

NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

COMMUNICATION

from

THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT, THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

transmitting

**2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIS-
ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 36 U.S.C. 50308
AND 44 U.S.C. 1332**



**September 24, 2010.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans'
Affairs and ordered to be printed**

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

September 24, 2010

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. 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 proceedings of our National Convention, held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, D.C., to be printed as a House document as originally authorized by 44 USC 1332 and in fulfillment of 36 USC 50308.

The National Convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 2009, as described in 36 USC 10101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur H. Wilson', with a stylized, flowing script.

ARTHUR H. WILSON
National Adjutant
Chief Executive Officer

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NATIONAL OFFICERS 2010-2011
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

Wallace E. Tyson, 6208 Lakebluff Place, Fayetteville, NC 28304-4632

Senior Vice Commander

Donald L. Samuels, 544 Douglas Bend Road, Gallatin, TN 37066

First Junior Vice Commander

Larry A. Polzin, 13336 Alder Grove Street, Sylmar, CA 91342

Second Junior Vice Commander

Mary J. Bencivenga, P.O. Box 1404, Toms River, NJ 08754-1404

Third Junior Vice Commander

Joseph W. Johnston, 3760 St. Rt. 131, Williamsburg, OH 45176

Fourth Junior Vice Commander

Ron Voegeli, 702 Battery Creek Road, Beaufort, SC 29902

National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., 8003 Manassas Drive, Austin, TX 78745

Past National Commander

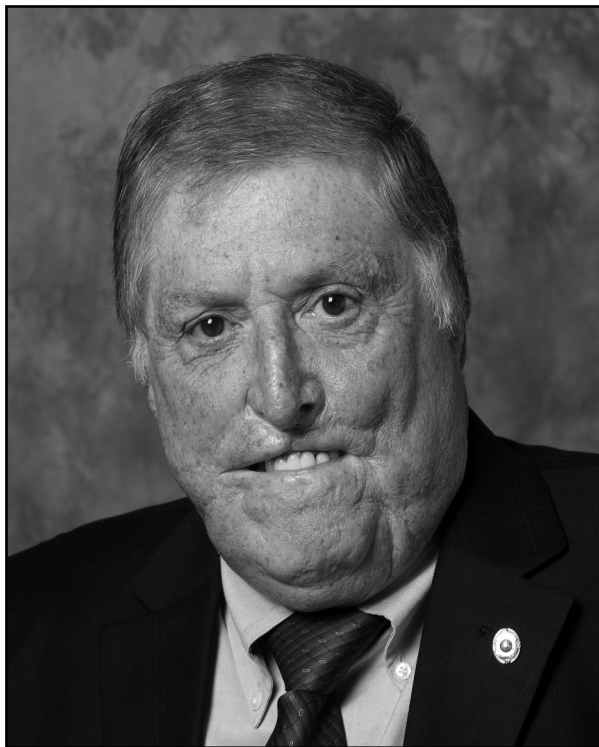
Roberto Barrera, 300 Rolling Ridge Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district: Roger H. Hamel, 77 Dorsey Street, Springfield, MA 01108
Second district: Dennis L. Krulder, 5 Hopkins Commins, Vaphank, NY 11980
Third district: Asiat A. Ali, 9 Seneca Avenue, Essex Jct., VT 05452
Fourth district: Joseph Harris, P.O. Box 48, Green Creek, NJ 08219
Fifth district: James E. Uckele, 90 South Calder Way, Phoenixville, PA 19460
Sixth district: Gregory N. Jones, 10607 Ashford Circle, Waldorf, MD 20603
Seventh district: Chuck E. Heiney, 5749 Windermere Trace, Pace, FL 32571
Eighth district: Gerald E. Humphries, 108 Melrose Circle, Florence, MS 39073
Ninth district: Rodney S. Tucker, 142 Huntington Trail, Lexington, NC 27293
Tenth district: David C. Martin, 129 Viking Court, Battle Creek, MI 49017
Eleventh district: Raymond Hutchinson, 7134 Highland Trail East, Hillsboro, OH 45133
Twelfth district: Charles Vandenplas, 33 East 12th street, Clintonville, WI 54929
Thirteenth district: Steven D. Girdler, 708 Apartment House Dr. #9, Independence, KY 41051
Fourteenth district: Joseph M. Litzinger, 4591 Homestead Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201
Fifteenth district: Kristine S. Childers, 11105 S. 14th Street, Roca, NE 68430
Sixteenth district: Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590
Seventeenth district: Jimmie Snider, 221 W. 57th St. #A-11, Loveland, CO 80538
Eighteenth district: William C. Baumann, 2033 Rose Cottage Way, Henderson, NV 89052
Nineteenth district: Lorren N. Davis, 3647 N. Greenwich Way, Meridian, ID 83646
Twentieth district: Jay E. Johnson, 4915 Stoneleigh Drive, San Antonio, TX 78220
Twenty-first district: Irvin D. Eddy, 8877 N. 2230 Road, Custer City, OK 73639



Wallace E. Tyson
National Commander
2010-2011
Disabled American Veterans



Roberto Barrera
National Commander
2009-2010
Disabled American Veterans

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2009-2010
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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Wallace E. Tyson, 6208 Lakebluff Place, Fayetteville, NC 28304-4632

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National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., 8003 Manassas Drive, Austin, TX 78745

Past National Commander

Raymond E. Dempsey, 933 E. Forest Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district: Joseph A. Costa, 20 Adamsdale Rd., North Attleboro, MA 02760
Second district: Ronald D. Tears, P.O. Box 60571, Rochester, NY 14606
Third district: Wayne W. Desjardins, 13 Birchwood Ave., Bangor, ME 04401
Fourth district: H. Rick Newell, Jr., 487 Hillside Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
Fifth district: Darlene A. Bielecki, 3709 W. 38th St., Erie, PA 16506
Sixth district: Robert E. Bent, 7932 Birchtree Court, Springfield, VA 22152
Seventh district: Roger H. Sullivan, 918 Chula Court, Lady Lake, FL 32159
Eighth district: Arthur J. Taylor, 2854 Summer Lawn Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043
Ninth district: Marian J. Truscello, 139 Bentwood Rd., Leesville, SC 29070
Tenth district: J. Dave Boozer, 144 Bristol St., Adrian, MI 49221
Eleventh district: Frank D. Williams, 2450 McConkey Rd., South Vienna, OH 45369-9502
Twelfth district: Mark Aaron, 1411 N. 4th Street Front, Chillicothe, IL 61523
Thirteenth district: William D. Bottom, 1209 Garden St., Elkhart, IN 46514
Fourteenth district: Van D. Karg, 21644 746th Avenue, Dassel, MN 55325
Fifteenth district: Raphael N. Wahwassuck, Sr., 21110 Ladle Lane, Waynesville, MO 65583
Sixteenth district: Fred L. Powers, 13240 Meacham Road, Bakersfield, CA 93314
Seventeenth district: Frank Maughan, 731 W. 3750 North, Ogden, UT 84414
Eighteenth district: Robert DiGirolamo, 11811 N. 19th Avenue, #18, Phoenix, AZ 85029
Nineteenth district: Stan Barton, 4530 SW Natchez Ct., Tualatin, OR 97062
Twentieth district: Vincent C. Morrison, 4410 Sanford Road, Houston, TX 77035-6036
Twenty-first district: David W. Spurgin, 700 Prairie Creek Rd., Mena, AR 71953

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 (deceased 2002)
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 (deceased 2010)
 1977-78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas (deceased 2005)
 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 (deceased 2002)
 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 (deceased 2009)
 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 (deceased 2010)
 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 (deceased 2008)
 1996-97: Gregory C. Reed, Indianapolis, Indiana
 1997-98: Harry R. McDonald, Jr., Crestview, Florida (deceased 2008)
 1998-99: Andrew A. Kistler, Franklin, Pennsylvania
 1999-00: Michael E. Dobmeier, Grand Forks, North Dakota
 2000-01: Armando C. Albarran, San Antonio, Texas
 2001-02: George H. Steese, Jr., Fresno, California
 2002-03: Edward R. Heath, Sr., Mechanic Falls Maine (deceased 2005)
 2003-04: Alan W. Bowers, Royalston, Massachusetts
 2004-05: James E. Sursely, Apopka, Florida
 2005-06: Paul W. Jackson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
 2006-07: Bradley S. Barton, Tualatin, Oregon
 2007-08: Robert T. Reynolds, Alexandria, Virginia
 2008-09: Raymond E. Dempsey, Des Plaines, Illinois
 2009-10: Roberto Barrera, Del Rio, Texas

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 89th NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
July 31, 2010
Joint Opening Session
- - -

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday morning, July 31, 2010, and was called to order at 8:43 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

COMMANDER ROBERTO "BOBBY" BARRERA: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: We hope you enjoyed our military service medley. I now call to order the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. Archer – Arthur H. Wilson (Laughter) 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 the National Officers and representatives from state Departments and Chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, declare the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Atlanta, Georgia, at 8:30 a.m. Saturday July 31st, 2010. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. At this point I would like to remind everyone to please turn off your cell phones. Please rise. Color guard, present the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were presented and posted by the Department of Arizona Color Guard, at which time the National Anthem was played.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in the pledge to the flag..

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, after which the Color Guard withdrew.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Ladies and gentlemen, those honors were performed by the Department of Arizona Color Guard. They did the posting of the Colors in our introductory ceremony. Another round of applause for them, please. (Applause) And now for the invocation I would like to call upon our National Chaplain, Doctor Charles Edwards Junior.

CHAPLAIN DOCTOR CHARLES W. EDWARDS JUNIOR: In this moment of quietness and reflection, we acknowledge You, our God, as creator and sustainer of all life. As we come together as Disabled Veterans and Auxiliary members from our many states and territories we gather this day, July 31st, 2010, to celebrate the beginning of the 89th National Convention and we ask Your blessings on our deliberations.

God bless our veterans and Auxiliary members here for they are doers of great deeds. They are pioneers of freedom. They are pathfinders of humanity. They are leaders of great causes. And, indeed, they are builders of a better world.

God bless our veterans and Auxiliary members here for the inspired enlightenment of their abilities, for the wisdom of their ambitions, and for the abiding value of their given achievements. Help us always to remember those missing in action, and those who are prisoners of war.

Let us always remember those whom we have lost this past year from among our ranks. And we ask Your blessings on the men and women who now serve in our military forces and who one day will be members of the greatest veterans' service organization, the Disabled American Veterans. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you Chaplain. Before we begin our activities this morning, we will briefly pause to recognize our POWs and our MIAs. We call your attention to this small table near the stage which occupies a place of dignity and of honor near the head table.

It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks today. They are referred to as POWs and as MIAs. We call them our comrades.

They are unable to be with their loved ones and their families tonight so we join together to pray for our humble tribute to them and to bear witness to their continued absence.

This table is set for one. It is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or against her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to duty, call to arms.

The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood that so many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and of the friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith while awaiting their return.

The yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us this morning.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt that is sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us this morning. The chair is empty. They are not here.

The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. Let us pray to the Supreme Commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices. May God watch over them and protect them and their families.

I'd like to now introduce and welcome to you all to the National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. To get underway I have the honor of introducing our National Convention Chairman, Moses McIntosh Junior.

A Past Department Commander of the State of Georgia and our current Finance Committee Chairman, Moses is a combat-disabled Army veteran who flew 25 combat missions during the Gulf War.

He also served in the Air Force as a member of the Strategic and Tactical Air Commands. He is the recipient of many decorations for his meritorious service. He was medically-retired as Chief Warrant Officer in 1997.

Moses received a Master of Science Degree in Human Resources Management from Troy State University and a Bachelor of Science Management Degree from the University of Maryland. He also received a Bachelor of Science in Management Studies from Louisiana Tech University.

