couldn't they just put the per capita, the \$7, on life members?

Because many units are floundering because we don't have -- I mean, elderly people living on budgets, we would like to keep that \$6 for our annuals and \$2 for our juniors. We feel that we need to have part of this. It's okay for you to get -- to fix your budget, but think of our units as well.

And I think we need to keep our members with what we have in our annuals and our juniors, so that our Auxiliaries can operate as well, and I think we should compromise on this. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Is there any further discussion? Okay, then, we're going to the vote. All in favor; opposed. We're going to have to do it again. Show of hands. Show your hands for Aye. It's still going to be tough, isn't it? All right. Nay. Okay. All right. Not carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Now, get out your pens because there are two errors on the next amendment. Instead of Article I, it is Article II.

MRS. MIRIAM DALEY: Madam Commander, Miriam Daley, Unit 27 in Massachusetts. Can that last one be brought to the floor individually, with the senior members being raised a dollar and the junior members kept at a dollar? Or does it have to go all the way back? Can we make an amendment to it?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It would have to be resubmitted. It would have to be resubmitted, Miriam.

MRS. DALEY: It would be. Okay. I just wanted to make an amendment if I could.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Okay. It reads at this time Article I but it is Article II. And the last word on that sentence in the first paragraph is not "has" but "have." I will read it as it should be.

Article II, State Organization, Page S-1, Section 3,

Delegates, Paragraph 1. Amend by deleting "current membership dues have" and inserting "membership is in a chartered unit and their dues for the current membership year have." Article II, State Organization, Page S-1, Section 3, Delegates, Paragraph 1 would then read:

Each elected state officer, each past state commander, and each active resident past national commander shall be entitled to one vote, provided their membership is in a chartered unit and their dues for the current membership year have been received by National Headquarters.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You have heard the motion to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. ANN YOUNG: Ann Young, Gate City 7, Nashua, New Hampshire. I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Ann. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Next is Article II, State Convention, Section 1, Governing Power, Page S-1. Add a new Paragraph 3 which would read:

The Executive Committee of a state department, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall have the authority to approve all minutes of their respective state department conventions.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. ELLEN DROGO: Madam Commander, Ellen Drogo, District 1, commander of the State of Massachusetts, seconds.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Ellen. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 2, State Finance Committee, Paragraph 1, first sentence, Line 3. Amend by deleting "elected from various units in the state" and inserting, "to be elected by the post-convention state Executive Committee. No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee."

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 2, State Finance Committee, Paragraph 1, first sentence would then read:

The State Finance Committee shall consist of at least three and no more than seven members to be elected by the post-convention state Executive Committee. No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. DORIS MARTELLI: Doris Martelli, state commander of New Jersey, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Doris. Is there any discussion?

MRS. SUSAN HENRY: Susan Henry, Tennessee, Unit 116. I would like to amend this motion to insert the phrase after "state Executive Committee" to include "or at the last business session of the state convention." This would allow smaller states to have a larger pool or population pool to select their Finance Committee from, as well as allow the state convention to elect their Finance Committee rather than just the SECs.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Susan, you're going to have to repeat that amendment.

MRS. HENRY: I would like to make a motion to amend this amendment to insert the phrase immediately following "state Executive Committee", insert the phrase "or at the last business session of the state convention." It would then read -- well, let me flip it over here. The whole thing would then read:

The state Finance Committee shall consist of at least three and no more than seven members to be elected at the post-convention state Executive Committee or at the last business session of the state convention. No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay. Thank you. Is there a second to the amendment?

MRS. KATHY HICKE: Kathy Hicke, department commander, Wisconsin. I second that.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Is there any discussion on the amendment?

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Susan, did I understand you right to say that the Finance Committee would have to be elected from the state Executive Committee?

MRS. HENRY: No, ma'am. You understood me.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: All right. I wanted to make that clear.

MRS. HENRY: Do I need to do some clarification here? No. My amendment says that it can be elected either at the post-convention SEC meeting or in the final business session of the convention, not that the SECs -- well, your state has the option, and you can provide for that in your Standing Rules. I'm just making the allowance so that it can be done at the state convention by the convention rather than just the SECs.

MEMBER: Madam Chairman, wasn't it to be that we can do the state Executive Committee votes post- or at the first business meeting of the state convention, not at the last?

MRS. HENRY: The first was the Nominating Committee, which is the next one. This is the Finance Committee which would be at the final.

MEMBER: Well, I think we had that discussion at our committee.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Yes, the Finance Committee's duties begin after the convention.

MEMBER: Right.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: So why would you want to elect a Finance Committee at the beginning of a convention?

MEMBER: Well, this is the way they voted on at the thing. Doesn't matter.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay.

MEMBER: Okay.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All right. We have some further discussion. Yes, Merallyn.

MRS. MERALLYN McDONALD: Merallyn McDonald, Florida, 57. It seems that the amendment defeats the whole purpose of the original amendment in that it says the business for the state department's new fiscal year would begin at that post-Executive Committee meeting. That was the whole purpose of it. I'm opposed.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Is there any further discussion? All right. We're going to vote on the amendment.

MRS. FLORENCE MERRIFIELD: Madam Commander, Florence Merrifield, Unit Number 6, Kentucky. If we elect these -- this person to be on the Finance Committee instead of before the convention, then at our convention, we installed our Finance Committee members. If we do this after the convention, will we install our members just at our meeting?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You do not install Finance Committee members. They are not state officers.

MRS. MERRIFIELD: But they are elected so we always have installed. I want to make sure they were.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: But they are elected to a committee. You do not install committee members or chairmen.

All right. We're calling for the question. All in favor -- excuse me. I can't hear when everybody talks. What did you say.

MEMBER (Away from the microphone): Would you please have the chairman restate the amendment as amended.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay. We are voting on the amendment, remember.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Amendment will read:

The state Finance Committee shall consist of at least three and no more than seven members to be elected by the post-convention state Executive Committee or at the last business session of the state convention. No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All right. All in favor; opposed. Amendment carried.

All right. Now we are going to vote on the original motion as

amended.

MRS. KATHRYN A. WILEY: Madam Commander, could we have more discussion on the original motion?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It's too late, Kathy.

MRS. WILEY: Okay.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All right, Kathy, go ahead. I'm sorry, it was stopped by an amendment. I apologize.

MRS. WILEY: Not the whole thing as amended. I just wanted some clarification. It states that three -- let's back up.

Madam Commander, Kathryn Wiley, Unit 46, Washington State. Now, I would like clarified -- it says that "at least three and no more than seven members to be elected by the post-convention state Executive Committee or the last business session of the convention."

Does that mean that every year we must elect all of them over again or are we allowed to keep the rotations as we have them set within our states?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You can keep rotation. If it's in your Standing Rules, you can keep the rotation. And I think it's in yours. Kathy, wouldn't you have a new one every year, at least one new member every year? Okay.

MEMBER: Madam Commander, does that include consecutive years, like if one person goes off they come right back on?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: If they're elected.

MEMBER: Okay, thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All right, are we ready? Now we are voting on the amendment as amended. I'm sorry, on the motion as amended. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 3, State Nominating Committee, Paragraph 1, first sentence. Amend first sentence, Line 2, by deleting, "elected from various units in the state," and inserting "elected by the pre-convention state Executive Committee or during the first business session of the state convention."

Article VI, State Committees, Page S-10, Section 3, Paragraph 1, first sentence would then read:

The Committee on Nomination of State Officers shall consist of members elected by the pre-convention state Executive Committee or during the first business session of the state convention.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment.

MRS. HENRY: Susan Henry, Tennessee Unit 115. I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? In that case, all in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Article VI, State Committees, Page S-11, Section 1, State Executive Committee. Add new Section 5, which would read:

Section 5. State Standing Rules Committee. The State Standing Rules Committee shall consist of at least three members elected or appointed. No two members from the same unit shall serve on this committee. The number of members on the committee and the procedures shall be provided in the State Standing Rules and the Supplement to State Bylaws. Any vacancy shall be filled by an appointment made by the state commander and approved by the state Executive Committee. The committee shall consider all properly prepared resolutions, amendments, revisions, and present their recommendation(s) to the convention delegates.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. EGAN: Kay Egan, State Department of Florida. I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Kay. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. SHOEMAKER: Since we adopted that section, old Section 5

will become Section 6 and old Section 6 will become Section 7.

Article XV, Unit Finance and Dues, Page U-11, Section 1, Membership Dues, Paragraph 2, last sentence. Amend by deleting the entire sentence and substituting, "Time of distribution to the state department and to the unit shall be made according to the policies set forth by National Headquarters."

Article XV, Unit Finances and Dues, Page U-11, Section 1, Membership Dues, Paragraph 2 would then read:

The total amount of dues paid by each senior member shall be sent directly to National Headquarters. Time of distribution to the state department and to the unit shall be made according to the policies set forth by National Headquarters.

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. WILEY: Madam Commander, Kathryn Wiley, Unit 46 Washington state. I second this.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Kathy. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

MRS. ELIZABETH OVERCASH: Madam Commander, Elizabeth Overcash, Unit 75, North Carolina. I would like to ask on Article VIII, Finances that we did not approve, do we not need to change on Page N-27, the second paragraph to read "\$7"?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: No.

MRS. OVERCASH: Do we not need a motion to do that, or will it automatically be done, since --

COMMANDER RAYMOND: No, the motion -- it died.

MRS. OVERCASH: Yes, above that, though, we approved \$7, didn't we?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: No, no we did not.

MRS. OVERCASH: Okay Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Are you talking about the one for life members?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Elizabeth and everybody concerning the per capita, we are not -- our system right now at the Auxiliary, we are not set up to differentiate on per capitas. We're trying to keep it as simple as possible. Now, the DAV has 20,000 per capita distributions. We do not have a program set up to do that. Okay?

So in other words, I could see what you're saying: So much for life and so much for annual. We are not set up to do that, and I'm not sure whether we will be in the future because the DAV is discouraging annual memberships. And it's their programs that we work with.

So the only thing I'm saying is that, you know, right now, because of the programs we have, we have the same per capita on life and annual. And unless we get a new program, we can't change that. So if the \$7 for life is denied, then the \$7 for annual would also be. That's what I'm saying.

MRS. HENRY: Madam Chairman --

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Unless you want to go back and reconsider without the \$2 with the juniors. See, we don't distribute on juniors. That's why it's easy to set that. But we do distribute on annual and senior.

MRS. HENRY: Madam Chairman, Susan Henry, Tennessee, Unit 116. As I've moved around, there seems to be a disconnect. Did this amendment pass or did it fail?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: The life passed. The annual failed.

MRS. HENRY: Okay.

JUDGE ADVOCATE SHELIA C. ALLRED: We've got two ways to handle -- well, one way that we could handle this is in -- and when you're doing Constitution and Bylaws, you can reconsider vote on a situation like this, but it has to have somebody that voted -- we can because this was a negative vote.

Then you have to have somebody that voted in the prevailing side, or the side that won, to make a motion to reconsider this whole section, and then we can go in and take it apart. So if there's anybody here that voted for this amendment to pass that would like to make a motion to reconsider, it would be in order at this time.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Yes, Miriam.  
 MRS. DALEY: Miriam Daley, Unit 27, Massachusetts. I'd like to have this put up for reconsideration.  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: Which one?  
 MRS. DALEY: The one that states --  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: The one that failed?  
 MRS. DALEY: Yes. Would you like me to read an amendment to it?  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: Did you vote on the prevailing side?  
 MRS. DALEY: I voted against it.  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: You can't do it.  
 MRS. DALEY: Oh, I have to vote for it. Do you want me to lie and say I voted for it? (Laughter) Here comes somebody that did.  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: Excuse me, just a moment, please.  
 MRS. SHOEMAKER: Madam Commander, I voted prevailing. May I cast a vote --  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: You most certainly may.  
 MRS. SHOEMAKER: -- and make an amendment to this. Okay. Then Article VIII, Finances, Page N-27, Section 2, Per Capita, delete the entire section 2 and substitute the following:  
 The national per capita tax for annual senior members is \$7 (effective July 1, 2001). The national per capita tax for life members is \$7 (effective July 1, 2001). The national per capita tax for junior members is \$1 (effective July 1, 2001). I, Loneita Shoemaker, past national commander make that motion.  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?  
 MRS. WILEY: Madam Commander, Kathryn Wiley, Unit 46, Washington State, I second that motion.  
 COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor; opposed. Motion carried.  
 Ladies, I have been asked to excuse the Nominating Committee again. No, they haven't left yet. And they are excused.  
 I want to thank the Constitution and Bylaw Committee and Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker for the work that they did. I really appreciate it. Thank you very much. (Applause)  
 At this time, I'm going to ask our Americanism chairman, Jan Bennett, to come forward for her report on her committee.  
 3RD JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER JANET W. BENNETT: Good afternoon, ladies. National Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, members and guests: It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Americanism Convention Committee chairman, Leslie Dumas from District 18.  
 While Leslie is coming up here, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your wonderful Americanism reports. I love reading them and seeing all the different things that you do. And there isn't a large group of women that do it. It's usually the small groups that do it. But thank you so very much. They were wonderful.  
 MRS. LESLIE DUMAS: Good afternoon. National Commander Raymond, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, and guests of this year's 2000 National Auxiliary Convention: The National Americanism Convention Committee met in the Ruby Room at 10 a.m. on August 2000. Our advisor was Janet Bennett and our secretary was Pat Sprague. The ladies did a great job.  
 At this time, the following units were judged to be best in their categories for the National Americanism Award. Group 1, 10 to 50 members: Jackson County, Illinois, Unit 69. (Applause)  
 Group 2 -- is there anyone here from Unit 69?  
 MEMBER: Unit 69 is on the Nominating Committee, and she just left.  
 MRS. DUMAS: Could someone come up, please?  
 Group 2, 51 to 100 members: Sun City Star, Arizona Unit 24. (Applause)  
 Group 3, 101 members to 200 members: Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Unit 2. (Applause)  
 Group 4, 201 members or over: I believe it's Knobhill,

Colorado, Unit 26. (Applause)

For the special Americanism Award, it was to Jackson County, Illinois, Unit 69.