Ladies and gentlemen, our National Convention Chairman, DAV Life Member, Moses McIntosh. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN MOSES McINTOSH JUNIOR: Commander, thank you for that very kind introduction. Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN McINTOSH: And I want to welcome you to the Peach State. I am grateful to have the opportunity to welcome you all. You may not know this, but it has been 23 years since Georgia has hosted a DAV National Convention. The first was the 66th National Convention held in Atlanta on August 15th, 1987.

I want to let you know that Georgia has contributed to the proud history as it relates to the DAV National organization. Georgia has produced two Past National Commanders – James A. McFarland and William E. Tate – two Past National Auxiliary Commanders – Helen Davis and Myrtise Vinson.

Georgia is a lovely, lively, and pleasant place to visit. Our goal is to show you true Southern hospitality. This year Georgia, as the song says, has been on many of your minds. And there is much to see here.

The state was named after King George II of England and Georgia became the fourth state to join the Union. Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi River.

Atlanta is home to Coca-Cola which offers the World of Coca-Cola. The Georgia Aquarium is the world's largest and a wonder to see. The CNN Center is the world's busiest news studio in the world.

Atlanta is also home to many leaders and organizations at the forefront of the civil rights movement. The Martin Luther King Junior Historical – National Historical Site along with the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum are right here in Atlanta.

Please enjoy yourselves here but stay focused on our Convention missions and goals. We are here to work and chart the course of our next year of achievements for the DAV. We have a wonderful program this year – one that you will enjoy. And we will hear about the remarkable events and undertakings of the past year.

Again, Commander Barrera, I would like to thank you for allowing me the honor to serve as your National Convention Chairman. I also want to thank the Department of Georgia for all of its magnificent support. This is where it all pays off.

I want to recognize the Department Convention Committee and I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to them. At this time will the Department Convention Committee please stand. And let's give them a round of applause.

(Whereupon, the Department Convention Committee stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN McINTOSH: Thank you. I want to thank you for coming to my home and for your dedication to our DAV and our mission. I know what we accomplish here will be a great success. Thank you. God bless all present. And y'all come back, ya hear? (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Moses. As Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the City of Atlanta Luz Borrero brings a wealth of governmental, non-profit and volunteer experience to this wonderful city.

She is responsible for the management and supervision of the city's operating departments as well as for the oversight of citywide business transportation – transformation projects. Whether directing improvements in permitting or revolutionizing Atlanta's valued business technology platform, her leadership and initiative have been nothing short of extraordinary.

Ms. Borrero is a member of the City's Cabinet, and of Mayor Shirley Franklin's Senior Management Team and also serves as transportation policy advisor to the Mayor. She has demonstrated a commitment to the Atlanta community through volunteer activities with many non-profit organizations as well as her participation on numerous non-profit boards.

Her educational background include studies in Cali, Columbia, where she obtained a degree in Law and Political Science from the University Santiago de Cali. She was a member of the 1996 Leadership Atlanta class and participated in the Regional Leadership Institute in the year of 2006. She was recently honored as a recipient of the 2008 Leadership Character Award.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my extreme pleasure to introduce to you Atlanta's Deputy Chief Operating Officer Luz Borrero. Ms. Borrero is not with us? Okay. We will now do the introduction of our line officers.

MR. JOHN "ROB" LEWIS: And now, let's meet your DAV National Officers: our Past National Commander and Chairman of the Board of Directors, from Huntley, Illinois, a rousing welcome for Ray Dempsey; (Applause) from Austin, Texas, your National Chaplain, a heavenly reception for the Reverend Doctor Charles W. Edwards, Junior; (Applause) the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, our National Judge Advocate, Mike Dobmeier; (Applause) your Fourth Junior Vice Commander, from Williamsburg, Ohio, Joe Johnston; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice Commander, from Toms River, New Jersey, Mary Bencivenga; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from the hang-gliding capital of the world, Sylmar, California, Larry Polzin; your First Junior Vice Commander, from Gallatin, Tennessee, old Rocky Top himself, Don Samuels; (Applause) and last but certainly not least, your Senior Vice Commander, and Tar Heel extraordinaire, from Fayetteville, North Carolina, let's hear it for Wally Tyson. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER WALLACE E. "WALLY" TYSON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TYSON: Each year the National Senior Vice Commander has the distinct honor of introducing your National Commander for the purpose of presenting his report to the Convention delegates.

Service as National Commander requires many attributes: dedication to disabled veterans and their families; knowledge of what is required to overcome the hardship of service-connected disabilities, to undergo rehabilitation and to rebuild a life interrupted by a disabling injury.

More is required, however: leadership, integrity, hard work and determination. But the most important requirement is good stewardship. National Commander Bobby Barrera is an outstanding example of all those attributes and more.

We have witnessed a remarkable year of achievement for the Disabled American Veterans under his leadership. Our Service, Legislative, Voluntary Service, Membership and other Disabled American Veterans programs have continued to set the pace and outperform every other veterans' organization.

Our Departments, our Chapters and individual members have continued to make a huge difference in the lives of so many thanks to their hard work and dedication and the leadership of National Commander Barrera. He is truly a remarkable person who knows how to get a job done.

Bobby has been the man out front for the DAV throughout the year. His strength of purpose and unmatched commitment to our cause has inspired us to do our very best in serving disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

Commander Barrera is a service-connected Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. He was seriously injured in 1969 when enemy forces exploded a 500-pound bomb beneath the armored personnel carrier he was traveling in. The explosion and fire that ripped through the vehicle burned Bobby over 40 percent of his body.

Battling courageously to overcome the physical and mental challenges he faced, Bobby earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at Saint Mary's University and later earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling at Sul Ross State University.

In addition to teaching high school, Bobby's career has included positions of leadership and management as a juvenile probation counselor and as the Director of Family Support Center at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas.

Bobby has received numerous honors and awards, among them, the Disabled American Veterans Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year in 1998. (Applause) Bobby is a leader but his humility and compassion have touched the lives of his fellow disabled veterans and their families as few others have done.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have waited four years for this moment. Please welcome one of the best friends I will ever have in this world. I am honored to present to you National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much, Wally, for that very kind introduction. It is really good to be with you this morning. I want to welcome all of you to the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

We have some very busy days ahead of us, for sure. But, also, we will have time to enjoy our camaraderie with friends and enjoy the wonderful entertainment line-up in store for us.

As I stand before you today, I realize that it has been a very long journey from that muddy rice field in Vietnam where I was wounded in 1969 to this day as I complete my year of leadership of the DAV.

I have come 40 years from being a proud and patriotic Marine to the National Commander of the 1.2 million disabled veterans. In that time my pride and my patriotism never wavered. They only grew stronger.

Now my year as National Commander is coming to an end with a wealth of experience and knowledge that I have gained. In a way, each year prepared me for the next, a constant building process that is the actual life experience.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to help our cause of building better lives for disabled veterans and for their families. The highlight of my term has to be being present as President Obama signed into law the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act. (Applause)

Advance appropriations is something long overdue because it impacts all veterans seeking medical services from the VA. I am ever mindful of the efforts of all of those who served before me who made this goal become reality.

Some of my most moving moments came during my visit to patients at Brooke Army Medical Center and especially those at the Burn Center. My chats with some of the burn patients were quite emotional because in those heroes that I was talking to I saw myself 40 years ago.

And many times you have heard me say that in 1969 when I thought I could not go on with my life there was someone there to carry me. Well, it's our turn to carry returning troops as they and their families deal with the trauma of war. This is the DAV mission. I can assure you with all my heart that this will be my mission forever.

Perhaps the most challenging assignment as your National Commander was testifying before the Joint Session of the Senate and the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Truthfully, I had rehearsed my oral presentation a dozen times but I put a lot of pressure on myself by expecting perfection. Why? Because I was representing the premier veterans' service organization. (Applause) I was representing you.

But the pressure that I had created was greatly minimized as before the presentation I received so many words of encouragement from you, my friends. And I must admit, though not perfect, it was certainly a true reflection of our goals. I was speaking to our lawmakers for all of you as one very unified voice.

The most impressive moment, from the personal perspective, was presenting a baseball bat to President Obama in the White House Oval Office. I was accompanied by National Adjutant Art Wilson and then National Headquarters Executive Director Rick Patterson.

The presentation thanked our Commander-in-Chief for his commitment to all of our veterans. He truly went to bat for veterans with his support of advanced appropriations for the VA health care system. And I say this – surely, it would not have passed without his support. (Applause)

The most heartwarming event of my year has to be the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado. The transformation of individuals who were unsure of their future and to see them develop into disabled veterans full of hope and of confidence is very, truly, a “Miracle on a Mountainside.” Building better lives for veterans for many starts at this event.

One of the most thrilling experiences was meeting some of our dedicated corps of volunteers as they brought comfort and they brought compassion to disabled veterans. They have proven that the DAV serves disabled veterans and their families better than any other service organization.

Our volunteers exceed those of all other veterans groups. Whether they be serving in VA medical facilities or otherwise we are the leader, without question, and setting the example with the quality of our care. And for that I say thank you for doing that. (Applause)

Many thanks to our volunteers in the Transportation Network drivers, our Hospital Service Coordinators, together you get it done. And, also, I thank each member for what you do each and every day to help our fellow veterans. Without the support of our dedicated membership – with the support we have exceeded and given comfort to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

I want to thank our professional National Service Officers who each day ensure that our mission is fulfilled in the most of meaningful ways. They are dedicated men and women who devote their lives to service for veterans. (Applause) Thank you.

They, along with our Department and Chapter Service Officers, are the very, at the very forefront of service to disabled veterans. My appreciation also extends to the Transition Service Officers who are working with our newest generation of veterans to ensure that they receive the care and the support that they need as they transition from military service back into the civilian world.

Serving as National Commander I certainly grew as an individual. This is especially true in the leadership arena. Working with leaders like National Adjutant Art Wilson, former National Headquarters Executive Director Rick Patterson and National Headquarters Assistant Executive Director Marc Burgess and Washington Headquarters Executive Director Dave Gorman was definitely a very rewarding experience for me.

On a daily basis, I remind you, they manage our organization with a level of professionalism that is unsurpassed. So I thank them for sharing their wisdom, for sharing your leadership with me. They and their very capable staffs made my job much easier and quite enjoyable. I am a better person for each one of them and I say thank you. (Applause)

And with all my heart I want to thank the thousands of members that I’ve met along my journey of six years of leadership as a national officer, leading up to your support today as your National Commander. (Applause)

I have found your support spiritually uplifting, enabling me to do what must be done and to do what is right. I say thank you for all that you have given me. I close my year as your National Commander with a special thanks to all the members.

You serve your disabled veterans with pride and with dignity, just as you wear your red badge of courage with true American patriotism. For you the war has not ended. For you the war will never end. Service is what sets you apart from the others.

Thank you so much for allowing me, for giving me the honor of serving with you. I am pleased to note that during the DAV’s 90th year our members have written a page of history that is truly a tribute to your commitment and to your resolve. I say unto you, “The victory is yours.”

Soon, the joy and honor of leading this fine organization will be passed to another very worthy disabled veteran but I remind you that despite my absence from this group of national line officers that I have shared the past six years with, I will always be here to ensure that the finest traditions of the DAV service will continue.

I am honored to have had a role in maintaining the goals of this fine organization. I recognize that it would not have been possible without your enthusiastic and without your wholehearted support of my tenure.

In my years I have been blessed with opportunities to serve a great cause. The greatest has been the cause of this organization. It is an honor and it is a privilege that I will carry with me for all the days of my life. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your service.

I could not have asked anything more gratifying or more satisfying than to serve each and every one of you. Thank you and I salute you. And may God bless America. Thank you so much. (Standing Ovation) Thank you so much. Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TYSON: The chair will recognize Duke Hendershot, Texas.

MR. LeROY HENDERSHOT: PDC Hendershot, makes a motion we accept Commander Barrera's report.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TYSON: Thank you. I have a motion to accept the National Commander's report. Do I hear a second?

(Whereupon, the motion was duly seconded from the floor.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER TYSON: Thank you. Moved. The motion is so ordered. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: At this time I would like to introduce the governing body of our organization, the National Executive Committee. Ladies and gentlemen, please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the members of the National Executive Committee stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much for your service. I now have the great pleasure to introduce Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs W. Scott Gould. Mr. Gould was nominated by President Obama to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and was confirmed by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on April the 2nd, 2009.

As Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs he serves as the chief operating officer of the federal government's second-largest department and is responsible for a nationwide system of health care services and benefits programs and national cemeteries for America's veterans and for their dependents.

Scott Gould is a veteran of the United States Navy, having served at sea aboard the guided missile destroyer Richard E. Byrd. He is a veteran of the Navy, having served quite proudly.

As a Naval Intelligence reservist, Captain Gould was recalled to active duty for Operations Noble Eagle and for Enduring Freedom. After President Obama's election he served as co-chair of the VA Agency Review Team for the Presidential Transition Team.

Prior to his appointment to the VA Gould was Vice President for public sector strategy at IBM Global Business Services. He is a former Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Commerce and served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Finance and Management at the Treasury Department.

Mr. Gould has been awarded the Department of Commerce Medal, the Department of Treasury Medal, and the Navy Meritorious Service Medal. He holds an AB degree from Cornell University and MBA and education doctorate degrees from the University of Rochester.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Scott Gould. (Applause)

THE HONORABLE W. SCOTT GOULD: Thank you. Good morning. Bobby, thank you for that very kind introduction and for your heartfelt leadership of Disabled American Veterans. It was great to be here this morning to see you honored in that way.

Let me acknowledge some of the members of DAV's leadership team here this morning: Ray Dempsey, Chairman of the DAV Board; Wally Tyson, Vice Chair and Senior Vice Commander; Art Wilson, the National Adjutant, I understand you make this place go;

Marc Burgess, Acting Executive Director, National Headquarters; our own Dave Gorman who I have the pleasure to work with and see quite frequently in Washington, D.C. – you do a wonderful job for us, David; Kay Egan, National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary; and Judy Hezlep, the National Adjutant, DAV Auxiliary, as well.

Fellow veterans, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Secretary Shinseki and over 300,000 VA employees I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you here today. The Secretary sends his regrets for not being able to join us now for the opening ceremonies but will be here on Monday.

And, as in the past, this is very much a group effort. Doctor Randy Petzel, our newly-confirmed Under Secretary for Veterans Health Affairs will be here later on during your proceedings. We have a representative from VBA who will be here as well.

Larry Biro, the VISN Director, representing the field and the team that sort of helped us support your effort for this Convention here this morning will also be here and others to help explain, elucidate, provide contact points for you and, of course, information to help you do what you do.

Now, ordinarily the Secretary or I would spend a bit of time talking about the outcomes and things that we have achieved together as a team for disabled veterans across our country but we have a very special speaker to come down here and do that later this week, the President of the United States.

And so with that in mind, that he is really our chief advocate and the person responsible for the leadership team at the VA I'm going to spend the time this morning to sort of peak behind the curtain and talk to you about how we operate and how we move and change and guide a 300,000 person organization in a new direction.

Now, before I do that, let me tell you just a quick story about a member of my staff who was on summer vacation quite recently. He was visiting his daughter in Arizona. They were on Interstate 10 between Tucson and Phoenix.

It's pretty country, if you've ever been there. But I think it would be fair to describe it as quite desolate, not many folks out there. It's hot, about 110 degrees. And they were near the little town of Picacho just driving along. Out of the corner of the eye he saw a DAV van get on the highway heading toward Phoenix.

Now, there in the Arizona desert in the middle of nowhere, if you will forgive that expression, there was DAV at work, taking a veteran on a round-trip that was obviously going to be several hours to an appointment that they needed to keep.

Now, I mention that because I want you to know that whether it's in that hot sun in Arizona or in Alaska or my home state of Massachusetts DAV's service to disabled veterans is both seen and appreciated and we at VA thank you so very much for it. (Applause)

Now, I'm not telling you anything you don't know but we've got a lot to do, a lot of hard work ahead of us. We are a nation at war. Our veterans' needs and expectations are changing. And there is a tremendous growth and demand for our services.

I'll give you a couple of examples. Comp and pen rating related claims, we passed a million in 2009; we're still building. In the last decade incoming disability claims grew by a staggering 75 percent. And we expect that level of growth to continue as we look forward to the next decade.

The number of aging veterans is also dramatically increasing. Vietnam-era veterans are beginning to face the health risks of aging. The number of enrolled veterans 85 or older is projected to increase 32 percent in the next decade.

The population of women veterans is also increasing. Last year alone VA experienced a 20 percent increase in the number of women using our health care system. Now that compares to 17 percent in the last six years. And, of course, education claims have increased by 50 percent this fiscal year alone as a result of increases in benefits from the Post-9-11 GI Bill. (Applause)

And from the applause I know you recognize that those increased numbers are great news. That's why we're here. That's VA's mission. But we can't get this kind of growth done with business as usual. So in order to be able to meet these challenges and make a difference in the lives of veterans we have to transform the operations of VA and make it different.

And I propose we have to do three things. Number 1, we have to change VA's culture from adversary to advocate. It has to pervade every point, (Applause) every point of customer service in our organization from the individual who picks up the phone to the physician who is attending someone's intimate needs.

We need a spirit of service to pervade what and how we do for our veterans. And today the VA is full of veterans who want to make that happen but, on occasion, they are bound by processes, technologies, rules and policies that don't make it easy for them to do that. So we need to change that.

We need to deliver improved services and benefits to achieve higher standards of quality. Many of you have had experiences lying in a hospital or being in the care of the VA, like my own father who spent 11 years as an Alzheimer's patient in a VA facility, ten of which were spent incontinent and lying in a bed.

Now, you know that the service that you receive is not static, it has to change. It must improve over time. That's what we mean when we say that we have to deliver services in the VA to a constantly higher standard. And, finally, to do that we have to be able to build strong and flexible management systems that make that possible.

The long-term solution, then, to VA's ability to address this challenge of extreme growth and the need for improved services and better quality of service is to be able to improve our people, our business processes, and our technology. And that's one of the reasons why I was hired as chief operating officer of the VA.

So for the rest of my time today I'd like to talk about some of the major initiatives we've been working on in the technology, acquisition, human capital and innovation area. And keep in mind that it is for the purpose of the result that we all seek – better quality of service to a higher standard – and let's start with IT.

Now we're a big organization. We spend about \$3.3 billion a year in information technology. When we first came onboard a year and a half ago I have to tell you that the state of the IT system in VA was disastrous.

We took a quick sample of 45 projects from across the VA and quickly assessed them against some standards – we called it like a “Jiffy Lube” check – common sense that many of you and some of you who have small businesses or who work in the IT arena know.

Is there a budget? Do we have a schedule? Has someone defined what the requirements and deliverables are that we're going to produce? And, incredibly, is there a project manager assigned? A third of the projects did not meet that standard.

Another third were a year or more behind or more than double their originally-planned budget. This was, obviously, completely unsatisfactory. And yet it was not being measured and monitored and people held accountable for it in the organization.

We took that learning experience. We applied it to 300 IT projects in the system. Today there are about 100 left. We have ended projects. We have redefined them and put them on a steady diet of regular cost schedule and technical performance.

That accountability has to be applied throughout VA but until it's applied to one of our principle tools for leveraging change and improving service we can't be a better agency.

The second area is acquisition. A lot of folks would say, we'll, look, why is acquisition really relevant to serving veterans. Fifteen billion dollars a year at the VA flow through the acquisition process, \$22 billion by some count. What that means is about a third of our discretionary budget flows to the private sector. And the people and the process that make that happen are our acquisition specialists.

We have to improve that relationship with the private sector if we're going to get better value for our veterans. Two quick examples of how we've done that. One, the president gave us an opportunity along with Congress to spend a billion dollars of stimulus funds doing what? Maintaining and minor construction for our veterans and for our infrastructure.

We took that billion dollars for the first time, managed it all in electronic form. Ninety-eight percent of it was awarded competitively. Seventy-five percent went to veteran-owned small businesses. This was a major change.

And while it may not be able to be possible to do that kind of performance level for all of our acquisition right away, it stands as an example of how we can and should be doing new things in the future.

And obviously with those 100 projects we don't need a situation where we're acquiring our services from the private sector with 100 separate interactions and so we created something called “Transformation 21 Total Technology” or T4 and welcomed a new generation of acquisition contracts to be able to implement our IT changes.

Secretary Shinseki calls that T4 contract a “win-win-win.” The reason why is that of the 15 contracts that will be assigned seven are reserved for veteran-owned small business, veteran-owned disadvantaged businesses. So VA wins by getting highly talented contract support more quickly and with less risk and reduced costs.

Veterans win by getting better services. And veteran-owned businesses win through their participation. We estimate about a billion dollars a year for veteran-owned small businesses for each year over the next five years.

We are also transforming human capital. Now, veterans of every age sitting in the audience today, you know, the old adage, “Take care of your people and your people will take care of the mission.” And yet we have a situation in VA where we're spending less than a third the private sector does on training.

We're asking our people to do new things but we're not giving them the tools and the training to be able to make that happen. The entire civil services lag behind in this area but we couldn't stand by and let that happen for VA.

So the secretary allocated a record \$300 million to human capital this year, \$200 million of which is being spent on training, helping people use the technology, apply the new processes, create that new customer service standard, by training them, finding the right kind of talent, planning to have the workforce in place, and developing the people who are involved.

We are focusing specifically on our senior managers, trying to boost their capability and skill. We're holding them accountable, as well. Quietly, without fanfare, 20 senior executives

have left the employ of the VA in the past year for opportunities outside the agency. And the remaining over 300 senior execs we're investing in training, developing, trying to bring them together as a team.

We created a corporate senior executive management office to make that possible. And we have opened a national training center in Falling Waters, West Virginia, to strengthen the skills of our IT professionals and our IT workforce, creating one of the largest virtual uses of, uses of virtual training in the new center in the federal government.

So employees are the lynchpin of what we are trying to achieve which are new outcomes for all of you. And, finally, in the area of innovation when you step into a larger organization, 300,000 people, folks want you to have an agenda and they want you to say what you way.

And, by and large, the professional, the wonderful professional VA employees are ready to respond to that. But not so fast. At the same time they want you to take the time to hear from them the ideas, the insight and the advantages that they have from their 25 or 30 year careers in the agency. So we try to do both.

The secretary has been out there traveling, listening. We surveyed 20,000 of our employees, numerous work groups and so forth. And then we reached out using crowd sourcing to 45,000 of our employees who generated 10,000 ideas in the space of a month, all ideas about how we can manage to higher quality, improve our services, and improve value.

So it's not only our ideas from employees that matter but also from the private sector. And here, again, a quick example. Many of you are aware of the secretary's, I think, courageous decision on Agent Orange.

You know that the consequence of that will be about a couple of hundred thousand new claims coming into VA all at once and on top of the backload that we already have. So we turned to the private sector and said, "Can you help us?" What ideas do you have that we could process that so that veterans who need these benefits can get them, having waited so very, very long for that moment?

And we created a performance work statement and went out to the private sector and we expected one or two ideas, you know, sort of a slow process. They'd come back and say, well, wait a minute, not so fast and it's going to cost more than you think.

And what we got were two dozen companies clamoring to make their contribution and suggesting actually more aggressive timelines so that we'd have prototype systems up in 90 days and fully up working systems three months after that.