The committee submitted the following recommendations. Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Unit 2, to be honorable mentioned: two special awards for community and one for schools.

As I read the names of the ladies on the team, would you please stand. Ladies, please forgive me if I mispronounce your names. I would like to say, ladies, it is that we would -- we worked hard and we had fun. And I would like to tell you it was an honor and a privilege to work with you. Thank you very much.

District 1, Elaine Blazejowski; District 2, Debra Barbuto; District 3, Beverly Cleveland; District 4, Patricia Sprague; District 6, Marianne Piekieniak; District 7, Bernadette Sorentino; District 8, Mary Roberson; District 9, Lynn Helms; District 10, Peggy Smith; District 11, Marcia Mills; District 12, Sharon Pieper; District 13, Ella Tyler; District 14, Judy Perry; District 15, Beverly Bain; District 16, Joan Christensen; District 17, Jean Jackson; District 19, Julie Heimbecker; District 20, Mary Choate; and District 21, Mary Jones.

Thank you ladies, very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. We'll have the Community Service Awards now.

4th Junior Vice-Commander and Community Service Chairman Gertrude Tidwell.

4TH JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER GERTRUDE TIDWELL: Thank you, Commander Paula. Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, members and guests: It is my pleasure to introduce the Community Service chairman, Carol Lee. She is from District 10.

And while Carol is coming up here, I would like to say to my committee, I told you yesterday, if we didn't make a mistake, we weren't breathing, and I made one, girls. You all know what I'm talking about.

I would also like to say, thanks for the reports, all 609 of them. It took me four days to sit down and read all these, but I assure you I read every report.

MRS. CAROL LEE: Thank you, Gertrude. I'm going to name the ladies that were on our committee by their districts. District 1, Patricia Tait. Please forgive me if I make a mistake on your names. District 2, Frances Ortiz; District 23, Marie Clancy; District 4, Rose Henn; District 6, Ellen Griggs; District 7, Lisa Pickell; District 8, Elaine Majors; District 9, Doris Hoffman; District 10, Carol Lee; District 11, Ellen Keller; District 12, Nancy Colby; District 13, Nina Panke; District 14, Anna Bradsteen; District 15, Caroline Wessing; District 16, Florine Hicks; District 17, Ramona Ganong; District 18, Carol Goodman-Smith; District 19, Marcia Read; District 20, Gloria Cortez; District 21, Pauline Steward. (Applause)

The Community Service Awards Committee met in the Teton 2 Room, and the group was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on August 19, 2000. Our chairman was Carol Lee, district 10 and the secretary, Doris Hoffman, District 9, was elected. Twenty districts were present.

The group was divided into the four groups, and the applications of each category or group were judged. And the following were judged the best.

Group 1 from 10 to 50 is Unit 98, Weakley County Tennessee. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 is Unit 19, Archer T. Gammon, Virginia. (Applause)

Group 3 is from 101 to 200, Unit 7, Oakland, California. (Applause)

Group 4, 201 and over, unit 13, St. Petersburg, Florida. (Applause)

Following the announcements of the winner and the agreement of the group, we were all dismissed at 12:30 p.m. Doris Hoffman, secretary, District 9, and Carol Lee, chairman, District 10. Thank you, ladies. (Applause)

Unit 98, Weakley, Tennessee. Anyone here from Archer Gammon



from Virginia. Is anyone here from that unit?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. In the interest of saving time, because we have to finish our business today -- if we don't, we're going to be here tomorrow or Wednesday, and I don't think any of you want that. So if a unit is called, and you know that that unit is not present, would someone from that state please come accept that? Thank you.

I'd like to ask the Hospital, the Non-VA Hospital chairman, Brenda Reed, to come forward for presentation of the Non-VA Hospital Awards.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: When the chairmen come up, would they please bring the folders and the winners and everything. And once they are finished with their report, would they please leave them up here? Thank you.

MRS. BRENDA REED: National Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, past national commanders, national officers, members, and guests: I would like at this time to present to you the Non-VA Hospital Convention chairman for this year, Anita Tears. She is from District 2.

While she's coming to the podium, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you lovely ladies for all of the wonderful comments you have given me about the newsletters that I put out this year. I'm glad that there were things in there that you could use.

On a sadder note, I would like for the membership to please keep in mind the commander of Unit 20 in Des Moines, Kathy Weatherly, and her mother, who is our chaplain, Eunice Houska. Don Houska, who was the chapter commander of Chapter 20 died here in the hotel Saturday night around midnight of a heart attack.

And I would like to thank National Headquarters for everything that they did for that family in getting them transportation to the airport. And I would like to thank the hotel for the wonderful, wonderful service that they gave to them. And all of the ladies -- And I would like to thank all of the ladies who have prayed for this family. And I would like for everyone to please keep the Houska family in mind as they go through this week trying to get the funeral arrangements settled.

I did receive word that they did finally return home last night at about 6:30 p.m. instead of the anticipated 10:00 p.m. time. If anyone would like information on the funeral arrangements, I should have that tomorrow.

But again, I would like to thank National Headquarters for everything they did for the family and for everyone who is there and supported the family.

At this time, I would like to turn it over to your convention chairman, Anita Tears.

MRS. ANITA TEARS: I apologize, ladies, if you can't see me, but that's okay. I can hide behind the podium. National Commander, National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, guests of the 78th National Auxiliary Convention: The National Hospital Convention Committee met in the Shasta Room Number 1, at 10 a.m. on August 20th. Our advisor was Brenda Reed. Our secretary was Susan Perdue. And we had a really good time.

And I guess we'll get to the awards. Group 1 category, 10 through 50 members: Mickey Grossman Unit 47, Lakewood, New Jersey. (Applause)

And in Group 2 category, 51 through 100: Moran Scott Morris, Unit 60, Atoka, Oklahoma. (Applause)

And in Group 3, 101 to 200 members: Oakland Unit 7, Oakland, California. (Applause)

And Group 4, 201 members or over: Onslow County Unit 16, Jacksonville, North Carolina. (Applause)

Also, the committee wanted to submit the following recommendations. We wanted them to make sure that we specify that it is a state vets home, not a VA hospital for the Non-VA Award. The other problem was, we need to be more legible and more neat. There were a lot of cross-outs. They were very difficult to read. Please try and make an individual copy first and then transfer it, so that we can really read them.

I'd also like to thank the ladies that were on our committee: District 1, Emily Uriot, Massachusetts; District 3, Pamela Cleveland, Vermont; District 4, Kathleen Flynn, New Jersey; District 6, Juanita Giles, District of Columbia; District 7, Mildred Burnett, Florida; District 8, Janett Reese, Mississippi; District 9, Naomi Foster Oates, Georgia; District 10, Ruth Hinde, Michigan; District 11, Susan Perdue, Ohio; District 12, Nellie Smithee, Illinois; District 13, Eunice Lawson, Kentucky; District 14, Faye Litzinger, North Dakota; District 15, we had an absent person; District 16, Mary Parker, California; District 17 -- it was just brought to my attention. It was Lettie Warchola that took place the place of Kathy Weatherly.

District 16, Mary Parker, California; District 17, Edith Armstrong, Colorado; District 18, Amy Wright, Arizona. District 19, Katherine Courts, Washington; District 20, Minnie Boggs, Texas; District 21, Mamie Lee Painter, Oklahoma. Thanks, ladies. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you.

The Junior Activities chairman, Ann Kelley.

MEMBER: She's in Nominations right now.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay. We'll go on then. How about Legislation, Linda Trulio?

2ND JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER LINDA A. TRULIO: Madam Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, National Executive Committeewomen, past national commanders, delegates, and alternates to our Auxiliary: I first want to thank you all, each and every one of you. We made over 22,000 contacts, and we certainly made an impact on our Congress, on our states, and on the local level. (Applause)

And I would also like to convey that being part of a team this year -- we aligned ourselves this year with our parent organization, and last night, I was asked to give you all a congratulations from the legislative team that together we worked to accomplish goals, and we certainly accomplished some of those goals.

And as our commander's theme says, "Once around is not enough," even as I step down this year as the Legislative chairman, I will still continue to work for our veterans benefits just as you shall.

And I would like to also make one note that was in my report that there was one unit that made over 2,000 contacts and another unit that sent over 900 e-mails. And if these units can do all this, then some of the units out there can certainly send at least one postcard and not reports with all the zeroes. It is not impossible, and we need you. Thank you again.

At this time, I would like to call the chairman of our committee, Joe Henry from Tennessee. (Applause)

MRS. JOE ELLEN HENRY: National Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, members and guests: The Legislative Committee met in the Nevada 3 Room. I would first like to give you all the members of that committee because they did an excellent job.

District 1, Mary C. Bixby, Massachusetts 29. Would you please stand? District 2, Irene Boron, New York 1; District 3, Sherry Holmes, Maine 1; District 4, Idella Hosier, New Jersey 9; District 5, Cathy Watkins, Pennsylvania 50; District 6, Carol Lee Simmons, Maryland 22; District 7, Marna Barnshaw, Florida 18; District 8, myself, Joe Henry, Tennessee 116; District 9, Betty Fort, Georgia 8; District 10, Berna Mae Reinewald, Michigan 51; District 11, Judith Lenhart, Ohio 73; District 13, Geneva Walker, Kentucky 134; District 14, Gladys Kjellerson, North Dakota 4; District 15, Lei K. Dean, Iowa 10; District 16, Vicki L. O'Neal, California 19; District 17, Shirley Wright, Utah 8; District 18, Shirley Kosisky, Arizona 8; District 19, Kathryn A. Wiley, Washington 46; District 20, Beverly A. Barron, Texas 29; and District 21, Lillian Stevenson, Arkansas 26. (Applause)

You ladies did a very excellent job of working on these reports, and these are the decisions that they made.

In Group 1, 10 to 50 members: Mountaintop Unit 29, Oakland, Maryland. (Applause)

Group 2, 51 to 100 members: Eastern Shore 34, Salisbury, Maryland. (Applause)

Group 3, 101 to 200 members: Roll of Honor Number 120, Kenmore, New York. (Applause)

Group 4, 201 members and over: John F. McPherson, Unit 1, Augusta, Maine. (Applause)

While these ladies are coming to get their awards, let me give you the recommendations that were made by the committee. They found that the reports were -- they could say that the reports that were legible were more likely to be judged favorably over ones that were difficult to read, even though the contents may be equal. They had several reports that were very difficult for them to decide. And also, they want to encourage everyone to use the e-mail. And I want to thank the committee for the excellent job that they did. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much.

Mae Holmes. Carol Gray, senior vice-commander.

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER GRAY: Good afternoon. Becky, would you come forward, please. While Becky is coming up to give the report, I'd like to thank you all for your participation in all of the programs this year. The reports were wonderful to read.

However, when we got them here, we could tell by looking at some of them that attachments had been on them as requested prior to having been received by National Headquarters, but someone had removed them, either at the state convention, after they had judged them -- but, please, leave any of those attachments on there. They are there for a reason.

The committee did decide that, since you could tell with the stapling that had been done and anything removed that it's a very distinct possibilities they were on there -- but with the point system, please do not disqualify these reports because something isn't there. Deduct points for what they didn't do correctly, but, please, just don't disqualify them.

And also, make sure on these Mae Holmes reports that they did make quota before you send them in. Because if they say No and they won at your state convention, they still cannot be judged here because they were not qualified to win that award.

Becky, are you ready? Becky Anderson was chairman, and she's from District 5, Pennsylvania. (Applause)

MRS. REBECCA ANDERSON: National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests: The National Mae Holmes Convention Committee met in the Nevada 1, 10:00 o'clock in the morning, August the 20th. Advisor was Carol Gray and the secretary was Barbara McVicker. You know I can't talk.

Group 1, 10 to 50: Belfry 141, Kentucky. (Applause) Is anybody here from Kentucky? Anybody here from Kentucky?

51-100: Seguin 61, Texas. (Applause)

101-200: New York, Roll Honor, Kenmore 120. (Applause)

201 or more: Kingman, Arizona 10, Chapter 10. (Applause)

The committee was Lillian Halpin, District 1, Massachusetts. Stand up. District 2, Kathleen Tedesco, New York; District 3, Debra Newell, Maine; District 4, June Becker, New Jersey; District 6, Sylvia Harl, Virginia; District 7, Idella Tracy, Florida; District 8, Joan Monroe, Alabama; District 9, Shelly King, North Carolina; District 10, Joann Slotman, Michigan; District 11, Jane wood, Ohio; District 12, Pat Schroeder, Illinois; District 13, Jan Walters, Indiana; District 14, Cynthia Murphy, Montana; District 15, Barbara McVicker, Missouri; District 16, Alma Fowlkes, California; District 17, Jean Chapman, Utah; District 18, Ann Jones, Arizona; District 19, Janine Henson, Idaho; District 20 -- oh, she left. District 21, Linda Spurgin, Arkansas. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Is Ann not back in the room yet? She should be able to present her -- and we'll wait.