That contract was awarded last month. The work has begun. And we will be able to hold ourselves accountable for results in early in Fiscal Year 10. Now, IT, acquisition, human capital – (Applause) thank you.

Those four quick examples, IT, acquisition, human capital, innovation, they're just examples of how we're getting the VA aircraft carrier, for those of us who served in the Navy, to kind of swing. You know the feeling. You put the rudder over and if you're used to a big boat feel it takes a while to swing. And that's what is happening now; that bow is starting to swing.

So there is a lot more going on at VA. And a lot more that I could talk about. But I'm not going to steal the president's thunder. Suffice it to say for now that we could not ask for a more pro-veteran president or a better advocate for veterans issues, for veterans to the VA and to DAV. He is deeply committed. (Applause)

He is deeply committed to doing the right thing by building a strong and sustainable US military, the first part of the equation – let's not forget our troops on the line right now, making sure they have the right equipment and the right support – and a 21st Century VA.

Secretary Shinseki and I are obviously 100 percent behind him on that. And we recognize that no conflict can end unless it includes how we care for the veterans who have sacrificed so much to fight our country's battles. (Applause)

So in closing let me reiterate the thanks of the department for all that DAV does. Look, we get it. We understand that change in Washington and in our own agency depends on our ability to work with Congress, the Executive Branch and with you to make positive things happen.

No major piece of legislation is going to get passed in Washington, D.C., or this Congress without the help of DAV. You are an extraordinarily powerful (Applause) and influential group of folks and I know that comes from a lot of vigilance and hard work. We get it. We understand it. And we look forward to that partnership.

Your dedication is also on full display in places like Aspen, Colorado, for the Winter Sports Clinic where you see people courageously making more of their lives and testing their endurance and their courage. And I am looking forward to coming out there and seeing it personally.

We are proud to be your partner in this noble endeavor just as we are proud to work with you as your department. We have only one mission and that mission is you, the veteran. Thanks again for the opportunity to speak with you this morning. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

And God bless you all and God bless our veterans and our country. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Deputy Secretary Gould shook hands as he headed to stage left, then returned to center stage to shake hands with Commander Barrera.)

DEPUTY SECRETARY GOULD: Exiting Stage Left I almost missed the most important guy. (Laughter) Thanks a lot. Congratulations.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. The secretary has other matters that require his early departure so we'll – again, thank you so much to the secretary for doing that.

Everyone in this room knows that the accomplishment of our mission requires teamwork and nowhere is our willingness to work together to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families more apparent than between the DAV and the Auxiliary.

At the helm of this wonderful Auxiliary is Commander Kay Egan, a woman that I have grown to respect as a leader and an advocate for disabled veterans and their families. I am fortunate not only to know her as a great leader of our Auxiliary but also as a dear friend.

Kay has been a member of the Florida Unit 94 since 1987. Her Auxiliary eligibility is through her late husband, Bill, a World War II Navy Air Corps veteran. When it comes to enthusiastic support of the DAV and our shared mission of service and hope, Kay definitely leads the way.

Please join me in a rousing welcome of DAV Auxiliary National Commander Kay Egan. (Standing Ovation)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER KAY EGAN: Thank you. Thank you, Commander Bobby, for your wonderfully kind and true introduction, (Laughter) and for your thoughtfulness, and your friendship – underline “friendship” – as we have traveled to where we are today.

I am truly honored to share this great convention with you, one of my dearest, dearest friends. National Officers, National staff, Past National Commanders, distinguished guests, delegates, members of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, welcome to Atlanta and the best convention yet.

At this time I would like to acknowledge some of the people who have helped to make this year such a success, first, our dedicated officers and staff: National Senior Vice Commander Susan Henry from Tennessee; (Applause) National First Junior Vice Commander Patrice Rapisand from Texas; (Applause)

National Second Junior Vice Commander Donna Adams from Arizona; (Applause) National Third Junior Vice Commander Susan Miller from Colorado; (Applause) National Fourth Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg from Minnesota; (Applause) National Appointed Chaplain Louise Bohlinger; (Applause)

National Judge Advocate Carol Gray from Michigan; (Applause) our immediate Past National Commander Sandra Dobmeier from North Dakota; (Applause) and our dear Judy, our National Adjutant, Judy Hezlep from Ohio; (Applause) and our National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper from Kentucky. (Applause) And please give a hand to the entire National staff. (Applause)

Also on the dais, the National Convention Chairman Ann Wilner, Commander of the State Department of Georgia, and Auxiliary Past National Commander Donna Tanner, President of the Auxiliary Past National Commanders. (Applause) I would also request that the Auxiliary National Executive Committee seated in the front row to please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the DAV Auxiliary National Executive Committee stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much for all you do. It has been a phenomenal year full of wonder, challenge and achievement. I thank all of you for making this great year possible and especially to the DAV for their assistance and camaraderie.

When I chose “Stay Connected” as my theme, I didn't realize that not only I, that I chose it for my own personal motto, I chose it for the rest of the organization. My original thought was to get chapters and units to do things together in joy and harmony. But it didn't occur to me until I was commander for a few months that connection was something I wanted for myself.

I enjoyed being “out in the field” which is an old social work term for getting out there, getting down and dirty and doing hands-on stuff for those individuals I wanted to help, using a

hands-on approach to explanations, purposes, reasons and whatever else came up in the course of a conference or a meeting of any kind.

In the course of it all I was extremely amazed. I met so many Medal of Honor recipients that I am still in awe. I met the Navaho who were surviving veterans of World War II and known as the Code Talkers. And I was moved by the reverence they showed as honor guards for the state in which they lived.

I went to the World War I Memorial in Kansas City and was stunned by realizing the number of men killed in that war. They are remembered with poppies embedded under the glass walkway at the entrance: 9,000 flowers, each representing a thousand deaths for a total of 9 million soldiers killed on both sides in World War I.

This year I felt like I was connected to the Disabled American Veterans organization more than I ever had been. Was it the result of seeing so many familiar faces year after year at National Convention? Possibly.

But this year those faces had names. I met them on their turf and they showed me how they do things in their state. And they showed me, too, how much they care for their fellow veterans. And I must say that most of my connection came from Commander Barrera. You know what a gem he is and a total charmer? A-ha.

We shared many conventions over the last few years and I got to know him and his remarkable wife Maricelia. Bobby spoke from his heart and meant every word he said. We connected or should I say “got hooked” on each other? (Applause)

I frequently would refer to being in a hall of heroes whenever I spoke at joint meetings because that’s what the DAV is filled with, heroes, men and women who were willing to put their lives on the line for the rest of us who remained at home safe thanks to them.

There are heroes in the Auxiliary as well, only most of the time they are referred to as caregivers. The Auxiliary has been filled with caregivers since our inception.

It is our purpose to advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, injured, and disabled veterans and to cooperate with all agencies devoted to the cause of improving and advancing the condition, health and interest of disabled veterans. And it is with this purpose that we open every one of our unit meetings.

And when you get right down to it, this is an awesome task and because we’re working for our loved ones it is a task we welcome. I wanted all of us to get connected because there is strength in numbers.

And the way things are going now we have to fight for every improvement the disabled veterans and their families get. Not only that, we must too often fight to maintain what we have already achieved. It’s our job to help educate our local, state and national leaders about the challenges facing disabled veterans and their families.

From the town hall to the Halls of Congress we must make sure our leaders realize disabled veterans fought to ensure our and their freedom. (Applause) And it is our duty as a nation to ensure better lives for disabled veterans. They have earned it and we will make sure they have it. (Applause)

I have learned that this is, indeed, a vast nation. The west is wild. Texas is big. (Laughter) Hawaii is paradise. And every state is a treasure. We are a true melting pot full of ethnic ingredients, all of which helps flavor the savory stew we call the United States of America.

Each region of this great nation has one thing in common: concern for our veterans. Be it homeless veterans, veterans in VA facilities or disabled veterans who are out of work, we care about what could and does happen to our veterans. In caring about them we are connected. And in our combined strength we strive to help and really we have accomplished much together.

Our medical facilities have improved to take care of the casualties of the current wars. Provisions have been made to recognize the invaluable, unstinting work of the caregivers. And we all realize there is much more, much, much more to do. And by staying connected we will succeed.

As my year as commander of our marvelous Auxiliary draws near an end, I thank all of you, members of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, for all that you do. I personally thank you for your hospitality and your friendship and for your care and your concern.

Our organizations, the DAV and the DAVA, are truly connected. I extend all my love to you. God bless you, our military, and our caregivers. Thank you for a marvelous year. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, DAV Commander Barrera joined DAV Auxiliary Commander Egan at the podium.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: Oh, goody, I didn't have to call him over. (Laughter) Thank you. You stay here. Stay here. If I had a personal choice of who I wanted as a co-commander, it would have been you, Bobby.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. I love you.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. Thank you, Kay.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: This is from the Auxiliary. Obviously, I'm not giving it to him from the VFW. (Laughter) This is in appreciation of distinguished service given by the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Thank you, July 31st, 2010.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Egan presented DAV Commander Barrera with a plaque then went to her seat to retrieve something at which time Adjutant Wilson attempted to remove her notes from the dais.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: Not just yet, Mr. Wilson. (Laughter) Mr. Wilson, would you care to join me at the podium, please?

(Whereupon, Adjutant Wilson joined DAV Auxiliary Commander Egan at the podium.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: You didn't know you were getting this.

ADJUTANT WILSON: No, I didn't.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: In honor of the 90th year of service this says "Congratulations on the 90th year of dedicated service to America's disabled veterans and to their families from all the members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary."

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Egan presented Adjutant Wilson with an engraved crystal ice bucket.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you so much.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: You're welcome. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: It's been a pleasure. Thank you.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Kay. I would like to now recognize the attendance of Lois Pope. As you know, Lois is a long-time friend and supporter of the DAV without whom our community's dream of a national monument recognizing the service and the sacrifices of our nation's veterans would not be possible.

We thank her for her vision and for pushing us ever closer to making the dream of American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial ever closer. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Ms. Lois Pope.

(Whereupon, Ms. Lois Pope stood and was recognized with a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you to a beautiful lady. The DAV's role as an advocate for disabled veterans and their families is clearly visible in its nationwide Transportation Network. We have 179 Hospital Service Coordinators all around our country who arrange transportation for disabled veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment.

Since 1987 the National Organization, the Chapters, Departments, and National Service Foundation Columbia Trust have purchased 2,367 vans at a cost of more than \$51 million. (Applause)

Throughout our 90-year history the DAV has received unprecedented support from many resources. But there is only one steadfast ally who has been with us since the beginning and continues to support our mission to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families, and that, ladies and gentlemen, is the Ford Motor Company. (Applause)

With us today is a special guest with more news about the longstanding Ford and DAV partnership. Lynn Quigley is Community Relations Manager at the Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.

In this role she supports all philanthropic and community service-related activities, including the coordination of volunteer efforts by Ford employees and all activities of the Ford Motor Company Fund, a separate organization funded largely by the Ford Motor Company.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join in giving a warm welcome to Ms. Lynn Quigley. Lynn. (Applause)

(Whereupon, "I'm a Ford Truck Man" was played as Ms. Quigley came to the podium.)

MS. LYNN QUIGLEY: Thank you, National Commander Barrera. Okay, so I'm not quite a "Ford Truck Man," more like a "Mustang Sally." (Laughter) Jim Vella, who has attended for the past several years, wished that he could be here but was unable to attend. And I am so very honored to be here representing Ford at this event.

As you may know, Ford's relationship with the DAV dates back more than 85 years to 1922 and it's one of our longest relationships, certainly one that we value very highly.

By the way, as I was looking into the history of our relationship I learned that Ford hired disabled veterans returning from World War I. It made Ford one of the first companies to hire people with disabilities and to adapt work environments to the specific needs of disabled veterans. (Applause) Thank you.