How about VAVS. Vicky Grier.

MRS. VICKY GRIER: Good afternoon. Before we give our awards, when our winners come up, we want you to applaud and jump up and down like you're looking at the Chippendale Dancers. Thank you so much. (Laughter)

National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past

national commanders, delegates and guests and others of this 78th Convention: I would like to thank you for your reports that you sent in. Each year seems like I get the best bunch of ladies to work with for VAVs. And our chairman this year was LeeAnn Karg of District 14. After she got over that seizure that she had, she decided that she would do it. So here she is, Ms. LeeAnn. (Applause)

MRS. LEEANN KARG: Thank you, Vicky. I walked into the room and they said, "Oh, yeah, you're the one." And I'm going, "Which one?" So here I am.

National Commander Paula -- National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of this 78th National Auxiliary Convention: The National VAVs Convention Committee met in Sierra Number 1 at 10 a.m. on August 20th, the year 2000. Our advisor was Vicky Grier, and Kathleen Walsh was our secretary.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVs Awards:

Group 1, 10 to 50 members: The Katherine Early Award, S.R. Pine, Oregon Number 20. (Applause) Somebody come forward.

Group 2, 51 to 100 members: The Vi Hoffman Award, Suwannee Memorial Florida Number 126. (Applause)

Group Number 3, 101 to 200 members: The Bea Hogan Award, Joseph A. McNemey, New Jersey Unit Number 41. (Applause)

Group Number 4, 201 members and over: The National Headquarters Award, Elkhart, Indiana, Unit Number 19. (Applause)

We also wanted to make honorable mention in Group Number 3, which is 101 to 200 members, Oakland, California, Unit Number 7. (Applause)

The committee submitted the following recommendations for consideration. If a unit volunteers at a hospice, please list the name of the affiliated VAMC. And also, remember states, do not write on the forms.

Our committee, which was a great bunch of gals: District Number 1 was Kathleen Walsh of Massachusetts. Do you want to stand, please.

MEMBER: She's in the hospital.

MRS. KARG: Okay. Unit 2, Jane Willett from New York; District 3, Donna Folcarelli, Rhode Island; District 4, Sandy Schulman from New Jersey; District 5, Catherine Clinton from Pennsylvania; District 6, Frances Borum from Virginia; District 7, Lee Brown, Florida; District 8, Juanita Upton, Mississippi; District 9, Mattie Brooks from Georgia; District 10 was absent; District 11, Virginia Kerley of Ohio; District 12, Patty Davis of Wisconsin; District 13, Wilma Christensen of Indiana; District 15, Christine Cornelius of Kansas; District 16, Hilda Brown of California; District 17, Emelia Daubert of New Mexico; District 18, Joan Fletcher of Arizona; District 19, Marie Thayer of Oregon; District 20, Earlene Cole from Texas; District 21, Jeridean Griffin from Oklahoma.

Thank you, ladies. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, ladies.

Now I'd like to ask the History chairman, Lucita Christian to come forward for presentation of the History Book Awards. (Applause)

MRS. LUCITA CHRISTIAN: Good afternoon, National Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, line officers, past national commanders, NECs, delegates and guests: It has been my pleasure to be the History chairman for this year, and I would like to thank all of you that brought the history books to be judged. We had four history books this year, from Colorado, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas. And I wish to thank all of you for bringing them. (Applause)

We met on Sunday in Cascade Room at 10:25 a.m. I was the advisor, Lucita Christian, and my secretary was Ramona Leach, which I would like to thank her for all the work she did. And I would also like to recognize the ladies.

District 1, Susan M. Stulsky. Would you please stand up when I call you. District 2, Anita Ingram; District 3, Aure Lee Nicodemus; District 4, Doris M. Martelli; District 6, Annis K.

Craft; District 7, Laura Stanzione; District 8, Virginia Mitchell; District 9, Barbara S. Wingo; District 10, Deborah J. Emery; District 11, Ramona Leach; District 13, Mildred Brown; District 14, Shelly Dobmeier; District 16, B. Eloise Dyer; District 17, Xyla M. Wagner; District 18, Rita Roe; District 19, Glenna Finley; District 20, Joyce E. Humes; and District 21, Phyllis Psikal.

I hope I pronounced all your names correctly. (Applause)

And now for the winner. And the winner for the History Award is North Carolina, District 9. (Applause) The history book was prepared by Betty Ross, and we wish to thank her.

And I'm looking forward to next year for more history books, because all of you did a great job. Thank you so much. (Applause).

And the total points are 100, and they had 99 and a half. (Applause) And they would have had a hundred, but there was a question in regards to mileage, which I would like to discuss with Maria. In the handout, it said we had to count mileage. On the tally sheet, it didn't list mileage. So we had to take off half a point for that. Otherwise it would have been 100 percent. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you.

Is Ann back in the room? All right! We're going to have our Junior Activities by our Junior Activities chairman, Ann Kelley. (Applause)

MRS. ANN KELLEY: Good afternoon. National Commander Paula, National Adjutant Maria, National Assistant Adjutant Judy Hezlep, national officers, past national commanders, NECs, delegates and guests: It has truly been my pleasure to serve as Junior Activities chairman. I truly am blessed to have a look into the future of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and from what I can see, we will be in capable hands for many years to come.

I would like to thank the people on my committee and apologize if I pronounce your name wrong. Heidi Flack served as our secretary, and she was excellent. And I would like to give a special thanks to her. Heidi. (Applause)

Would you please stand when I call your name and hold your applause until I'm finished. District Number 1, Jean A. Stentiford; District Number 2, Helen Mazza; District 3, Wanda Furbish; District 4, Judy Kerrigan; District 5, Shirley Velazquez. District 6, Shirley Velazquez; District 7, Henrietta Condon; District 8, Jeanette Janet; District 9, Barbara Williams; District 10, Heidi Flack; District 11, Eloise Cupp; District 13, Tana Penland; District 14, Marlene Hannah; District 15, Mildred Bura; District 16, Wendy -- and Wendy, I can't read your last name. I'm really sorry.

District 17, Jean Viator; District 18, Ruth Ann Tucker; District 19, Carolyn Minor; District 20, Barbara Garrett; and District 21, Debi Huddleston. Thank you, ladies. (Applause)

And now to the part you are all waiting for. The award in Group 1, 1 to 25 members: Grants Pass, Oregon Number 11. (Applause)

Group 2, 26 to 50 members: Santa Rosa, California Number 48. (Applause)

Group 3: Valley City, North Dakota Number 24. (Applause)

Group 4: West Allis, Wisconsin Number 19. (Applause)

We had a Junior Activities History Book, and that award goes to Kingman, Arizona Unit Number 10. (Applause)

And ladies, this was the hardest part of our committee. National Junior Miss goes to Brittany Brooks from Kingman, Arizona, Number 10. (Applause)

And National Miss Teenage goes to Sara Caldwell, Number 33, Washington. (Applause)

Commander Paula, thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Isn't it nice to know that we have all these wonderful juniors out here working. Isn't it great? (Applause)

Okay. At this time, I'm going to ask Judy Hezlep, the assistant national adjutant, to give the report on the Educational Loan Fund Committee.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT JUDY HEZLEP: Thank you, Commander. As you

are aware, Phyllis Greaney, our National Education Loan Fund director, passed away in December of 1999. National Commander Paula Raymond, with the approval of the National Executive Committee, appointed me as the interim Education Loan Fund director.

Phyllis served as director of the Education Loan Fund for 20 years, and I was very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Phyllis. She was always dedicated to the program and to the students. I will really miss working with Phyllis. There's so many times during this year when something would come in, I'd think, "Oh, I have to send a copy of that to Phyllis."

And she would call regularly to check on students, their status, and I know that she was in contact with the students long after they graduated from high school, had their families, whatever. They still contacted Phyllis.

The official report of the Education Loan Committee, the program, all the loans that were granted, is in your packet with the rest of the reports from the chairmen. But I would like to make a few comments to you of letters, notes, thank-you notes, whatever, that have been sent in to us. And I will quote these.

I would like to thank you for the loan that you gave me to attend the university in the fall. This helps make my dream of attending school a reality. My father is a disabled veteran, and my mother does not work outside the home due to taking care of my father. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

This is my final payment on my student loan, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank your organization for granting me loans for the past four years that I have attended school. Because of the Auxiliary, I have now received my degree in elementary education, and hope to be a full-time teacher in the near future. You have a wonderful and caring organization.

Thanking you in advance for helping me continue my college endeavors on becoming an elementary education teacher. It is organizations such as yours that keep the light at the end of the tunnel.

These are just a few of the comments that come into the Headquarters Office, and they are some that I did want to share with you so that you realize how important the Education Loan Fund Program is. And it is a much-needed program. It has supported so many students over the years to realize their dreams of obtaining their education.

And I know that it's something that Phyllis fiercely believed in. And I, on behalf of Phyllis and the national organization, would like to thank you for all of your support in the past years for the Education Loan Fund.

This is the first year that the maximum amount that they could receive was raised to \$1500. And I know sometimes that sounds like a lot of money, but some of these applications that come in for these students for one year of school, some are as high as \$30,000. I don't know how they do it. I honestly don't.

But on behalf of the national organization, again, I thank each of you for your support of this very, very worthwhile program, and we do hope to continue this in the future. Thank you. (Applause)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Madam Commander, with your permission -- it was my privilege to appoint Phyllis Greaney when I was national commander. And I would like to make a motion at this time that any donations collected at this convention from the floor or if you would like to make checks payable in her memory, but any donations from the floor shall be donated in the name of Phyllis Greaney, our last director. (Applause)

I would like to make that in the form of a motion.

MRS. KATHLEEN S. TEDESCO: Kathy Tedesco, Roll of Honor 120, New York, will second that motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. It has been moved and seconded that any donations received for the Educational Loan Fund be made in the name of Phyllis Greaney. All in favor; opposed. Motion carried. Thank you.

MRS. BARBARA McVICKER: Madam President, may we approach now

with our donations?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Yes, that's just what I was going to say. At this time, if you have donations for either the Education Loan Fund or the Service Support Program, you may come forward now.

MRS. McVICKER: Barbara McVicker, commander, Unit 2 Kansas City, Missouri, \$300 for the National Education Loan Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Barbara and thank you, Missouri.

MEMBER: On behalf of the department of Pennsylvania, we would like to donate \$100 to the Education Fund. We'd like to give \$300 to the National Service Fund, and \$100 to the Freedom Fund. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much and thank you, Pennsylvania.

MRS. CAROLINE M. WESSING: Caroline Wessing, state commander of Missouri. I would like to present a hundred dollar check to the Freedoms Foundation.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much.

MRS. KAY EGAN: Kay Egan, State Department of Florida. We would like to donate \$1,000 to the Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Kay, and thank you, Florida.

MRS. PAM CLEVELAND: Pam Cleveland, Department of Vermont. I would like to present you with a check for the Ed Loan Fund and one for the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you Vermont.

MRS. JEANNE GIDEON: Hi. Jeanne Gideon from the Department of New Hampshire. We have two checks here, one for Education and one for the Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, New Hampshire.

MRS. JANET REESE: Commander Paula, I'm Janet Reese from the State of Mississippi, and we would like to donate these checks, one for the National Education Fund, the other for the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you Mississippi.

MRS. MARCIA C. READ: I'm Marcia Read from Oregon, and we have \$200 for your Education Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Oregon.

MRS. ANNA M. BRADSTEEN: Anna Bradsteen, State of North Dakota, \$100 to the National Service Fund and \$100 to the Education Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, North Dakota.

And ladies, could we quiet down just a little bit? Thank you.

MRS. DEBRA J. HOHMAN: Deb Hohman, commander, Department of Indiana. I have a check for you for the Education Loan Fund for \$500, and the Women's Service Fund for \$500.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Debi, and thank you, Indiana.

MRS. TERESA DELLE TEZZE: Teresa Della Tezze, Unit 49, New Jersey. \$100 for Education, \$100 for Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, and thank you, New Jersey.

MRS. BILLIE A. SCHULTZ: Billie Schultz, Alabama, a personal donation to the Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Billie.

MEMBER: On behalf of Unit Number 2, Grand Forks, North Dakota, we would like to contribute a hundred dollars to the National Education Loan Fund and also \$100 to the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Sandy, and thank you, Unit 2, North Dakota.

MEMBER: Madam Commander, Department of New York would like to donate \$500 to the Education Loan and \$580 to the National Service and Unit 47, \$10.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much. Thank you, New York, and Unit 47.

MRS. MARY ROBERSON: Mary Roberson, Department of Tennessee commander. We would like to make a donation to the Education Loan

Fund and the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Tennessee.

MRS. RACHEL DEARBORN: Rachel Dearborn from Unit 3, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, a donation of \$50.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much.

MRS. MARY LEE HALL: I'm Mary Lee Hall from the Department of Virginia, and I would like to present a check for a hundred dollars for Educational Loan, the Service Fund, and the Freedom Foundation.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MEMBER: Lester S. Gordon Unit 2 from Virginia, proudly presents a hundred dollars to the Education Loan Fund and a hundred dollars to the Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. Thank you, Unit 2 in Virginia.

MRS. CAROL LEE SIMMONS: Hi. Carol Simmons, State of Maryland. I'd like to donate \$200 for the state for the Education Loan, Service Support Fund and Freedoms Foundation.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you so much. Thank you very much, and thank you, Maryland.

MRS. LINDA G. SPURGIN: Hello. Linda Spurgin, senior vice-commander from the State of Arkansas. On behalf of the State of Arkansas, I would like to donate a check for the Service Support Fund and the Education Loan Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Arkansas.

MRS. GENEVA WALKER: I'm Geneva Walker, state commander of Kentucky. I would like to give you 250 for the National Educational Fund, 100 for National Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Kentucky.

MRS. ARLINE L. PHILLIPS: Arline Phillips, State of Delaware, presenting a check for the Education Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Delaware.

This is from the Department of Oklahoma. Thank you.

MRS. ELLEN KELLER: Ellen Keller from Ohio. We have a thousand dollars for the Service Support Fund, \$500 for Freedom Foundation, \$500 for the Education Loan Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you. Thank you very much, Ohio.

MRS. ELLEN DROGO: National Commander Paula, Ellen Drogo from the great State of Massachusetts. On behalf of the department, it's my honor to present to you the National Education Loan Fund check for \$500 and the National Service Fund for \$500.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, Ellen, and thank you Massachusetts.

MEMBER: Unit 96, \$100 for Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Becky. Thank you very much, and thank you Unit 96, Philadelphia.

MRS. MILDRED BURA: Mildred Bura from Kansas. \$50 to the Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Kansas.

MRS. CHRISTINE CORNELIUS: Christine Cornelius, senior vice-commander from the State of Kansas. A department check to the Freedom Foundation for \$25.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, again, Kansas.

NEC 18TH DISTRICT HELEN C. PARCELLE: I'm Helen Parcelle, and from the Western Roundup, I would like to present to the Women's Service \$200 from the Western Roundup. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you Western Roundup.

You know, ladies, these women and the members of their units and state departments have worked real hard all year to earn the money that they're coming up here and donating to the programs that you also help support. And I think as a courtesy to them that we owe it to at least listen to their donations instead of standing around. All we can hear up here is a hum, a constant hum. (Applause) Thank you.

MRS. GLENNA FINLEY: Glenna Finley, Department of Idaho, a



hundred dollars to the Education Fund and a hundred dollars to the Support Program.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Idaho.

MRS. DONNA S. REINHART: My name is Donna Reinhart. I'm from the Department of Northern Kentucky, Unit 19, with a donation to the Education Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Unit 19 in Kentucky.

NEC 6TH DISTRICT JUANITA HAZEL MEYERS: Hazel Meyers. I'm NEC from the 6th District. And instead of plaques or papers or letters of appreciation for those wonderful ladies back there from District 6, I give this donation of \$100 to the Service Fund in their name.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Hazel. And thank you very much.

MRS. SUSAN HENRY: Susan Henry, Tennessee, Unit 116. As a recipient of the Education Loan Fund, it's my privilege to give a donation on behalf of my mom and I in the name of Phyllis Greaney.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Susan. Thank you so much.

MRS. JACQUELINE FOSSIANO: Jacki Fossiano from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, personal checks for the Ed Loan and for the Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Jacki. Thank you so much.

MRS. ELLEN ISAAC: Ellen Isaac from Chapter 5 in Oconto County for the Education Fund for \$50.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you Oconto County.

MRS. LEI K. DEAN: Lei Dean, Department of Iowa, a hundred dollars for the Hospital Veterans Writing Program, hundred dollars for the Auxiliary Service, \$50 for Educational and \$50 for Freedom.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you, Iowa.

MRS. DORIS HOFFMAN: I'm Doris Hoffman, commander for the Department of Georgia. We have a check for the National Education Loan Fund, one for the Service Fund, one for the Hospitalized Veterans Fund and for the Freedom Foundation.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much, and thank you Department of Georgia.

I would like to thank all the departments, units, members, everyone that donated to the funds, both at the fall conference early last year and today. The money does go for a very good purpose. Having sat on the Educational Loan Fund Committee for the last two years, I can tell you that there are some students out there that really need the funds, and they are very, very appreciative. And the same holds true of the Support Fund. Thank you so much. (Applause)

MEMBER: Commander Paula, this is from the membership for the Education Loan Fund.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Oh! Well, thank you. (Applause)

We will have a count for you of what was donated. How about Thursday? Okay? (Applause)

At this time, do we have any announcements, Maria?

(Announcements)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Another thing I would like to say, you people were so generous today with Service Support. You realize that Ed Loan -- Phyllis has been a guiding light in this organization and has done a lot. But the Service Support Program, also, I want you to know, is doing exactly what it was intended to do, and that is helping those women, those widows who are financially strapped with debts or the inability to make mortgage payments, and are coming to our organization for some type of assistance.

We have been able to be of assistance, and a lot of them are very, very grateful. In fact, one lady said that when her DIC came in, that she would buy a life membership in the organization rather than an annual. And she did so.

So the money is going for a good purpose, and I want you to remember that members do not have to go through their unit to apply to this Service Support Fund. You can apply directly to National Headquarters.

But I also say that if a unit has money, and they have members

in need, and that member comes to that unit to help, the unit should be helping if at all possible. And then they can send the name on in to us.

When the Service Fund started, we said that no one, to the best of our ability, would ever know who got assistance from that fund. But you will always know who donated. And we send a listing out and we also show donations of a hundred dollars or more in the magazine. And that's as it should be.

So remember when you're talking to people, if they're having a hard time and they qualify as a widow, suggest the Service Support. That's why we're here. That's what your money is doing for these people.

And there, but for the grace of God, go you or I or anyone sitting up here at this table, and it's always nice to know that -- it may not be enough to solve all your problems, but it might be that bridge that gives you the time to get to the other side.

So I thank all of you for your support to the Service Fund. Thank you again. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Anita.

MEMBER: Madam Commander, I would like to do one thing before we leave. A little bird has been flying in and out of my ear since we've been here. There's a few people out here that happen to have birthdays this week, and I was wondering if they could please stand up for just a minute.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Sure, everyone with a birthday during the convention, please stand. (Applause)

MEMBER: I was wondering if we could kind of give them a "Happy Birthday" song since we're all together.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Sure. Nice a-1 loud.

(Singing of "Happy Birthday")

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Many, many, many more.

Okay. We are recessed to reconvene Wednesday morning at 9:00 o'clock for an exciting, informative business session and seminar. (Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:30 o'clock p.m., August 21, 2000.)

### THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

August 24, 2000

The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Ballroom of the Reno Hilton Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada, Thursday morning, August 24, 2000, and was called to order at 8:35 o'clock a.m. by National Adjutant Maria Tedrow.

ADJUTANT MARIA TEDROW: At this time, I would like to introduce to you again National Auxiliary Commander Paula Raymond. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Good morning. Are we ready?

At this time, I would like to ask National Chaplain Bonita Mitchell to give us our prayer.

CHAPLAIN MITCHELL: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you, Father, for being with us as we come to the end of this convention. This has been a good and productive convention. With Your help and guidance, we have been able to accomplish a lot. We ask that You be with our new commander and her officers and chairmen as they start on their new journey to help this Auxiliary to continue to grow. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: If our Americanism chairman, National 3rd Junior Vice Janet Bennett would come forward for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: National Sergeant-at-Arms, is there a Mr. Pearson in the back of the room? Would you please escort him, Past National Commander Lyle Pearson, forward, please. (Applause)

MR. LYLE PEARSON: Good morning. Is the mike mine? Well, that's pretty nice. Good morning, ladies. Commander Paula and Maria, it's nice that would you allow me to come in here today.

You know, I have one little complaint before I start. You know, you're supposed to be nice. Aren't you supposed to be nice

to us old, disabled veterans? I have a presentation to make today, it's on behalf of SONCO. I hope you know what SONCO is. I hope you all know. It's Spouses of Past National Commanders. And we have some checks here to present in memory of some of our departed members of the SONCO. If you'll permit me, I'll just read them.

This is a check for \$50 and it's in memory of Margaret Thompson. Her husband, Paul Thompson, was a past national commander. And this is \$50 in memory of Lucille Cooper, whose husband, Bill, is now deceased and so is Paul Thompson. This is the \$50 in memory of Jim Schilpp. Your past national commander, Rose, was the wife of Jim Schilpp. And the last one is \$50 in memory of Phyllis Greaney, and you know she was the wife of Walter Greaney who was also deceased.

And these are made out to the National Educational Loan Fund, and I'm sure you can spend these wisely. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much. (Standing ovation)  
You know, when he asked if he could come in this morning, he told me he didn't want any clapping and music, and I told him he couldn't come into the Auxiliary without getting the clap. (Laughter).

At this time, I would like to ask the national adjutant, Maria Tedrow, to call the roll of the newly elected National Executive Committeewomen and alternates. As your name is called, please come forward for the purpose of installation.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: From District 2, Lucita Christian, and her alternate is Irene Boron. Is your alternate here?

From District 4, Jennie Bizon, NEC, and Arline Phillips is her alternate.

From District 6, Marianne Piekieniak, and Ellen Griggs is her alternate.

From District 8, Juanita Upton, and her alternate is Golden Lou Hollis.

From District 10, Gloria Boozer and Jerlean Todd.

District 12, Sandra Donahue, and her alternate is Pat Schroeder.

District 14, Judy Perry, and her alternate is Cheri Knispel.  
District 16, Donna Stinnett, and her alternate is Joan Turbeville.

District 18, Ann Jones, and her alternate is Barbara Gentry.

District 20, Earlene Cole and her alternate is Beverly Barron.  
And now that you have seen them, would they all turn around to be installed.

Madam Commander, these are the newly elected National Executive Committeewomen and their alternates. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

As newly elected Executive Committeewomen and alternates, are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of, "I am.")

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Members, please stand. Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me, the oath of your office. I, Paula Raymond, having been selected as a National Executive Committeewoman or alternate of this Auxiliary do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter. I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers, and to exact the obedience of others thereto, to the best of my ability and means.

When my successor has been dually selected and installed, I promise to surrender to her all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

You may lower your hands.

Members, you may be seated. Delegates, members, and guests: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you the National Executive Committeewomen and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties, and with your help their term of office will be highly successful.

Ladies, would you turn around, please. (Applause)

Would the newly installed National Executive -- please return to your seats in your districts, please.

Would the chairman of the Nominating Committee, Past National Commander Barbara Hicks, please come forward for the purpose of giving her report.

MRS. BARBARA HICKS: Good morning. Commander Paula, Adjutant Maria, officers: This is the report of the Nominating Committee. They worked very hard. They worked very long hours, especially on Monday. And I would like the members of the committee to please stand as I read your names. Please hold your applause.

District 1, Donna Tanner; District 2, Dolores Robidoux; District 3, Claudia Roy; District 4, Dorothea Campanelli; District 5, Mildred Nigliazzo; District 6, Mildred Velazquez; District 7, Merallyn McDonald; District 8, Barbara Hicks; District 9, Jane Troutman; District 10, Leona Sharp; District 11, Ann Offutt; District 12, Wilma Tripp; District 13, Edith Jackson; District 14, Margaret Hass; District 15, Rose Marie Schilpp; District 16, Joan Turbeville; District 17, Pauline Wright; District 18, Iris Brzezinski; District 19 -- I can't read her name.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay. Who was on the committee from District 19? I can't read it either. Diane?

MRS. DIANE E. HEIMBECKER: Diane Heimbecker.

MRS. HICKS: Sorry. I couldn't read your name, Diane.

District 20, Louise Rapisand; District 21, Sara Douglass. (Applause)

Serving as secretary of the committee was Claudia Roy.

The committee has come up with the following slate of officers for the year 2000-2001: Commander, Carol Gray, Michigan; senior vice-commander, R. Renee Jones, North Carolina; 1st junior vice-commander, Linda Trulio, New Jersey; 2nd junior vice-commander, Janet Bennett, Nevada; 3rd junior vice-commander, Gertrude Tidwell, Oklahoma; 4th junior vice-commander, Judy Steinhouse, North Dakota; chaplain, Vicky Grier, Georgia; judge advocate, Shelia Allred, North Carolina.

That's our slate, Commander Paula. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, and thank the members of the Nominating Committee. I know you worked many long hours, and that's not an easy job and we want you to know that we appreciate the work that you put in.

We would like to have a final reading of the Credentials. Is the Credentials chairman in the room? Here she comes.

MRS. TRUTTMAN: Madam National Commander and all the national officers, members and guests of the Auxiliary: The Credentials report reads as follows: Total units registered, 295; total departments registered, 44. Total, 339. Delegates registered, 631; alternates registered, 36; guests, 77. Total, 744.

Total unit votes, 1,921; total department votes, 44; national officers, 8; PNCs, 16. Making a grand total of votes, 1,989. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you.

I would like to thank the members of all committees, and at this time, I would like to discharge, not only the Nominating Committee but all convention committees, and my thanks to you, ladies, for serving on all of these committees. (Applause)

You have heard the Credentials report. Is there a motion to accept the credentials report?