As an American company that embodies the American dream, Ford firmly believes it is important to support organizations like DAV. As everyone here knows, it's been a tough couple of years for the auto industry and the economy in general. But things are looking up at Ford Motor Company.

We're very proud that for the first time ever the Ford brand has the highest initial quality among all non-luxury brands in the important J.D. Power and Associates 2010 Initial Quality Study. These results show that our efforts are paying off and people are taking notice.

While our company works hard to grow stronger during these economic challenges, we have not forgotten our commitments to our communities. As part of the Ford Volunteer Corps some 20,000 employees pitch in to show their dedication to our communities.

I'd like to show a brief video about our employees' dedication. We like to say that "There is a heart behind the oval."

(Whereupon, a video from Ford Motor Company was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

MS. QUIGLEY: The heart behind the oval commitment continues in 2010 with our employees volunteering at veterans organizations. In 2009 more than 100 volunteers in several states assisted in VA hospitals and other facilities that provide help to veterans their families.

Our strong relationship with DAV also includes our involvement with the Winter Sports Clinic which we have supported for more than ten years. My husband Kevin and I have attended this event for several years now and it is such a rewarding experience for us to be able to volunteer at this event.

We have also provided support for the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial, soon to become one of our country's treasured landmarks. At Ford we know that what you do is extremely valuable and that's why we continue to support your efforts through vehicle donations, scholarship programs and special purchase programs.

We appreciate the support that you've shown us through the purchase of thousands of Ford vehicles through the Ford Partner Recognition Program. To date DAV members and their families have purchased more than 13,000 vehicles. That's an increase of over 14 percent from the 2009 total of vehicles purchased by DAV members and family members who utilized the Ford Partner Recognition Program.

I invite you to consider using the Ford Partner Recognition Program when considering the purchase of a Ford vehicle. Please visit and talk with our program representative about the benefits of this program. We also have a representative here from our Mobility Motoring Team and new this year Ford has a bonus adaptive equipment offer for DAV members.

In addition to excellent pricing and Ford Mobility Motoring Reimbursement of up to \$1,200, DAV members and household members can now receive up to an additional \$1,200 cash reimbursement on eligible adaptive equipment when Mobility Motoring is used in conjunction with X Plan Partner recognition.

For complete qualifications and details, please check your welcome bags for program material or talk with our representatives at the Ford table which is located just outside the Centennial Ballroom. Both representatives will be here for the duration of the conference and they will be happy to discuss these opportunities with you.

And this year we're excited to have on display a specially adapted F150 truck provided by Freedom Sciences. This F150 is equipped with a power assist seat and wheelchair hoist. It's located in the main circular drive of the hotel so please take a few minutes to stop by the display and see the adaptable equipment on an F150 vehicle.

Also, while you're visiting the Ford booth you will have the opportunity to complete a short survey. As a thank you for your important feedback you will receive a special edition Built Ford Tough pin and you will be eligible to win a \$100 gift card. Winners will be selected daily and you don't have to be present to win.

And now for the best part of the presentation. National Commander Barrera and National Adjutant Wilson, would you please join me at the podium?

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera and Adjutant Wilson joined Ms. Quigley at the podium.)

MS. QUIGLEY: Thank you. Ford Motor Company began donating vehicles to the DAV in 1996 and today we are proud to further support this great organization with a donation of seven new E350 passenger vans. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Ford E350 DAV vans on either side of the stage were unveiled.)

MS. QUIGLEY: This gift means that Ford has donated a grand total of 148 vehicles to the DAV. Please watch for these E350 vans. They're now being used for transportation needs during the Convention. They are a pretty impressive fleet.

Ford donated vehicles are being used in each of our 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Please take a look at the screen to see the 2010 map which shows the vehicle donation locations all across the United States.

This year we've added an E350 icon to represent the 2010 donation locations so if you look for the little seven E350 vehicles on the map you will see where the new ones are going. It's great to see how many cities have received Ford vehicles. Now on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee I would like to present you with a ceremonial check. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented a ceremonial check to Commander Barrera and Adjutant Wilson.)

MS. QUIGLEY: Before you go back to your seats I'd also like to announce today that Ford Motor Company Fund is continuing its support of educational programs by providing a donation of \$25,000 to the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program. (Standing Ovation)

This gift honors the spirit of Jesse Brown, a man known for his selflessness, his leadership, and his compassion. Since 2000 Ford's contributions to this program have resulted in 125 scholarships being awarded to deserving candidates. On behalf of Ford Motor Company I would like to present you with this donation check for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented a ceremonial check to Commander Barrera and Adjutant Wilson.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you.

MS. QUIGLEY: National Commander Barrera, would you please stay here with me and I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Egan to please join us on stage.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Egan joined Ms. Quigley and DAV Commander Barrera at the podium.)

MS. QUIGLEY: The DAV has a wonderful history and a bright future because of the strength of its leadership. Today I want to recognize two very important individuals who have served over the past year.

National Commander Roberto Barrera and Auxiliary National Commander Kay Egan, as a token of our appreciation of your dedication to this great organization I would like to present each of you with a memento from Ford Motor Company.

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented gifts to Commander Barrera and DAV Auxiliary Commander Egan.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. QUIGLEY: Thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to the men and women of the DAV. Thank you National Commander Barrera and Auxiliary National Commander Egan. (Applause)

The DAV has always stood up for America and the men and women that have served this great nation. Ford Motor Company is proud to stand with you and support your work. It's been both a pleasure and an honor to be here today.

Thank you for your bravery. Thank you for your loyalty. And thank you for helping to preserve our freedom. Enjoy the rest of the Convention. And God bless America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: I want to say, Lynn, that we deeply appreciate and are delighted by Ford's compassion and kindness, not only today but always. With this generous \$200,000 donation this allows DAV to purchase additional vans and to continue more than 89 years of cooperation between two great American institutions.

It also impresses me greatly to say that since 1996 Ford has donated a total of 148 vehicles worth \$3.4 million. Thank you so much. (Applause) Ford embodies the vision in compassion and generosity that proves that the bottom line isn't always about dollars and cents.

Ford's commitment to our nation's sick and disabled veterans brilliantly illustrates the modern-day blueprint for responsible corporate citizenship in America.

Lynn, on behalf of the more than 1.2 million members of the Disabled American Veterans, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your benevolent leadership and for making the needs of disabled veterans a priority. Thank you so much. (Applause)

Also, Ford's ongoing support of the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program which recognizes deserving young men and women who donate their time and compassion to help sick and disabled veterans in the VA medical centers, that support is appreciated. Since 2000 the Ford Motor Company Fund has donated \$425,000 to our scholarship program. (Applause) Thank you so much.

Now I have a great honor. Through his incredible courage and an unbreakable will David moved beyond survival to take a new role as a leader among disabled veterans. Please enjoy this video.

(Whereupon, a video honoring the DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, David Riley, was viewed, followed by a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Obviously, the film speaks for itself but let me add that each year we select an Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year who best represents the courage and the perseverance of the brave men and women who have been injured in the defense of our country.

And I might add this is our organization's highest honor and the recipient of this award embodies our commitment to serving disabled veterans and their families. "Semper paratus," the motto of the United States Coast Guard means "always ready."

Well, when the Coast Guard rescue swimmer David Riley was attacked by this mysterious illness in 1998 I don't think he could have been ready for the unexpected turn that his life would take, yet he persevered.

His courage carried him on. And he is our hero today. He is our Disabled Veteran of the Year. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and privilege to present the 2010 DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, David Riley. (Standing Ovation) Let me read the inscription. It says:

"The Disabled American Veterans is honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment to veterans, to your local community and to your nation.

"From the earliest stages of your rehabilitation following the loss of all four limbs during service to the United States Coast Guard, your optimism and strength of character have provided inspiration to your fellow disabled veterans and their families.

"Through volunteerism, leadership in your local DAV chapter, and one-on-one interaction with veterans throughout Alabama, you have provided an exceptional example for all disabled veterans and their families.

"Despite severe physical challenges, you put the needs of other veterans first. Your humble spirit and positive attitude are a living testament to the DAV's mission of building better lives for Disabled Veterans and their families.

"On behalf all those who bear the scars of war, thank you for your leadership, thank you for your integrity, and for your ongoing commitment to serving your fellow veterans."

Ladies and gentlemen, our Outstanding Veteran of the Year for 2010, Dave. (Applause)

MR. DAVID RILEY: Thank you, Commander Barrera. I want to thank all the members of the DAV, Admiral – the Commandant of the Coast Guard, my friends, my family, countless others who sacrificed much for me to be here today representing innumerable comrades fallen for freedom. I'm humbled and honored to be here today accepting this award.

When a soldier or a sailor is fallen, countless people are affected through whole families of generations. Like a pebble dropped in still waters, the waves touch all like a butterfly effect.

When I got sick the doctor told my wife and those who had brought me to the hospital that I would not live through the night. But my family and many others had the faith to not give up on me. I was in so much pain and so combative that the medical staff put me in a medically-induced coma.

The doctors told my wife there was no hope for me to make a recovery but she stayed there with me by my side. When the chief physician visited me after my hospitalization at Brooke Army Medical Center he called me the "Miracle Man" for surviving the loss of several internal organs, my limbs, overcoming gangrene infections and surmounting many health obstacles.

But God was at work and I felt that presence. I felt it while in the drug-induced coma with two lights or what I now think were angels at my side. These lights gave me a choice of staying here or continuing on. I chose to stay here because I had a wife and kids to take care of and was left in a body so near death I needed breathing apparatus, blood transfusions and dialysis to survive.

Regardless, I awoke from that coma in unbearable, extreme pain with no limbs. I was suffering and very depressed. I thought I would have to spend the rest of my days in a state of misery. I endured the days with my beautiful wife, Yvonne, by my side. But the nights were awful. But, again, I was helped by God.

One night, while my wife stayed at the Fisher House – well, she needed to sleep sometimes – a big, black nurse, sidled up to my bedside, read the bible and said I should put my suffering in Jesus' hands. And I was delivered from my deep depression and given a countenance to life on and live my life. (Applause)

Later, I returned to Brooke Army Medical Center to thank that nurse and was told no one of that sort works here. So, again, angels, God sent an angel to save me. Faith that can work miracles, by the help of these people who loved me, empowered me, most of all motivated me, they pushed me to take that most important step, to take the next step.

You only fail by not taking that first step and by saying, "I can't." By making the decision to take that first step and then the next, one step at a time, I chose life. In the Coast Guard I was a rescue swimmer so I used to like to think that I saved people when I had all my body parts.

Now I still try to save service people who are wounded warriors by giving them positive feelings about their future life. I know how important it is to have a support system of family and kids. I'm lucky to have them stay in there plugging for me.

I remember how a friend I met named Teddy Alves walked across a boat ramp while I was on excursion from the rehab, had the most perfect gait you could ever see. And I was told after meeting him that he was a bilateral – one above, one below the knee – amputee.

This motivated me to think that if I could – if he could do that, I could do that, too. I visited my mom and dad in El Paso and told my dad I didn't think I would ever be able to walk on these prosthetic legs because the sores kept opening up and were painful and the balance was a hard task.

My dad had a tennis court and he put me on the prosthetic legs and at first I walked along the net of the court, afraid of falling but leaning on the net. Then I walked the width of the court and without any assistance I walked all the way to the back door of the house and into a new life.

Again, I can't say enough about my wife, kids and parents. God rescued me so that I can use my experience to help others. I believe in doing so He gave me a divine appointment to speak to others that need the same encouragement that I did.

Our Founding Fathers overcame insurmountable odds by trusting in God. We pledge our allegiance to one nation under God. And our national currency proclaims "In God we trust." And we must have the faith that He influences our lives and our daily choices by trusting Him.