(Motion made away from microphone)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Annie Cameron, Portland 1, Oregon, moves that the Credentials report be accepted. Is there a second?

MRS. MARIANNE PIEKIELNIAK: Marianne Piekieniak, Unit 2, Virginia. I second that.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

At this time, would the officers please leave the podium and go back to your respective districts for the purpose of nomination and election.

Judy, would you please be a teller. Is Pat Kemper -- not Judy? Mary Choate, would you be a teller? Thank you. Indiana, I can't think of your name. Would you be a teller? And since Tennessee is laughing, how about Tennessee? Susan Henry.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Wilma Christensen.

Now we do have adding machines we can use. We haven't brought them in yet. So you won't have to depend on mental.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Are we ready? You have heard the report of the Nominating Committee. Carol Gray has been nominated for the committee for the office of national commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nomination closed for the office of national commander.

MRS. JILL WAGER: Madam Chairman, Jo Ager, Michigan 11. May I approach your station?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Yes, you may.

MRS. AGER: Eligible through my great-grandfather, Andrew Bittle, she became a junior member while still unable to hold up her own head. She has over the years marched in parades and made sure I was there as well. She would allow my brothers and I to help with forget-me-not drives, and during the holiday season we helped put together baskets of food and warm mittens for families of needy veterans then also let us help deliver them as well.

As we got older, she became more involved and was elected state chaplain in 1975, a position she held until 1983, when she was elected as a junior vice-commander and continued on to become the state commander in 1987. Over the following eight years, she was adjutant for the Department of Michigan.

Following two years as National History chairman, she continued on to become 2nd junior vice, 1st junior vice and for the past year as senior vice-commander.

She is a life member of Wood-Tazelaar Unit 11 in Michigan and proudly wears my great-grandmother's life membership pin. She drives 35 miles to attend unit meetings, where she calls our unit commander Aunt Mabel and is serving as Community Service chairman.

And just in case you haven't figured it out, I'm speaking of my mother, Carol Gray. My fathers, brothers, and I are all very proud of her for making it all the way here. And I know her mother, my grandmother, is watching from heaven with a big smile on her face.

Michigan Unit 11 and the Department of Michigan proudly join me in seconding the nomination of Carol Gray for national commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: All those in favor of Carol Gray for the office of national commander, signify by saying aye; opposed. The Ayes have it, and Carol Gray has been elected to the office of national commander. (Applause)

Renee Jones has been nominated by the committee for the office of national senior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national senior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Renee Jones for the office of national senior vice-commander, signify by saying Aye; those opposed. The Ayes have it, and Renee Jones has been elected to the office of national senior vice-commander. (Applause)

Linda Trulio has been nominated by the committee for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Linda Trulio for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander, signify by saying Aye; those opposed. The Ayes have it, and Linda Trulio has been elected to the office of national 1st junior vice-commander. (Applause)

Janet Bennett has been nominated by the committee for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Janet Bennett for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander, signify by saying Aye; those opposed. The Ayes have it, and Janet Bennett has been elected to the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander. (Applause)

Gertrude Tidwell has been nominated by the committee for the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander.

All those in favor of Gertrude Tidwell for the office of

national 3rd junior vice-commander, signify by saying Aye; those opposed. The Ayes have it, and Gertrude Tidwell has been elected to the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander. (Applause)

Judy Steinhouse has been nominated by the committee for the office of national 4th junior vice-commander. Are there any other nominations?

MS. KAREN MAJORS: Madam Commander, Karen Majors, Unit 30, Louisiana. I nominate Elaine Majors, Louisiana for national 4th junior vice-commander.

MRS. JOAN K. MONROE: Madam Commander, Joan Monroe, Unit 26, Huntsville, Alabama. I second that motion.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you.

Okay. At this time, we will caucus. There will be a 10-minute caucus of your districts, and ten minutes means ten minutes. If you're not back in the room to vote, you don't vote. So it is now by my watch five minutes after 9:00. You will caucus until 9:15.

MEMBER: Madam National Commander, may we see the candidates so that we --

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Certainly. Ladies, please be seated just a moment.

MEMBER: We'd like to see or maybe even hear a little bit about them.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Judy Steinhouse, would you please stand? Elaine Majors. Ladies, how are they going to know who Elaine is if everybody is standing up? Come forward. Is Elaine Majors in the room? Ladies, these are the candidates for national 4th junior vice-commander. Judy Steinhouse on my right, Elaine Majors on my left. Okay. Now you can caucus.

(Whereupon, a caucus was held.)

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ladies, if you would just be seated a minute where you're supposed to be seated.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay, ladies. At the time the nominations were made, no one approached the mike for a seconding speech or to give information on the candidates. So we are going to back up, and at this time, if there is someone that wants to give information on the candidates, please approach the mike for that purpose at this time.

MRS. MARGARET HASS: Margaret Hass, District 14. May I approach the podium, please?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You may.

I'm going to ask that you please sit down and remain quiet so that you can hear about these candidates, because you're going to caucus very, very briefly when we're finished.

MRS. HASS: Judy Steinhouse is eligible through her late father, Delmer, who served in the Army in the European Theater. Her mother was also in the Army as a mess sergeant.

Judy is a tax auditor with the IRS. She is single, and lives in Fargo, and Judy is a life member of Valley City, Unit Number 24, 60 miles away and she attends regularly. Judy has been an active DAV Auxiliary member for 33 years, and she has held all the unit offices and all the state offices, including state commander in 1984 and 1985.

Judy was 14th District NEC from 1990 to 1992, and has been secretary for the district since that time. In 1997, Judy was privileged to serve as national sergeant-at-arms. Judy is currently the North Dakota state department adjutant and 1st junior vice-commander of her unit, Number 24.

While attending National Conventions, Judy has served on three committees, Legislative, Community Service, Constitution and Bylaws.

Judy is an active, dedicated member. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. MAJORS: Madam Commander, Karen Majors, Unit 30, Louisiana, may I approach the podium?

COMMANDER RAYMOND: You may.

MS. MAJORS: Thank you. Elaine Majors has been a life member of Unit 30 in Louisiana for 27 years. She is eligible through her husband and my father, David Majors. She's held all unit and state offices. She's a past NEC. She has served as state judge advocate and unit advocate for 11 years.

My mother is a very hard-working Auxiliary member, and that's all I have to say. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: At this time, you may caucus again for five minutes.

(Whereupon, a caucus was held.)

COMMANDER RAYMOND: The judge advocate has requested to speak.

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: There seems to be a lot of confusion here. You have a very gracious national commander. She allowed seconding speeches to be made after the caucus started, which really, the seconding speeches should have been made after the candidates were nominated, after it came off the slate and after the nomination was made from the floor. That's in accordance with your Convention Rules.

Any time you have anybody that's running for office, you should be prepared with a seconding speech. We went into a caucus. Nobody came to the mike with a seconding speech. So the commander called a caucus. And then we had people wanting a seconding speech afterwards.

So that's why she stopped the caucus to let you know the qualifications of the candidates and then let you go back and caucus. Because it's only fair that you know their qualifications before you make a decision how you're going to tell the chairman you cast your vote.

So, like I said, this was very confusing. We got a little out of order, but you have a very gracious national commander. She's presiding over this meeting, and she allowed that to happen for the two candidates running and also for the delegates here casting their vote to know more about the qualifications of the candidates. Thank you.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Okay. We have Judy Steinhouse and Elaine Majors who have both been nominated for the position of 4th junior vice-commander. At this time, we will begin our roll call vote. Will the states please line up in order alphabetically behind the mikes and the units in numerical order behind the state. And you have to have your delegate badge.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ladies, you realize that once we start this roll call, it must continue to the end. Alabama 1, you have three votes.

MEMBER: Alabama 1 votes three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Birmingham 4, five votes.

MEMBER: She is not here.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: All right, Alabama 12, six votes.

MEMBER: Six votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Elaine Majors. Huntsville 26, five votes.

MEMBER: Five votes, Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes, Elaine Majors. Alabama 70, three votes.

MEMBER: Alabama 70, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Alabama 76, four votes.

MEMBER: Alabama 76 casts four votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Elaine Majors. The Department of Alabama, one vote.

MS. ELAINE V. COLL: Elaine Coll, department commander, one vote for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Elaine Majors. Arizona 1, 36 votes.

MS. SHERRY LEE MURPHEY: Sherry Murphey, Unit 1, 36 votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 36 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Arizona 2, 15 votes.

MS. CAROL GOODMAN: Carol Goodman, Unit 2, 15 for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 15 for Judy Steinhouse. Tri-City 8, 11 votes.

MS. SHIRLEY KOSISKY: Shirley Kosisky, Unit 8, nine votes for Judy Steinhouse; two votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse; two votes

for Elaine Majors. Arizona 10, nine votes.  
 MS. RUTH ANN TUCKER: Ruth Ann Tucker, Unit 10, 10 votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: You only have nine.  
 MS. TUCKER: Nine.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. Arizona 11, nine votes.  
 MS. SUZANNE M. MANGINE: Sue Mangine, Unit 11, nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. Arizona 16, six votes.  
 MS. GLADYS S. ROBBINS: Gladys Robbins, Unit 16, 6 votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Arizona 18, 11 votes. No one from Arizona 18, all right. Glendale 20, 19 votes.  
 MS. ELIZABETH A. MURBACK: Lisa Murbach, Unit Commander, Unit 20, 16 votes, Judy Steinhouse; three votes for Majors.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: 16 votes for Judy Steinhouse; three votes for Elaine Majors. Department of Arizona, one vote.  
 MS. LESLIE DUMAS: Leslie Dumas, senior vice, Department of Arizona.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Is that a red badge you have on?  
 MS. DUMAS: Yes, ma'am.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: You can't vote. You've got a delegate registered and she's not in this room.  
 MS. DUMAS: I'm the alternate.  
 JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: You have to go back and change to delegate to be able to cast a vote. You should have changed your registration when your delegate left.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: See, a lot of people are under the impression if the delegate is not in the room, that the alternate can vote. As long as we have a delegate on the slate registered, that delegate is the only one that can vote.  
 And the only way that the alternate can then vote is go back and change the registration and become the delegate. Does everybody understand that?  
 So, therefore, Department of Arizona, no vote.  
 Okay, we're going to Arkansas. Arkansas 5, you have four votes.  
 MS. SARA A. DOUGLASS: Sara Douglass, Unit 5, casts four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Little Rock 7, 12 votes.  
 MS. MARY B. JONES: Mary Jones, Little Rock Unit 7. I cast 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Jonesboro 26, three votes.  
 MS. LILLIAN STEVENSON: Lil Stevenson, Unit 26, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Arkansas Unit 57, three votes. All right, Department of Arkansas, one vote.  
 MS. LINDA G. SPURGIN: Linda Spurgin, senior vice commander, Department of Arkansas. We cast one vote for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. California 2, 25 votes.  
 MS. JOAN O. CHRISTENSEN: Joan Christensen, Unit 2, 25 votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: 25 votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 6, eight votes.  
 MEMBER: Madam Chairman, Unit 6 casts eight votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 7, nine votes.  
 MS. EVA MAY PERAKIS: Eva May Perakis, Commander, Oakland Unit Number 7. We vote nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 11, eight votes. Nobody from California 11. California 12, seven votes.



MS. OLGA BRAMMER: Olga Brammer, Adjutant and Treasurer, Unit 12, seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.. California 15, four votes.

MEMBER: Al Jordan 15, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 19, you have six votes.

MS. VICKI L. O'NEAL: Vicky O'Neal, Adjutant and Treasurer for Unit 19, six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 21, three votes. California 22, seven votes.

MS. LEONA GALLOWAY: Leona Galloway, Unit 22, seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 28, six votes. California 34, four votes. California 44, six votes. California 45, four votes.

MS. ELSIE HOWELL: Elsie Howell, Adjutant, Memorial 45, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 46, five votes.

MS. MARY E. PARKER: Mary Parker, 46 Whittier, casts five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 48, nine votes. California 55, three votes. One second, is 48 back there? 48, you have nine votes.

MS. GLADYS BARNES: Gladys Barnes, nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 55, you have three votes.

MS. FLORINE HICKS: Florine Hicks, 55, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 58, you have four votes.

MS. JOAN TURBEVILLE: Joan Turbeville, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 73, 12 votes.

MS. EVELYN VEILLETTE: Evelyn Veillette, 73, 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 80, three votes. California 85, you have three votes.

MS. MAXINE FLANIGAN: Maxine Flanigan, three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 91, two votes.

MS. BETTY K. CLARK: Betty Clark, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 106, four votes.

MS. DONNA M. STINNETT: Donna Stinnett, Unit 106, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT MARIA TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 113, you have three votes. California 122, you have four votes. California 123, you have three votes.

MS. ALMA FOWLKES: Alma Fowlkes, Unit 123 delegate, cast three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. California 144, you have six votes.

MEMBER: California 144, six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of California, you have one vote.

MS. FLORENCE SWISHER: Florence Swisher, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Colorado three, you have two votes.

MS. LUCY M. QUINTANA: Lucy Quintana, past state commander from Colorado, gives her two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Colorado 6, you have four votes.

MS. SUSAN K. MILLER: Susan Miller from Colorado 6, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Colorado 7, Colorado 7, 32 votes.

MS. PAT VIGIL: Pat Vigil, 16 votes for Judy and 16 for Elaine.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Colorado 7 says 16 votes for Judy Steinhouse and 16 for Elaine Majors. Colorado 8, five votes.

MS. KATHY PHELPS: Kathy Phelps from Greely Number 8, five votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Colorado 21, six votes.

MS. EMMA D. PEREZ: Emma Perez, Unit 21, three votes for Judy and three votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Colorado 21 says three votes for Judy Steinhouse, three votes for Elaine Majors. Colorado 26 with ten votes.

MS. KAREN E. GORDON: Karen Gordon, Unit 26, ten votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Colorado 26, ten votes for Judy Steinhouse. The Department of Colorado, one vote.

MS. KYLA M. WAGNER: Xyla Wagner, Department Commander, one vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Delaware, one vote.

MS. ARLINE L. PHILLIPS: Arline Phillips, Department of Delaware, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. The District of Columbia, Unit Number 3, four votes. Is anyone here from Unit 3 in the District of Columbia? The Department of D.C., one vote. Let's go to Florida. Florida Unit 3, seven votes.

MS. NORMA L. MOLKETIN: Norma Molketin, Unit 3, casts seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Tampa 4, 19 votes. No one here from Tampa four? Florida 11, 10 votes.

MS. RHEA W. GARRETT: Rhea Garrett votes 10 votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Florida 11 you vote ten votes for Judy Steinhouse, is that correct?

MS. GARRETT: Yes.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Thank you. Florida 12, you have four votes. Florida 16, you have 12 votes. Florida 18, you have 25 votes. Florida 30, you have 17 votes.

MS. BERNADETTE SORENTINO: Bernadette Sorentino, Seminole 30, casts 17 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 17 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida 40, you have three votes.

MEMBER: Florida 40, three votes, Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes, Judy Steinhouse. Florida 57, you have five votes.

MEMBER: Unit 57 casts five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida 72, you have 11 votes. Florida 84, you have 16 votes.

MS. LISELOTTE M. BROWN: Lee Brown, Greater Daytona 84. We cast 16 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 16 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida 87, you have nine votes. Florida 91, you have 7 votes.

MEMBER: Florida 91, seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida 93, you have six votes. Florida 94, you have four votes. Florida 96, you have seven votes.

MEMBER: Florida 96 casts seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida 101, you have ten votes. Florida 108, you have five votes.

MEMBER: Florida 108 casts five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida 149, you have five votes.

MEMBER: Unit 149 casts five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Florida

152, you have four votes. And the Department of Florida, you have one vote.

MEMBER: The Sunshine State casts its vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay, one vote for Judy Steinhouse. Let's go to Georgia. Georgia 8 with seven votes.

MS. BETTY FORT: Betty Fort, Savannah, Georgia, Unit 8, casts all our votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Georgia 10, you have ten votes.

MEMBER: Georgia Unit 10 casts all votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ten votes for Judy Steinhouse. Georgia 11, three votes. Georgia 50 with six votes. Georgia 56 with six votes.

MEMBER: Georgia 56 casts three votes for Judy Steinhouse and three votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Georgia 56 casts three votes for Judy Steinhouse and three votes for Elaine Majors. The Department of Georgia with one vote.

MS. DORIS HOFFMAN: Doris Hoffman, Commander of Georgia, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Okay, let's go to Idaho. Idaho 2 with five votes.

MS. JANINE D. HENSON: Janine Henson, Unit 2, five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Idaho, one vote.

MS. GLENNA FINLEY: Glenna Finley, Commander of Idaho, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Illinois. All right, Illinois 3, you have three votes.

MS. KAREN SUE ECCLES: Karen Eccles, Alton, Illinois, Unit 3, casts three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Illinois 15 with 14 votes.

MEMBER: Fourteen votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 14 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Illinois 24 with three votes.

MEMBER: Unit 25, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Illinois 53 with four votes.

MEMBER: Quad city 53, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Illinois 60 with three votes. Department of Illinois with one vote.

MS. WILMA M. TRIPP: Wilma Tripp, Department of Illinois, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Indiana. Indiana 15 with 28 votes.

MS. TANA PENLAND: Tana Penland, Unit 15, 28 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 28 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Indiana 19 with 25 votes.

MS. JAN WALTERS: Jan Walters, Unit 19, 25 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 25 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Indiana 23 with nine votes. Indiana 25 with five votes.

MEMBER: Indiana 25, five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Indiana 26 with two votes.

MS. NORMA J. ZEIMET: Norma Zeimet, Unit 26, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Indiana, one vote.

MS. DEB HALLMAN: Deb Hallman, commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Iowa. Iowa 2 with three votes.

MEMBER: Scott County Unit 2, Iowa, votes for Judy Steinhouse, the three votes.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Iowa 10 with four votes.

MS. JUDITH MCLASKEY: Judy McClaskey, Unit 10, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes Judy Steinhouse. Iowa 20 with seven votes.  
 MS. BRENDA REED: Brenda Reed, Adjutant, Unit 20, casts seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Iowa Department, the Department of Iowa, one vote.  
 MEMBER: She's not here.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Let's go to Kansas. Kansas 1 with six votes.  
 MS. KAROL B. RELFORD: Karol Relford, Unit 1, six votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kansas 4 with 12 votes.  
 MS. ETHAL AUFLEGER: Ethal Aufleger, Number 4, 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kansas 16 with four votes. Kansas 22 with three votes.  
 MS. JOYCE HAUN: Joyce Haun, Unit 22, casts three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kansas 28 with two votes.  
 MS. CHRISTINE CORNELIUS: Christine Cornelius, Unit 28, Adjutant/Treasurer, casts two votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kansas 34 with four votes.  
 MS. WANDA M. LENZ: Wanda Lenz, Unit 34, four votes Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kansas 36 with three votes.  
 MS. MARY ELLEN MOCK: Mary Ellen Mock from 36 casts three votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Kansas with one vote.  
 MS. BETTY J. BERGQUIST: Betty Bergquist, Department of Kansas, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Let's go to Kentucky. Kentucky 3 with seven votes.  
 MS. MILDRED BROWN: Mildred Brown, Unit 3, seven votes to Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 4 with four votes.  
 MS. DOROTHY L. MCDANIEL: Dorothy McDaniel of Kentucky, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 6 with four votes.  
 MS. FLORENCE MERRIFIELD: Florence Merrifield, Number 6, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 8 with five votes.  
 MS. EDITH JACKSON: Edith Jackson, Kentucky 8, five votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 19 with ten votes.  
 MEMBER: Kentucky 19, ten votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ten votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 26 with two votes.  
 MS. CARMEN WILLIAMS: Carmen Williams, Kentucky 26, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 89 with four votes.  
 MS. MAE A. EWING: May Ewing, Unit 89, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Kentucky 134, three votes.  
 MS. EUNICE LAWSON: Eunice Lawson, Kentucky 134, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Kentucky, one vote.

MS. GENEVA WALKER: Geneva Walker, Kentucky Department, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Louisiana. Louisiana 10 with three votes. MS. LORIECE H. COLE: Loriece Cole, Unit 10, votes three votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Elaine Majors. Louisiana 17 with four votes. No one here from Louisiana 17? Louisiana 21 with three votes. No one here from Louisiana 21? Louisiana 30 with seven votes.

MS. KAREN MAJORS: Karen Majors, Louisiana 30, casts seven votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Elaine Majors. Louisiana 36 with four votes.

MS. MARY CUNNINGHAM: Mary Cunningham. I cast four votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Elaine Majors. Louisiana 45, four votes. No one here from Louisiana 45? Department of Louisiana, one vote.

MS. SADIE B. DAVIS: Sadie Davis, Commander of Louisiana, casts one vote for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Elaine Majors. Maine, Unit Number 1, 11 votes.

MS. DEBRA NEWELL: Debra Newell, Unit 1, casts 11 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 11 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Maine Unit 11, seven votes. Department of Maine, one vote.

MS. MARIE CLANCY: Marie Clancy, state of Maine, one vote for Mrs. Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Maryland. Maryland Number 1 with ten votes. Okay, no one here from Maryland number 1. Maryland number 4 with seven votes. No one there either? Maryland 18 with four votes.

MS. BETTY SWIFT: Betty Swift from Unit 18, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Maryland 21 with six votes.

MS. JULIA T. LAW: Maryland Unit 21, six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Maryland 22 with four votes.

MS. ELIZABETH I. HOUCK: Elizabeth Houck, Unit 22, four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. Maryland 28 with three votes.

MS. ROBERTA P. BULLEN: Roberto Bullen, Unit 28, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Maryland 29 with two votes.

MS. HAZEL MEYERS: Hazel Meyers, Unit 29, two votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Maryland, one vote.

MS. CAROL LEE SIMMONS: Carol Simmons for the Department, one vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Massachusetts. Massachusetts 4 with 13 votes.

MS. JACQUELINE M. BURNING: Jacquelyn burning, unit 4, 13 for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Thirteen votes for Judy Steinhouse. Massachusetts 10 with 12 votes. No one here from 10? Massachusetts 13 with four votes.

MS. ANNETTA BOVAIR: Annetta Bovair, senior vice commander, Dorchester Unit 13, four votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Elaine Majors. Massachusetts 21, six votes.

MS. DONNA L. HORTON: Donna Horton, six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Massachusetts 27 with four votes.

MS. MIRIAM A. DALEY: Miriam Daley 27, four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. Massachusetts 29 with six votes.

MS. MARY C. BIXBY: Mary Bixby, commander, six votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy. Massachusetts 35 with three votes.

MS. KATHYLEEN E. WALSH: Kathy Walsh, 35, three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. Massachusetts 40 with six votes.

MS. LOUISE BARRETT: Louise Barrett, six votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy. Massachusetts 56 with six votes.

MS. FRANCES J. COSTA: Fran Costa, 56, six votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy. Massachusetts 64 with seven votes.

MS. THERESA A. DOWNEY: Terry Downey, Delegate, 7 votes for Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Elaine Majors. Massachusetts 68 with seven votes.

MS. ELAINE M. BLAZEJOSKI: Elaine Blazejowski, Unit 68, seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Massachusetts 90 with ten votes.

MEMBER: Massachustees 90, 10 votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ten votes for Judy Steinhouse. Massachusetts 96 with 10 votes.

MS. ANTONETTA PAGNOTTA: Tony Pagnotta, Unit 26, Cape Cod, nine for Judy Steinhouse and one for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Massachusetts 96 votes nine for Judy Steinhouse and one for Elaine Majors.

Massachusetts 114 with five votes. Massachusetts 115 with five votes.

MS. DONNA TANNER: Donna Tanner, 115, five votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy. Department of Massachusetts with one vote.

MS. ELLEN DROGO: Ellen Drogo, department commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan. Michigan 1 with 12 votes.

MS. LORENE PENERMON: Lorene Penermon, Michigan Unit 1, casts 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 12 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan Unit 2, 17 votes. Michigan 3, ten votes.

MS. BARBARA A. MCCOMB: Barbara McComb, Unit 3, 10 votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ten votes for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan 11 with nine votes.

MS. BERNICE V. SEBRING: Bernice Sebring, Unit 11, nine votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy. Michigan 14 with nine votes. Michigan 16 with four votes.

MS. BEULAH B. WILES: Beulah Wiles, Unit 16, Pontiac, four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. Michigan 18 with three votes.

MS. BETTY BENZING: Betty Benzing, Unit 18, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan 20 with 8 votes.

MS. JOHANN M. SPALDING: Johann Spalding, Unit 20, votes 8 votes for Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan 22 with three votes.

MS. PENNY PEGENAU: Penny Pegenau, Unit 22, votes three for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Excuse me, who was that? Are you an alternate? What unit were you from? 16 in Pontiac. Okay, so that was four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Subtract those four votes, because an alternate cannot vote.

If a delegate is registered, the alternate cannot vote. If a

delegate is not going to be here, then you need to go to the registration area, have her sign off and you sign on.

Okay, so subtract four votes from Judy Steinhouse. Where are we? We are at Michigan 22. Anyone here from Michigan 22? I did that. That was three votes for who? That was three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan 51 with seven votes.

MS. BERNA MAE REINWALD: Berna Reinewald, Unit 51, votes seven votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy. Michigan 105, four votes.

MS. CAROL J. LEE: Carol Lee, 105, votes four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. Michigan 114 with eight votes.

MS. LEONA I. SHARP: Leona Sharp, Michigan 114, eight votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse. Michigan 117 with two votes.

MS. JERLEAN W. TODD: Jerlean Todd, 117, votes two votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy. Michigan 129 with five votes. Michigan 135 with three votes. Department of Michigan, one vote.

MS. CORNEALIA JANSEN: Cornealia Jansen, senior vice commander, one vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Minus that vote, I don't have anybody registered for the Department of Michigan. Did you register as a delegate for your unit? Okay, so we minus one vote. 14 has already given -- you can, but you have to wait until the end of the roll call or to a candidate concedes, one or the other. I do not have anybody voting for 14. So at the end the roll call, you can cast your vote.

Minnesota. Minnesota 1 with 32 votes.