I stand before you today with no arms, no legs, because I trusted in God. Now, I believe our nation, my nation, your nation, needs to start trusting in God again and by doing so heal itself. (Applause)

I overcame incredible odds by this trust and so can this nation. Let me close by reiterating that the Veterans Administration and the concept of the service family are vital to the rehabilitation of the veteran. The caring professionals who are there to keep us in the loop in all kinds of events, medical, administrative and policy issues, provide a support network that is essential.

The latest opportunities to ski, to develop confidence on our abilities and the camping trips for camaraderie are all great methods of reassuring disabled veterans that they're still capable of carrying on a life instead of not taking that first step and staying in bed wasting away.

Today I drive my truck courtesy of the VA, outfitted with driving mechanisms for my prosthetic arms and legs. I live in a home made wheelchair friendly by the VA. I'm finishing a thesis for my master's degree at the University of South Alabama by a stipend from the VA and it's associated with the Military Heroes Initiative.

I remain optimistic for the future and I consider it my life's work to motivate other vets so that they can get through all the pain and medications and to realize that they still have a life to live.

I want to thank all of you for this award, the Outstanding Veteran of the Year. The service that I render through our local disabled veteran groups is a labor of love for me. Mixing with other veterans and serving on the state Rehab Council for Governor Riley has provided me with an opportunity to become aware of the ways that we can help rehabilitate our veterans and make them feel whole again.

Thanks for all you do for our disabled vets. And thank you for honoring me with this award today. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: As you can see, Dave is a proud Coast Guard veteran but all too often our brothers and sisters in the Coast Guard are forgotten when we honor our armed services.

So it is especially important to recognize Dave's heroic service as an Aviation Survival Technician. Here to honor Dave and all disabled veterans of the United States Coast Guard I will have the pleasure of introducing the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

Admiral Robert J. Papp Junior assumed command as the 24th Commandant of the Coast Guard on May 25th, 2010. He is charged with continuing the Coast Guard's leadership in the global maritime community and securing America's coastlines and inland waterways.

He leads the largest component of the Department of Homeland Security with 42,000 men and women on active duty, 7,000 civilians, 8,000 reservists, and 34,000 volunteers of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Admiral Papp is a 1975 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy. Additionally, he holds a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College. He holds the distinct honor of being the Thirteenth Gold Ancient Mariner – a position of great, great respect within the Coast Guard.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and privilege to introduce to you the 24th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Robert J. Papp Junior. (Standing Ovation)

ADMIRAL ROBERT J. PAPP JUNIOR: Thank you. Thank you. Well, good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

ADMIRAL PAPP: You know, as I was sitting up here on the stage I couldn't help but drift for a little bit thinking about all the folks out here in the crowd. And I have to tell you that one of my favorite things are clever commercials on the television. In fact, my wife thinks that I watch the Super Bowl simply to watch the commercials and come up with new ideas.

One of my favorite that I think you will recognize is for a well-known credit card company. And as I was thinking about the last 24 hours if you can picture a scene in Washington, D.C., at the airport, the airport in Atlanta, a hotel in Atlanta, and then here, you would have these scenes pass by.

There would be a voice talking over it saying something like: "Air fare from Washington, D.C., to Atlanta, Georgia, \$229; a night in the Hilton Atlanta, \$179; breakfast at Starbucks, \$7.50; time spent with America's disabled veterans – priceless." (Applause)

And I would also have to say that being able to be here and spent time with and see David Riley receive this award is beyond priceless so thank you for inviting me to be here today. (Applause)

National Commander Barrera, Auxiliary National Commander Egan, all the distinguished leaders on the stage and in the front rows, all the attendees today, the Riley family, Dave and Yvonne, to the children, Logan, Krista and Caitlin, his parents, General and Mrs. Riley, and his grandmother in the audience, and my Coast Guard shipmates, it's great to be here this morning and an honor to be in Atlanta for your 89th National Convention and to take part in the presentation of the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award to a Coast Guard shipmate and the first time to a Coast Guardsman, my shipmate, ASM1 David Riley, United States Coast Guard, Retired.

Now, Dave first served in the Army, following in the footsteps of his father, General William Riley – and, General, thank you for your service as well – before he found his home in the Coast Guard.

Now, Dave, we love all our other sister services – General Riley, we love all our other sister services as well – but we're really thankful that you made the decision to serve in the United States Coast Guard.

Dave enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1984 and completed Aviation Survival Man or ASM School and also the Navy Helicopter Rescue School in 1986. Now, what you might not know is that in 1986 the Coast Guard's Rescue Swimmer Program was in its infancy, having just been officially stood up in 1984.

We checked the records and to our knowledge Dave was the first Rescue Swimmer to become qualified in the HH52 helicopter. He went on to become qualified as a Rescue Swimmer in three other Coast Guard helicopters: the H3, the H65 and the H60 which means Dave has jumped out of pretty much every type of helicopter that the Coast Guard has flown.

Now, for me as a ship driver, I've never fully understood why anybody even wants to get in a helicopter and lift off the ground (Laughter) so I really can't figure out why someone would want to jump out of a perfectly good helicopter. (Laughter) But that's Dave's rating.

In the Coast Guard he was an Aviation Survival Man. And the members of this proud rating are more commonly known as Rescue Swimmers. Perhaps you've seen the movie *The Guardian*. Well, Kevin Costner played the Dave Riley part – or was it Ashton Kutcher? (Laughter)

There are very few titles within the military profession that are as hard-earned and respected as that of a Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue Swimmer. Now being a Rescue Swimmer is one of the most challenging jobs in the Coast Guard. It requires extraordinary physical demands.

Rescue Swimmers deploy from helicopters into the water. That is they jump out of the helicopter to rescue those in peril on the sea, oftentimes operating in the most severe weather conditions imaginable.

They are some of the many unsung heroes of our armed forces that perform missions that require not only selfless service but great courage. And that's just what Dave did. He risked his life on countless search and rescue missions so that others might live.

"So that others might live" has become the unofficial creed of the Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers. What makes Dave's legacy even greater, however, is how he overcame adversity, adversity that few outside of this audience and our armed forces, will ever experience.

Despite all the odds, David continued with his most important duty – to be a husband to Yvonne, a father to Logan, Krista and Caitlin. And he also continues to be an active contributor in his community. And he has even joined our Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Now, earlier you heard me refer to Dave as a "shipmate." Now, let me explain that. Even though ASM1 Dave Riley's active duty career was an Aviation Survival Man we still refer to him as a shipmate because "shipmate" is my shorthand term of endearment for all members of the Coast Guard family, active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary.

For people who serve on or over the water, the term "shipmate" represents a unique bond that is formed when people you serve with and their families become a part of your extended family.

How else would you describe persons that you spend 24 hours a day with, seven days a week, flying sometimes into the most treacherous of circumstances and other times observing the most outstanding and grandest spectacles that nature can provide?

The term "shipmate" also encompasses the adrenaline and emotion of our service: the great joy and satisfaction of a rescue well performed; the deep sorrow when, despite your best efforts, you cannot save someone from the perils of the sea. It's weathering those storms and those difficulties, giving it your utmost when you're cold, tired and wet, that forges the bond of being a shipmate.

There is no greater compliment than to be known as a great shipmate and no better goal than to try to become one. By all measures, by any definition, Aviation Survival Man First Class Dave Riley is a great shipmate.

But it strikes me there is something even more special about this great shipmate. He is now performing a much more important duty with our many service members who are returning from the frontlines disabled. Through his tenacious spirit Dave is showing them that despite their injuries they can adapt and lead a fulfilling life.

To me, I think that what Dave is doing is continuing to live out his life by the Rescue Swimmer's Creed – So that others might live. The only difference now is that those others are no longer people in need of rescue from the sea, but our injured veterans returning home in need of an example on how to cope with their injuries.

So, to this day, in spite of his disability, ASM1 Dave Riley, United States Coast Guard, Retired, continues to dedicate his life so that others – now our disabled veterans – might live. So to Dave and actually to all of you let me pass on one simple message today and that is thank you.

I have the great honor and privilege to still be on active duty. And I will serve as long as my country asks me to. But one of the great thrills that I get, particularly since September 11th, 2001, is that wherever I travel our citizens will stop just to shake my hand and say "thank you for your service."

Each and every time those hundreds of citizens stop I say to them, "You're welcome. I'll pass it on to the great young men and women who are actually out there getting the work done."

But it's not enough just to pass it on to those great young men and women who today are getting the work done. I also need to pass it on to those who have served in the past and continue to work hard now to support those that have served in the past.

So thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And particularly to Dave Riley, thank you for your service. *Semper paratus.* (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, admiral. And we know that you are on a tight schedule so we thank you for helping us as we honor Dave Riley. It's plain to see that we'll be hearing a lot more about Dave Riley in the future. To you, David, we say, thank you so much.

The Bugle Award was created in 2005 to recognize the outstanding contributions of the media in support of disabled veterans and the programs of the DAV. In an over-communicated world, so often the word "media" takes on a negative connotation. We think of television, tabloids, and sensationalism. We think of war being fought and the distracted public that mired in gossip and celebrity folly.

We often forget the critical role of real journalists who courageously fight to bring truth to light and to honor their constitutional charge. Our 2010 Bugle Award recipient embodies the highest standards of personal and professional integrity.

Kelly Kennedy is a journalist who has dedicated her life to bring light to the stories and the issues that impact veterans and military members. I ask you to enjoy a short video.

(Whereupon, a video on Kelly Kennedy reporting on burn pits began but had no sound.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Kelly is a veteran in her craft and a veteran of the United States Army who has never forgotten where she comes from. If you've heard the term "burn pit" in association with the current wars in any media outlet, it's very likely because of Kelly Kennedy's tireless efforts.

In 2008 the DAV was aware that hundreds of thousands of young men and women serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other deployed locations had been exposed to toxins through massive burn pits.

An unreleased military memorandum stated that service members at Balad Air Force Base in Iraq faced acute health risks from hazardous contaminants, including dioxins. We knew we had identified an issue that would require passion, courage and follow-through from a dynamic journalist.

We knew we had to find someone in the press who would not let the issue fade into obscurity but to follow, rather, every angle and to make sure that the truth came to light. For the past two years Kelly and Military Times have asked the questions that needed to be asked. She followed up on this issue and similar topics that deserve our attention.

Her contributions do not end there. Ms. Kennedy's courage and tenacity are well known among those who cover the military and veterans' affairs. Her recent book, *They Fought for Each Other* was written from Kennedy's own experiences and material gathered on the frontlines in Iraq.

By putting herself in harm's way she intimately catalogued the dramatic experiences of soldiers in the hardest hit unit in Iraq. The New York Times called her book one of the strongest tales to come out about the war.

She is the recipient of the 2010 John B. Oakes Award for Environmental Journalism for her coverage of the burn pits, the 2008 and the 2009 Rosalynn Carter Fellow for Mental Health Journalism; and is now the 2010 DAV Bugle Award Recipient.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to one of our own, New York – Times New Service reporter Kelly Kennedy. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Ms. Kennedy was presented with the 2010 Bugle Award.)

MS. KELLY KENNEDY: Thank you. Thank you so much. Before I continue my thank you I'd like to acknowledge my boss. Chuck Finch is here with me. He is also an Army veteran. He served for 13 years. And since he became a journalist he's worked only on veterans' and service members' issues. So I just wanted to say thank you to Chuck. (Applause)

It actually seems kind of strange to get this award because the rewards for the story have been so great and because so much of it has actually come from Disabled American Veterans. From the very beginning. – I can't say how exactly I got the story, it was a whistle blower.

But I can tell you from the very beginning that Disabled American Veterans were involved. And it was, it's one of the first times in my career where I was able to write a story and feel like there was immediate benefit.