MS. PAULA KELLEY: Paula Kelley, commander, Minneapolis Unit 1, 32 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 32 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Minnesota 2, ten votes. No one here from Minnesota 2? Minnesota 16 with four votes. Minnesota 36 with three votes. How about the Department of Minnesota with one vote? Mississippi. Mississippi 5 with eight votes.

MS. JUANITA H. UPTON: Juanita Upton, Unit 5, eight votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: That's eight votes for Elaine Majors. Mississippi 48 with two votes. No one here from Mississippi 48? How about the Department of Mississippi, one vote.

MS. JANETT REECE: Janet Reece, commander, one vote for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Elaine Majors. Missouri. Missouri 1 with 20 votes.

MEMBER: Missouri 1, 20 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 20 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Missouri 2 with 22 votes.

MS. BARBARA E. MCVICKER: Barbara McVicker, commander, 22 votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 22 votes for Judy. Missouri 10 with five votes. Missouri 49 with seven votes. Missouri 51 with three votes.

MEMBER: Missouri 51 votes three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. Missouri 52 with three votes. Department of Missouri with one vote. Montana. Montana 14 with three votes.

MS. MARLENE HANNAH: Marlene Hannah, Montana 14, three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. Montana 17 with three votes.

MS. AMY J. HAFER: Amy Haver, Rocky Mountain 17, three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes Judy. Department of Montana, one vote.

MS. CYNTHIA MURPHY: Cynthia Murphy, commander, Department of

Montana, one vote for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy. Nevada. Nevada 7 with four votes.  
 MEMBER: Nevada 7 casts four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Nevada 11 with six votes.  
 MS. IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Iris Brzezinski, Nevada 11, six votes, Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes, Judy Steinhouse. Nevada 13, four votes.  
 MS. HELEN C. PARCELLE: Helen Parcelle, Unit 13, casts four votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. Nevada 34 with three votes. Department of Nevada with one vote.  
 MS. EVELYNNE DUNN: Evelynne Dunn, state of Nevada, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. And now we go to New Hampshire. New Hampshire 4 with seven votes.  
 MS. WANDA LEE FURBISH: Wanda Furbish, Unit 4, treasurer, casts seven votes for Judy Steinhouse?  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes, Judy Steinhouse. New Hampshire 7 with four votes.  
 MS. ANN T.P. KELLY: Ann Kelly, Unit Number 7, Adjutant, casts four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. The State Department of New Hampshire with one vote.  
 MEMBER: She's not here.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Let's go to New Jersey. New Jersey 2 with five votes.  
 MS. CHARLOTTE R. ALVINO: Charlotte Alvino, New Jersey, Unit 2, Adjutant, 2 casts my votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy. New Jersey 9 with five votes.  
 MS. IDELLA HOSIER: Idella Hosier, Unit 9, casts five votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. New Jersey 12 with three votes.  
 MS. SANDY SHULMAN: Sandy Shulman, Unit 12, votes three for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. New Jersey 14 with three votes.  
 MS. ANGELA MANNERS: Angela manners, Unit 14 of New Jersey, three votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. New Jersey 18, you have five votes. New Jersey 24 with six votes. New Jersey 26 with four votes.  
 MS. MARION CORVASCE: Unit 26, Marion Corvasce, casts four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. New Jersey 32 with six votes.  
 MS. ROSE M. HENN: Rose Henn, commander, Unit 323, we cast six votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. New Jersey 41, you have nine votes.  
 MS. SOPHIA M. MATE: Sophia Mate, Adjutant of Unit 41, eight votes for Judy and one for Elaine.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse and one vote for Elaine Majors. New Jersey 47 with two votes. New Jersey 49 with four votes.  
 MS. TERESA DELLE TEZZE: Teresa Delle Tezze, Unit 49, four for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. New Jersey 63 with five votes.  
 MS. JOAN SACCO: Joan Sacco, Unit 63, five votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. New Jersey 73 with eight votes. Department of New Jersey, one vote.  
 MEMBER: The Department of New Jersey votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. New Mexico.



New Mexico 3, you have 10 votes.

MS. BETTY L. JONES: New Mexico, Unit 29, Betty Jones. I cast my three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You have ten votes. Are you unit 3?

MS. JONES: No, Unit 29. Unit 3 isn't here.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Unit 3 is not here. Okay, so we're on to 29 and you have three votes?

MS. JONES: Yes, ma'am, for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of New Mexico, one vote.

MS. RAMONA GANONG: Ramona Ganong, commander, Department of New Mexico, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Let's go to New York. New York 1, you have nine votes. No one here from New York 1? New York 5, you have four votes.

MS. FRANCES ORTIZ: Frances Ortiz, Unit 5, New York, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. New York 30, you have 20 votes.

MS. DEBBIE L. BARBUTO: Debbie Barbuto, Unit 30. We cast 20 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 20 votes for Judy Steinhouse. New York 34, nine votes. New York 35, 17 votes.

MS. LUCITA CHRISTIAN: Lucita Christian, Unit 35. I cast 17 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 17 votes for Judy Steinhouse. New York 47 with six votes. New York 95 with 10 votes. New York 118 with 13 votes. New York 120 with six votes. New York 166 with two votes.

MS. DONNA L. SCHOLL: Donna Scholl, unit 166, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. The Department of New York with one vote. Let's go to North Carolina. North Carolina 1, three votes.

MS. MAYOLA C. WINSTON: Mayola Winston, Woodrow Wilson 1, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. North Carolina 5 with two votes. North Carolina 12 with four votes. North Carolina 27 with six votes. North Carolina 43 with three votes.

MS. CHARLIE B. MILLER: North Carolina Unit 43, Charlie Miller. I cast three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. North Carolina 45 with four votes.

MS. BARBARA J. SMEAL: Barbara Smeal, Unit 45. I cast four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. North Carolina 46, nine votes. North Carolina 75 with three votes. The Department of North Carolina, one vote.

MS. PATRICIA L. KING: Patricia King, state commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. North Dakota 1, six votes. North Dakota 2, ten votes.

MEMBER: North Dakota 2, ten votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Ten votes for Judy Steinhouse. North Dakota 4 with six votes. North Dakota 9 with three votes.

MS. LAUREL K. EVANS: Laurel Evans, North Dakota 9, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. North Dakota 24 with five votes.

MS. MARY L. WEBER: Mary Lou Weber, Unit 24, five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes Judy Steinhouse. Department of North Dakota, one vote.

MS. ANNA M. BRADSTEEN: Anna Bradsteen, Department of North Dakota, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio. Ohio 3 has 13 votes.

MS. ANNE S. MCCLURE: Anne McClure, Unit Number 3, casts 13 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 13 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio 31 with three votes.

MS. EDITH COTTRILL: Edith Cottrill, Ohio 31 three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio 36 with four votes.

MS. ELOISE A. CUPP: Eloise Cupp, Unit 36, four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio 45 with five votes. Ohio 63 with nine votes.

MS. CATHRYN L. NICODEMUS: Cathryn Nicodemus, Ohio 63, nine votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio 71 with three votes. Ohio 73 with three votes.

MS. JUDITH LENHART: Judy Lenhart, Unit 73, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio 103 with six votes.

MS. VIRGINIA KERLEY: Virginia Kerley, 103, six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Ohio 109 with three votes. Ohio 115 with seven votes.

MS. DOROTHY JANE CLARK: Dorothy Clark, Unit 115, Adjutant. We cast seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Ohio, one vote. Oklahoma. Oklahoma 26, you have five votes.

MS. JUANITA P. DOWLING: Juanita Dowling, Unit 26, casts five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oklahoma 29 with seven votes. Oklahoma 47 with three votes.

MS. ROSAMMA RYBKA: Rosanna Rybka, Oklahoma, Unit 47, casts three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oklahoma 60 with five votes.

MS. DEBI HUDDLESTON: Debi Huddleston, Unit 60, Oklahoma, five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon. Oregon 1 with nine votes.

MS. ANNIE ROSE CAMERON: Oregon 1, Annie Cameron. We cast nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Hold one second. Why is everybody waving? Did I do something again?

MEMBER: Yes, you forgot the Department of Oklahoma.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: I am so sorry, but the Department of Oklahoma is not registered.

MEMBER: Yes, she is.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: No, she is not. She's registered as a delegate from her unit, but we don't have her registered as a commander of her state, so she voted with her unit.

All right, let's go again to Oregon. Oregon 1, you have nine votes.

MS. CAMERON: Annie Cameron, Oregon Number 1, nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon 4 with six votes.

MS. KAREN POLTNER: Karen Poltner, commander, Unit 4, casts six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon six, five votes.

MS. MARCIA C. READ: Marsha Read casting five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon 8 with four votes.

MS. JEANETTE E. GOLD: Jeanette Gold, Jackson County 8, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon 11 with six votes.

MS. MARIE H. THAYER: Marie Thayer, commander, Grants Pass Unit 11, six votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon 14 with two votes.

MS. DIANE E. HEIMBECKER: Diane Heimbecker, Unit 14, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Oregon 20 with three votes.

MEMBER: She's not here.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Department of Oregon, one vote. Let's go to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania 4 with two votes.

MS. RHEA G. LYNN: Rhea Lynn, Pennsylvania 4, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Pennsylvania 7 with seven votes. Pennsylvania 50 with ten votes.

MS. CATHY WATKINS: Cathy Watkins, Pennsylvania 50, ten votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: 10 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Pennsylvania 53 with five votes.

MS. WANDA J. BUHL: Wanda Buhl, 53, Pennsylvania, five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Pennsylvania 96 with seven votes.

MS. CATHERINE CLINTON: Catherine Clinton from Unit 96, seven votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Department of Pennsylvania, one vote. Let's go to Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico 1, you have eight votes.

MS. SOPHIA JESUS: Sophia Jesus, Unit 1. We vote eight votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse. Puerto Rico 5, you have three votes.

MEMBER: Unit 5, Puerto Rico, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Puerto Rico 16, two votes.

MS. MARIA D. RODRIGUEZ: Maria Rodriguez, Unit 16, two votes, Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes Judy Steinhouse. Department of Puerto Rico, one vote.

MS. MILDRED VELAZQUEZ: Mildred Velazquez, commander of the Department of Puerto Rico, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Rhode island 1, you have three votes.

MS. HELEN FOLCARELLI: Helen Folcarelli, Unit 1, three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. Rhode island 3, you have two votes.

MS. MARIE I. SANCHAS: Marie Sanchas, Unit 3, two votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy. The Department of Rhode Island, you have one vote.

MS. DONNA FOLCARELLI: Donna Folcarelli, commander, State of Rhode island, one vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy. South Carolina 5, you have five votes.

MS. SHIRLEY MATHIS: Shirley Mathis, commander from Unit 5, five votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy. South Carolina 13, you have six votes no one here. South Carolina 30, you have five votes?

MS. LYNN C. HELMS: Lynn Helms, five for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy. South Carolina 54, you of three votes.

MS. BARBARA S. WINGO: Barbara Wingo, Unit 54, three votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. South Carolina 55, you have two votes. The Department of South Carolina with one vote.

MS. RUBY G. NELSON: Ruby Nelson, the commander of the Department of South Carolina. I cast my one vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy. South Dakota. South Dakota 3, you have seven votes. South Dakota 18 with four votes.

MS. JUDY PERRY: Judy Perry, South Dakota 18, four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. The Department of South Dakota, one vote.

MS. SHIRLEY JOACHIM: Shirley Joachim, commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Tennessee. Tennessee 38, you have three votes.

MS. WILMA DENNISON: Wilma Dennison for Elaine Majors, three votes.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Elaine Majors. Tennessee 42 with two votes.

MS. FRANCES R. MCCLURE: Fran McClure, Green County 42, casts two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Tennessee 70, you have eight votes. Tennessee 116, you have three votes.

MS. JOE ELLEN HENRY: Joe Henry, Tennessee 116, three votes for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Elaine Majors. The Department of Tennessee has one vote.

MS. MARY ROBERSON: Mary Roberson, commander of the Department of Tennessee, casts one vote for Elaine Majors.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Elaine Majors. Texas. Texas 5, you have 13 votes.

MS. MARY S. BERGERON: Unit 5, Mary Bergeron. We cast 13 votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Thirteen votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 9, six votes.

MS. GRACE A. LOUIS: Grace Louis, commander of 9, six votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy. Unit 10, you have six votes.

MS. GLORIA A. CORTEZ: Gloria Cortez, Unit 10, El Paso, Texas. We cast six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 21, you have two votes. Unit 25, five votes.

MS. TIMOTEA B. RUIZ: Timo Ruiz, Unit 25, San Antonio, Texas, five votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy. Unit 29, four votes.

MS. BEVERLY A. BARRON: Beverly Barron, commander of Unit 29, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 31, six votes.

MS. GERALDINE TAYLOR: Geraldine Taylor, Unit 31, Dallas, casts six votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Six votes for Judy. Unit 32, you have nine votes.

MEMBER: Unit 32 casts nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 42, you have five votes.

MS. MARY CHOATE: Mary Choate, Grand Prairie 42, five votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 57, four votes.

MEMBER: Unit 57, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 63, you have six votes.

MEMBER: Not in the room.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Unit 85, five votes.

MEMBER: Not in the room.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Unit 101 three votes.

MEMBER: Unit 101 casts all three votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 106, two votes.

MS. ELBA RUTLEDGE: Elba Rutledge, 106, two votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 114, you have five votes.

MS. EARLENE COLE: Earlene Cole, Unit 114. We vote five votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 128, four votes.  
 MS. MINNIE L. BOGGS: Minnie Boggs, Unit 128, San Antonio, casts four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 129, three votes.  
 MS. ANNETTE G. BAKER: Annette Baker, delegate, Unit 129. I cast all three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 137, three votes.  
 MS. JUDITH H. COWAN: Judy Cowan, Unit 137, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 198, four votes.  
 MEMBER: Not in the room.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Department of Texas, one vote.  
 MS. RUTH ANN GATES: Ruth Gates, Department commander, casts one vote for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Unit Number 2, Utah, Unit 2, you have four votes.  
 MEMBER: Not here.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Unit 4, you have four votes.  
 MEMBER: Not here.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Unit 6, you have 14 votes.  
 MEMBER: Unit 6 from Salt Lake City, 14 votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: 14 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 8 with three votes. Unit 10 with two votes. Unit 14, Utah, with four votes. Vermont Unit seven, four votes.  
 MS. AURA LEE NICODEMUS: Aura Lee Nicodemus, Unit 7, four votes Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes, Judy Steinhouse. Unit 15, three votes.  
 MS. BEVERLY CLEVELAND: Beverly Cleveland, Unit 15, three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. And the Department of Vermont has one vote.  
 MS. PAMELA CLEVELAND: Pam Cleveland, Department of Vermont, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Let's go to Virginia. Virginia Unit 2, four votes.  
 MS. ANNIS K. CRAFT: Annis Craft, Unit 2, Virginia, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 6, you have three votes. Unit 10, you have 10 votes. Unit 20, you have five votes. Unit 21, you have two votes.  
 MEMBER: Virginia Unit 21, Norfolk, Virginia, two votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Two votes for Judy. Unit 22 with three votes.  
 MEMBER: Unit 22 casts three votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 27 with three votes. Unit 41, Virginia, with four votes. State of Washington, Unit 4, four votes.  
 MS. CAROLYN A. MINOR: Carolyn Minor, Unit 4, four votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 18 with seven votes.  
 MS. DENISE E. VIETZ: Denise Vietz, Unit 18, seven votes for Judy Steinhouse.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Seven votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 33 with five votes.  
 MS. ANNA B. BISHOP: Anna Bishop, commander, Unit 33, five votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 45 with 17 votes.  
 MS. BEATRICE PULEO: Bee Puleo, Unit 45, 17 votes for Judy.  
 ADJUTANT TEDROW: 17 votes for Judy Steinhouse. Unit 46 five votes.  
 MS. KATHRYN A. WILEY: Kathryn Wiley, Unit 46, Washington

State, five votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Five votes for Judy. The Department of Washington, one vote.

MS. PENNY COURTS: Penny Courts, Department of Washington Commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy. West Virginia, Unit 6, you have 16 votes.

MEMBER: Not here.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Not here? How about the Department of West Virginia, one vote.

MS. ELLEN M. GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, senior vice from West Virginia, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Wisconsin 1 with eight votes.

MS. ELAINE MORRIS: Elaine Morris, Unit number 1, Judy Steinhouse, eight votes for her.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse. Wisconsin 3, eight votes.

MEMBER: Wisconsin 3, eight votes for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Eight votes for Judy Steinhouse. Wisconsin 45, four votes.

MS. GALE LAWNICZAK: Wisconsin 45, Gale Lawniczak, four votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Four votes for Judy. Wisconsin 50 with three votes.

MS. NANCY C. DUNDAY: Nancy Dunday, Unit 50, Beaver Dam, all for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Three votes for Judy. The Department of Wisconsin, one vote.

MEMBER: She's absent due to illness in her family.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Okay. Department of Wyoming, one vote.

MS. MILDRED K. LONG: Mildred Long, commander, one vote for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy. Now I will call the past National Commanders who have registered as Past National Commanders. Evelyn Dorsey, you have one vote.

MS. EVELYN B. DORSEY: Evelyn Dorsey, Past National Commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Margaret Hass, one vote.

MS. MARGARET E. HASS: Margaret Hass, Past National Commander from North Dakota. I cast one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Barbara Hicks, one vote.

MS. BARBARA L. HICKS: Barbara Hicks, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Bonita Newell, one vote.

MS. BONITA H. NEWELL: One vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Katherine Pearson, one vote.

MS. KATHERINE PEARSON: One vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Claudia Roy, one vote.

MS. CLAUDIA R. ROY: Claudia Roy, one vote, Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote, Judy Steinhouse. Rose Schilpp, one vote.

MS. ROSE M. SCHILPP: One vote, Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote, Judy Steinhouse. Loneita Shoemaker, one vote.

MS. LONEITA S. SHOEMAKER: Loneita Shoemaker, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Maria Tedrow, one vote, and I vote one vote for Judy Steinhouse. Is Jane Troutman in the room?

MS. JANE TROUTMAN: One vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Florence Valgardson, one vote.

MS. FLORENCE VALGARDSON: Florence Valgardson, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Dorothy Van Hoy, one vote.

MS. DOROTHY M. VAN HOY: Dorothy Van Hoy, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Sally Wilton.

MS. SALLY WILTON: You made me cry, Maria, because I can't vote. I don't have my badge.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Well, see, Sally is showing you that there's no exception. Thank you, Sally. Pauline Wright, one vote.

MS. PAULINE WRIGHT: Pauline Wright, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Now we will go to the national officers. These are the elected national officers.

And we have National Chaplain, E. Bonita Mitchell.

CHAPLAIN E. BONITA MITCHELL: One vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. National Judge Advocate Sheila Allred.

JUDGE ADVOCATE ALLRED: Sheila Allred, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Gertrude Tidwell, Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TIDWELL: One vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Jan Bennett, Third Junior Vice Commander.

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JAN BENNETT: Jan Bennett, Third Junior Vice Commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Linda A. Trulio, Second Junior Vice Commander.

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TRULIO: One vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Renee Jones.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JONES: Renee Jones, National First Junior Vice Commander, one vote for Judy Steinhouse.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: One vote for Judy Steinhouse. Carol Gray. That's no good, I need the badge. Well, I guess our national senior vice can't vote. No exception. And last but not means least, our National Commander, Paula Raymond.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: National Commander Paula Raymond abstains.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: National Commander Paula Raymond abstains. And that completes the roll call. We will try to have the results in just a few moments for you.

In the meantime, I do want to say something. When a roll call starts, it must be completed unless a candidate wants to withdraw, and then it's finished. But if the candidates are on the floor and they both continue to want to run, a roll call must be completed.

As long as you have more than one candidate, you must have a roll call. It must be completed unless the other candidates eventually withdraw from the election.

Another thing I want to say is, you know, we say why does a roll call have to be completed? Because half the -- I won't say half -- 25 percent of the delegates were not in this room.

So we actually don't know what the majority will be until we get all this counted up.

And Michigan 14, you missed your vote. We still can pick you up. Do you want to vote, Michigan 14?

MS. CORNEALIA JANSEN: Thank you. Cornealia Jansen, 14, Holland, how many votes?

ADJUTANT TEDROW: You have nine votes.

MS. JANSEN: Nine votes for Judy.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: Nine votes for Judy Steinhouse.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Ladies, we have the results of the election. And I'm going to ask that there be no applause when the winner is announced. Judy Steinhouse has been elected national 4th junior vice-commander.

MRS. MAJORS: Madam Commander, Elaine Majors, Louisiana. I want to congratulate Judy. She will make a lovely 4th national junior vice. And I thank the ladies for their patience, and the South will rise again. (Laughter).

COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you, Elaine.

Okay. Vicky Grier has been nominated by the committee for the office of national chaplain. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national chaplain.

All those in favor of Vicky Grier for the office of national chaplain, signify by saying Aye; those opposed. The Ayes have it, and Vicky Grier has been elected to the office of national chaplain. (Applause)

Shelia Allred has been nominated by the committee for the office of national judge advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national judge advocate.

All those in favor of Shelia Allred for the office of national judge advocate, signify by saying Aye; opposed. The Ayes have it, and Shelia Allred has been elected to the office of national judge advocate. (Applause)

Our election is now complete.

At this time, I would like to ask the national sergeant-at-arms, Bernie Errett, if she would like to come forward to the podium for the purpose of introducing the National Executive Committeewomen and those members who serve as pages.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: While she's doing that, I want to give you some information. This concerns the money that has been collected at this convention for the different funds that we have. We collected for the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project, \$125; Freedoms Foundation, \$1,100; Education Loan -- and, of course, we have I think \$200 to add to this from this morning -- \$5,936.55; and to the Service Fund, \$7,770. (Applause)

And we want to thank all of you for being so generous in your state departments and on the floor here. We certainly appreciate it.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: I'm sorry. The tellers are dismissed and thank you very much.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my Color bearers, Pat Schroeder and Sandy Donahue from my State of Illinois. If you would, please stand. Thank you. (Applause)

And our national musician, Nancy Coulombe. (Applause) Thank you so much. She has done an excellent job.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS BERALDINE D. ERRETT: First I would like to thank Commander Paula for this job and my husband who said I could take it, because she called him first.

Maria, thank you for all your help.

Now I'll introduce the -- if I get your names wrong, ladies, that's age. Pages first, and that's Carolyn Eccles, Gloria Boozer, Margaret Snelling, Dorothea Campanelli, Helen Parcelle -- she's also NEC -- Sue Hollingsworth, Mayola Winston, and Juna Ridenhour.

Junior pages. I don't know if you can see them or not; they're kind of little. We've got Sara Ann Coursey, Rachel Witt and Rebecca Witt.

NECs. We've got from District 1, Dorothy Young; Jeanne LePorte from 2; Marie Clancy from 3; Jennie Bizon from 4; and alternate, Rhea Lynn from 5. From 6 we've got Hazel Meyers; 7 Sunny Barzelogna; 8, Carolyn Johnson; 9, Ruth Koon; 10, Betty Benzing; 12, Elaine Morris; 13, Norma Zeimet; and Number 14, Sandy Dobmeier, had to leave.

Number 15, we have an alternate, Judith McLaskey; Number 16, Dolores Wingett; 17, Cora Bell Crossley; 18, Helen Parcelle; 19, Debi Mazza; 20 is Joyce Humes; and 21 is Margaret Hollingsworth.

And the ladies, they have been fun to work with and the next sergeant-at-arms is going to have a ball with the ones that were here before.

MEMBER: You forgot District 11.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Didn't I do 11? Oh, there she is. Judy Uetterling. And I asked her how to say it, too.

NEC 3RD DISTRICT MARIE E. CLANCY: Sergeant-at-Arms, on behalf of your NECs, we'd like to give you this token and thanks very much for letting us work with you this year.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ERRETT: Thank you. You all have been beautiful. (Applause)



COMMANDER RAYMOND: I'd like to thank the national pages and the NECs who acted as pages. I know that's not an easy job. And I know that you get so tired of everybody thinking your whole wardrobe consists of white.

COMMANDER RAYMOND: The business of this convention having been completed, I now declare the 78th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned.

We will now go into the installation of newly elected national officers.

Would the national sergeant-at-arms please escort the installing officer, Past National Commander Claudia Roy to the podium.

Would one of the pages please escort the families of the national officers to the seats in the front.

We will proceed with installation. I would like to present the installing officer, Past National Commander Claudia Roy. And I'd like to ask that the doors please be closed.

MRS. CLAUDIA ROY: Are all the officers to be installed at the back of the room? You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please take your place to the right of the altar.

The adjutant will call the roll of the newly elected national officers. As your name is called, take your place to the left of the sergeant-at-arms.

ADJUTANT TEDROW: National Commander Carol Gray from Michigan; Senior Vice-Commander Renee Jones, North Carolina; 1st Junior Vice-Commander Linda Trullio of New Jersey; 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Jan Bennett of Nevada; 3rd Junior Vice-Commander Gertrude Tidwell, Oklahoma; 4th Junior Vice-Commander Judy Steinhouse, North Dakota. National Chaplain Vicki Grier, and she's from Georgia; National Judge Advocate Shelia Allred from North Carolina. (Applause)

Past National Commander Claudia Roy, the officers are in place for installation.

MRS. ROY: As a newly elected officer, are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of, "I am.")

MRS. ROY: Would the audience please rise.

Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of your office. I, Claudia Roy, having been selected as a national officer of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform, in letter and spirit, all the duties of the office I am about to enter. I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto, to the best of my ability and means.

When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender to her all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

You may lower your hands.

The audience may be seated. Delegates, members, and guests, I now present to you the national officers of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. I trust you will aid them in the performance of their duties. With your help, their term of office will be highly successful. Officers, about face. (Applause)

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the national commander to the podium, and all other national officers may assume their positions. (Applause)

I am pleased to turn over to you this gavel, the emblem of your authority, Commander Gray. (Applause)

I have the honor to place her national commander pin on.

COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Past National Commander Paula Raymond, would you approach the podium, please. Paula, I'm pleased to present to you your past national commander pin. I know you will wear it with pride as you wore the national commander's pin. I hope I do it as much justice as you did.

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER RAYMOND: Thank you very much. This weighs a whole lot less.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 o'clock a.m., August 24, 2000.)