Sometimes when I write stories about medical or health issues it feels like sort of throwing a Hail Mary pass and hoping someone catches it. Well, this time I knew who was catching it. And through the whole process I was working with Kerry Baker and I was working with Dan Clare and I was working with John Wilson.

And when veterans would call me and say that they were sick I'd say not only you need to contact this organization but you need to contact this human and he's going to write down your name and he's going to make sure you get the benefits you deserve and he's going to make sure you're in a registry so that we can keep track of these issues. And that was fantastic. (Applause)

Since the story started coming out, so many things have changed. Congress has asked that they be banned. That's not happened entirely but the largest one at Balad Air Base where they were burning 240 tons of garbage in an open pit every single day has been closed down.

Since this happened a 32-page letter went out, training letter went out from Veterans Affairs explaining how to make sure these guys get benefits and service presumption for environmental issues, make sure the veterans know about it.

I don't know if you all know this but Kerry Baker is now in that office. I'm going to call that a – I'm going to make a service-connected presumption there. I think he made that happen. Yes, another one. (Applause)

It's just been such an amazing experience to see a story play out this way and to see it actually make a difference. It's always going to be one of my favorite experiences.

And just in the last couple of days that we've been here I've heard so many stories from you guys, even before the beer started flowing last night (Laughter) about what you're doing to take care of the veterans.

I know that you listen to some really hard stories and that things don't always go as well as you'd hope but I know that on a bigger level so many people are doing better because of Disabled American Veterans. And I want to thank you for that.

I want to thank you for taking care of each other. And I hope that you will take care of yourselves. I know it can be really hard to hear those stories. And I just – this award is really special to me. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Congratulations, Kelly. We are quite fortunate to have you in the fight when it comes to uncovering the truth and tackling the issues that impact your fellow veterans and their families. At this time I would ask Auxiliary Past National Commander Donna Tanner to come forth for a special presentation.

DAV AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA TANNER: Thank you, Commander Bobby. National Commander Bobby, National Commander Kay, National Adjutants, National officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests, the Past National Commanders' Award for the DAV Auxiliary's Outstanding Member of the Year recognizes contributions and dedication of an Auxiliary member whose efforts have enhanced the goals the Auxiliary as well as the DAV and has been active in the community since becoming a member.

This year's recipient is Marge Kirby Johnson. Marge could not be with us today. She lives in Caldwell, Idaho, and has been a member of Nampa Unit 13 since 1982.

She has a long list of accomplishments including many hours spent volunteering at the Boise VA Medical Center and the Idaho Veterans' Home. When a new veterans' home opened in Lewiston, Idaho, she assisted in setting up the canteen. She taught the volunteers how to use the cash register. She even trained the staff in how to order supplies.

At the VA medical center she volunteers at many worksite positions as well as patient activities. Now, from her resume I think she must be one of the most favorite volunteers as it is mentioned many, many, many, many times of all the refreshments and cookies that she bakes.

A direct quote from her unit commander is, "She has baked literally thousands of cookies for everyone." So if you're from Idaho and you've tasted her cookies I'm sure you're very happy.

In her community she has hosted annually a nurses' appreciation luncheon and since 1984 she has provided refreshments six times a year at her church services, among other activities.

Mrs. Johnson has been recognized for her achievements with the President's Pin for Voluntary Service as well as the Spirit of Freedom Award from U.S. Senator Mike Crapo. She has also received many awards and recognitions from the VA, the unit and the chapter.

Marge has served her unit for 25 years as adjutant and treasurer and she supports the unit and chapter in any way she can. In her acceptance letter she states that she has enjoyed every minute of it and at 92 years old she will still be there to help when and where she is needed.

Marge wrote that she truly appreciated the award, thanks the Past National Commanders for their consideration. She is glad to be a member of the DAV Auxiliary and she wishes all a great convention.

The DAV Auxiliary is very lucky to have members like Marge Kirby Johnson and it's our pleasure to honor her as the Outstanding Member of the Year. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Donna. Volunteerism is at the heart of our mission to serve disabled veterans and their families. And we volunteer more than any other veterans' service organization.

From our hospital volunteers to our Transportation Network drivers to our Local Veterans Assistance Program, we reach out to sick and disabled veterans to deliver assistance by leading with our hearts.

We honor the best of our volunteers with the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy awards. It is a difficult selection process, for sure, because so many of our volunteers are so deserving. Those we recognize today are among the best of the best in our organization.

These awards are presented in memory of George Seal who was the Director of Membership and Voluntary Services and the leading organizer and administrator of the DAV VAVS program. The recipients of the 2010 awards for extraordinary volunteerism are Joseph Patterson Junior of Washington, D.C., and Barbara Centeno of Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Applause)

Joe Patterson is a member of Chapter 1 in the District of Columbia and has been volunteering for 23 years and has donated 22,225 hours of his time to the VAVS program.

A very dedicated and committed volunteer, Joe donates day-after-day to the operation of the VAVS program in Washington, D.C., VA medical center. He is an inspiration to veterans and to other volunteers.

Arriving early and staying late, the DAV Seal Trophy recipient has donated his time in many duties from Transportation Network driver to Hospital Service Coordinator. He delivers newspapers to hundreds of patients every day and works hard to ensure the smooth operation of the DAV Transportation Network.

Joe was instrumental in a record 400 percent growth in the DAV Transportation Network, which took place in less than a year's time thanks in part to Joe's proficiency and dedication to excellence. It gives me great pleasure to introduce George H. Seal Memorial Trophy recipient Joseph Patterson Junior. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Patterson came forward to accept the George H. Seal Trophy.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: At the Albuquerque VA medical center patients are often greeted by Auxiliary Seal Trophy recipient Barbara Centeno with a big smile and a hot cup of coffee.

Barbara has more than 44 years as a volunteer, with 16,614 hours of service. Her volunteer assignments help boost patient morale because of her committed care and concern for veterans. A member of Auxiliary Unit 3 in Albuquerque, Barbara is fluent in Spanish, which is a great comfort for patients who speak that language.

She also distributes wheelchair bags and lap robes to patients at the Manor Care Nursing Home and also participates in Project Hands Up, which is an annual stand down for homeless veterans.

Most notably, Barbara comforts veterans entering the VA hospital with a warm and a good cheer. She is a great organizer and a hard working volunteer who showcases the mission of the Auxiliary to support disabled veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, the 2010 DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Trophy recipient, Barbara Centeno. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Centeno came forward to accept the George H. Seal Trophy.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: A special thanks to Joe and Barbara. You are great representatives of the DAV. Please, let's give them another round of applause. (Applause)

And, again this year we continue with a tradition that honors one of the foremost advocates in the history of the veterans' movement.

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program continues a legacy of service that was established by the late Secretary for Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown. His spirit and dedication live on, and his name continues to encourage and to inspire future leaders to serve America's disabled veterans and their families.

We are proud to recognize twelve of this year's top young citizens who have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the calendar year. Our scholarship winners have accomplished much as volunteers and have built lifelong bonds for the veterans that they served.

The first place scholarship of \$15,000 is awarded to Stephanie Leann Wu of San Francisco, California, for her dedicated service at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in her hometown. Last year Stephanie volunteered 304 hours serving veterans five days a week.

In two summers of volunteering she has donated 492 hours working with disabled veterans. She supported a clinical nutrition program which empowers veterans to make healthy choices, to help facilitate clinical research studies, and worked hands-on with our veterans.

Now entering her fourth year of college at the University of California-Davis, Stephanie will have \$15,000 to assist her in her goal of attending medical school. Her ultimate goal is to become a doctor and to continue to serve disabled veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 2010 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship recipient, Stephanie Wu. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera presented Stephanie Leann Wu with the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship ceremonial check.)

MS. STEPHANIE LEANN WU: Hi.

(Response of "Hi.")

MS. WU: I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards the DAV for this educational scholarship and also to the San Francisco VA medical center for offering such a supportive environment for me and for my volunteerism.

This scholarship will definitely go a long way towards providing financial support for the rest of my college education and hopefully towards medical school in the future. I hope that I can one day take my education and my experiences from the VA and use them to contribute back to the veteran population.

During my time in the VA I volunteer in the nutrition department helping give veterans tips on leading healthier lives. I also worked in the emergency department in the front clerk area just referring people towards more medical services or just where the nearest restrooms were. (Laughter)

And I also volunteer with the heart study which focused on the connections between PTSD or post traumatic stress disorder and heart disease. So those experiences really gave me a really fresh perspective towards the VA.

I've given much of my time to the VA to help veterans in many areas of the medical center. And yet I've gained so much more in terms of the knowledge and experiences that I've received over these past couple of years. Thank you again for the scholarship and thank you again for all your support. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Certainly congratulations to Stephanie. And inasmuch as this year's recipients have proven themselves patriotic and caring of our nations' veterans, they also exhibit the qualities of compassion and leadership that are befitting of the scholarship's namesake.

The scholarship recipients represent a new generation of young people with unlimited potential and the desire to continue Jesse Brown's legacy of improving life for disabled veterans and for their families.

For the record, please note that the other scholarship recipients and their volunteer locations are listed on the screen that you may take a look at. To each one of you, thank you for your service and congratulations on your future. (Applause)

At this point I will ask Adjutant Art Wilson for comments or announcements. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. The first business session of the convention will begin promptly at 1:15 this afternoon. The important business of approving the Statement of Policy of the Disabled American Veterans is scheduled at that time. We will hear the report from the Board of Directors' Treasurer as well as my report. And membership awards will also be presented.

Beginning this afternoon at 2:45 Convention Committees are scheduled to meet. Those of you that have been elected to Convention Committees are asked to be on time in the room assigned for your meeting. We will ask the Committees to complete their report – to complete their work just as soon as possible. The National Commander's reception begins this evening at 7:00 o'clock in the Centennial Ballroom.

We are honored to be hosting the President of the United States Monday morning. President Obama is scheduled to speak at 11:30 a.m. The doors to the hall will open at 9:00 o'clock Monday morning. And delegates, members and registered guests who wish to attend the session will be asked to wear their credentials they were given at registration.

We ask for your patience and foresight Monday morning. All will be required to go through metal detectors – metal detectors to enter the ballroom. (Laughter) If at all possible, we ask that our members who are severely restricted in any way not to bring bags into the room, purses or fanny packs or other items that will cause additional security screening and slow down the lines getting into the room.

We ask that our members and guests carry medically-necessary items to help them get through the entry as soon as possible. We also ask that all attending remember the responsibility

to honor the office of the President of the United States and to show the level of respect befitting our great cause.

And, lastly, everyone is reminded that we will be giving away DAV jackets to some lucky delegates attending this afternoon. Remember, those names are announced and you must be present to win. Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Art. Ladies and gentlemen, if you will rise I will ask the Chaplain to lead us in the closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Our God, we offer our appreciation to our veterans and Auxiliary members here. We are grateful for their sacrifice and service which indeed has enabled the people of our nation to learn to do, do to earn, earn to live, and live to serve.

God bless those gathered here and those service men and women who now defend and protect our nation. Be merciful to our honored dead, the memory of their lives because of their courage which inspires us to noble actions and to the eternal preservation of our priceless liberty.

God bless all of us here. And awaken within our hearts the desire, the will, to accomplish the ideas for which this nation exists so out of that determination, that given endeavor, there may emerge a better world, a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to preserving and enhancing the individual rights and dignity of humankind, a world intent on loving and serving you, our God. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. The Convention stands in recess until 1:15 this afternoon. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:25 o'clock, a.m. on Saturday, July 31, 2010.)

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FIRST BUSINESS SESSION
July 31, 2010

The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 89th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Saturday afternoon, July 31, 2010, and was called to order at 1:20 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Convention will come to order. During the opening session it is appropriate and fitting that we render the proper respect to our flag, please. Hand salute, two. I will remind everyone to please put your cell phones to the off mode. We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Edwards.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: I ask you to pause with me for a few moments because this convention is dedicated in memory of our past National Adjutant, Dale Adams. He was born in 1921 and he departed this life in 2010. Let us pause to remember a great man who served our organization well.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Almighty, God, Father of power and might, we thank You for the gift of committed, courageous and dedicated people who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, our country, and who now serve as members of the Disabled American Veterans.

Thank You for our National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera and our National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson and each person in every level of responsibility within our organization who have loved and defended our nation, those who have helped to pass on to the citizens and to the people of the world the blessings of the past – freedom, the challenge of the present – liberation, and the hope of the future – peace.

Provide all of us here today with a positive faith that we may see in every difficulty an opportunity, in every blessing an obligation, in every task an objective, and that we ask to be blessed with wisdom to guide us, patience to teach us, and hope to sustain us. Be with us today in our deliberations. Keep us within Your protective care. And may Your blessings rest and abide upon each of us. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: In order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must first be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. The delegate must state his or her name, the Chapter number, the state that they represent and the number on the microphone that you are standing at, please. I will now call on the Credentials Committee Chairperson, Donald Day, for his first report.

MR. DONALD DAY: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on 7/31/2010 by the advisors Michael E. Dobmeier and Anthony Baskerville.

The first order of business was the election of a Credentials Committee chairperson. Donald Day was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, Donald Day was elected chairman. The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Warren Tobin was nominated and elected as secretary.

The Credentials Committee met this morning in Dunwoody at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel. Roll call showed 1,014 delegates and 26 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 7/30/2010.

At the present time we have 420 Chapters, 41 Departments, 27 National Officers, 7 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,014 delegates and 26 alternates for a total vote of 7,910. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Don. Comrades, 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 by the Bylaws and do not require re-adoption. I will now ask National Adjutant to read the DAV Statement of Policy.

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

"Number 1. High quality hospital and medical care provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.

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

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

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

"Number 5. Adequate compensation to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Number 6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people understand and respect the needs 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 veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents which are 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.

"And while our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, their surviving spouses and dependents, 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 BARRERA: Thank you, Art. The Chair will now entertain a motion for the adoption of the DAV Statement of Policy. Mic 2.

MR. MICHAEL R. STEINBAUGH: Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, State of California, District 16, makes a motion to accept the Statement of Policy.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. Do I hear a second?

MR. ROLAND A. PAQUETTE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 1.

MR. PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette, Chapter 20, great State of Texas, seconds.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

At this time I would also like to introduce and to recognize my National Chief-of-Staff Duke Hendershot, thank you; (Applause) my Officer-of-the-Day Teresa Johniken, thank you; (Applause) and my Sergeant-at-Arms Jay Johnson, thank you. Thank you all. (Applause)

Success in any organization depends on having the very best people among our leadership team. And every member of the team carries out their mission of service to disabled veterans and their families with the utmost dedication and commitment. And right there in the front ranks of our efforts is National Adjutant Art Wilson.

Since becoming the first Vietnam veteran to enter the National Service Program more than four decades ago Art has distinguished himself, moving up through the ranks of our NSO corps to supervisory positions in the field and then on to the National Appeals Office at the Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington.

Art's experience and expertise as an NSO led to his appointment as National Service Director in Washington. Under his skilled leadership the DAV's service programs grew and flourished.

That is because of his leadership of a professional, highly motivated group of men and women who are totally committed to serving our nation's disabled veterans and their families. When he was appointed National Adjutant in 1994 he led an extraordinary rebirth of the DAV that ushered in a new era of commitment to our mission.

The DAV's and Art Wilson's core values of service, quality, integrity and leadership have made us the unquestioned leader in the veterans' arena. Ladies and gentlemen, here to present his report to the National Convention is my friend, your friend, our National Adjutant, Art Wilson. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander, for that very nice introduction. And, hello, everyone.

(Response of "Hello.")

ADJUTANT WILSON: You know, it's an honor for me to be before you once again and I've got some good news. It's been a landmark year for the DAV. Your strong grassroots support – (Applause) your grassroots support was answered with remarkable achievements this year and the credit goes to you for your support, your dedication, and your powers of persuasion.

You continue to make our DAV the very best veterans' service organization in the world. And in a few minutes I will show you the contributions that have been made to sustain this powerful organization.

In this year we have won advanced funding for the VA health care. We've won greater federal support for veteran caregivers, women veterans, homeless veterans, veterans with mental health needs and veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury.

With your support we're working with the VA to create a streamlined claims adjudication process that is already having an effect. We are in the forefront of these issues that strengthen the rights and benefits of our newest generation of veterans.

It's our 90th year so we're celebrating nine decades of building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. (Applause) You know, when the DAV was founded 90 years ago, we had a clear purpose. Those disabled veterans faced a withering bureaucracy. Little was being done to help them and there was no Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans who had been gassed, shot, and shelled while fighting in the mud of Europe came home to a nation that lacked commitment to care for those who had borne the battle. They were faced with hopelessness in dealing with the lack of a centralized system for medical care and government benefits.

But as disabled veterans gathered to form our organization, their goal was to protect and defend our rights and to obtain health care and earned compensation. Those few members knew it had to be done. Over the years they whittled away the bureaucracy and helped create programs to honor disabled veterans. And it wasn't easy.

It was like peeling an onion. For every layer that we pulled away, there was another one waiting. In over 90 years we peeled away many layers, surviving the Great Depression or World War II, the Forgotten War in Korea and the torment of Vietnam.

Programs for disabled veterans were created and then abandoned when peace came. The meeting of achievement and disappointment over the 90 years has made DAV the very best there is. We have become – (Applause) we have become the eventual authority on issues affecting disabled veterans.

The DAV was galvanized in those early days of the 1920s with our purpose and our mission. And while remaining flexible to changing times we have always remained faithful to our mission to build better lives for disabled veterans, their families, and their survivors.

Our mission is the strength of our foundation. We've cut through the tough issues throughout our 90-year history. We met the challenges posed by new issues head-on. We've stepped up, faced adversity and used our wisdom, our knowledge and our mission to ensure success.

For 90 years we've exhibited unmatched leadership in the public policy arena, advocating for our fellow disabled veterans. But that is your achievement. As our legislative team meets with members in Congress, everyone in that room knows that they are empowered by you, the active, grassroots strength of the DAV.

And everything that we do is steeled by our service, our volunteers, our transportation and other programs. Our lawmakers know that the DAV speaks on behalf of our country's veterans because you tell them so.

No nation in the world can boast that it does more for its veterans than America. We started down that road 90 years ago and it's not a road traveled by the meek and the faint of heart. Along that road our leaders change. Do you know what? New ones pick up the reins and they follow the path ahead of us.

So today we're working hard to tell the DAV's story to young veterans of the current wars and we're making excellent progress. And someday soon they, too, will be leaders in the DAV. And many of our newest disabled veterans are not only joining the DAV but they have come into our ranks as National Service Officers.

And, yes, our National Service Officer corps is getting younger. They're highly trained and extremely motivated. Simply stated, they are the best practicing advocates, bar none, anywhere. (Applause) At this moment if I could take just a second and ask all of our NSOs, both active and retired, if they would stand for an expression of gratitude for a job well done. Ladies and gentlemen.

(Whereupon, all active and retired NSOs stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. You know, our Transition Service Officers do their jobs serving the newest generation of veterans when they leave the military.

Our TSOs assist service members making their transition back to civilian life by providing benefits and counseling and filing additional claims for VA benefits at more than 100 military installations across the nation. Please, would all of our TSOs accept the thanks of the National Convention and stand for a round of applause.

(Whereupon, all TSOs stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you all for what you do every day. And speaking of outstanding service programs, I want to especially thank our Chapter and Department Service Officers for everything they do day-in and day-out, the “boots on the ground.” Please, all of our Department and Chapter Service Officers please rise and be recognized.

(Whereupon, all Department and Chapter Service Officers stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: This, ladies and gentlemen, is our record of service. And our reputation continues to grow as we reach out to young veterans across the nation because they know who is the best.

And while I’m thanking folks I want to extend my congratulations to all of our remarkable membership recruiters, including our NSOs, TSOs, and all of our service corps for their commitment to build this great organization.

Now, I’d like to do more than tell you about our programs of service this year. I want to show you. The amount of service that we provide can’t be fully appreciated until you see for yourself so let’s take a minute now and look back at the accomplishments of the DAV this past year and join me as we review a year that you can all be very proud of.

(Whereupon, a video of the Year in Review was viewed followed by applause.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: This was quite a year. You know, as we celebrate our 90th year of the DAV please remember that it is only one year of achievement and multiply that by 90 and you see the overwhelming body of work that the DAV has delivered on behalf of disabled veterans and their families.

But what really distinguishes DAV is our commitment to direct service and advocacy for those who have given so much for our nation. Now I’d like to take just a moment to look ahead to the future.

I am pleased to tell you that construction on the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial has just about begun. In mid-July Phase 1 of the project began which involved moving some of the underground communication cables around the site. Road work is also on the brink of beginning.

Phase 2 involving the infrastructure street work and relocation of utilities on the main site will start later this year. And at the same time applications are being reviewed by the U.S. Park Service for permits submitted in July.

And we expect the permits to be issued before the end of the year and formal construction will start in the spring/summer, assuming, of course, that the necessary memorial funds are raised.

Right now there is a need to raise just about \$3 million to complete the construction budget. And we’re optimistic that the money will be raised as the fund raising campaign is really on track.

Now, I’m sure you’ve seen the commemorative memorial coins on sale here at the Convention. But I’ve got to tell you, we really need to sell out these coins. So far about 215,000 have been sold but 135,000 remain on hand. And keep this in mind, that the federal government only permits two coins per year to be minted.

We’ve been working on this coin now for about seven years. Most likely there will not be another coin honoring disabled veterans any time in the near future. So please stop by the booth outside the convention hall and pick up your coin or you can purchase them at the DAV Convention Store. And remember, the sales come to an end on this coin in December.

While you’re at it, please take a long look at the model of the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial that is currently on display. You will be reviewing the final design and memorial staff is on hand to answer any questions you might have.

On another note, we expect to surpass the National Organization’s \$3 million match at this convention. Based on what Chapters and Departments bring to the Convention for the memorial

we expect to exceed that goal by at least \$500,000 and that's awesome as individual members and Chapters and Departments have played the crucial role.

This is your memorial. And make no mistake about it, you and your fellow disabled veterans are building this memorial. We've had – we've had enough and several, many heavy-hitters to support this long overdue project. But the real support has come from each and every one of you. And I salute you and your comrades and thank you for the legacy that will exist through eternity.

You know, the Foundation estimates that donations and in-kind services provided by DAV since 1998 are valued at more than \$10 million. And that makes (Applause) – this is your legacy. That makes the DAV the largest single donor to the memorial. And, again, thank you for being there once again when it counts.

Now talking about things counting, it's – and it's an unfortunate reality that there is still going to be a need for the DAV and other organizations well into the future.

With our nation at war many thousands of wounded and disabled veterans have already had their lives changed forever and the DAV is the one place that they can turn to for service and advocacy and their family needs.

That's why we will continue investing in building and strengthening our service programs. New technology will help us serve them better. And we continue to deploy innovative programs to reach out to the future generations of disabled veterans.

And improved training and updating the skills of our National Service Officers, our Transition Service Officers, our DSOs and our CSOs are essential to our mission.

And we will continue to explore and implement ways that will make the DAV the kind of organization that new generations of disabled veterans will want to join and become active in it. We want them to know that the DAV is committed to meeting their service and advocacy needs and that we will always have a place for them in our ranks.

And while I'm on the subject of advocacy and commitment, I want to thank the outstanding leadership of National Commander Bobby Barrera. (Applause) Bobby has been an inspiration to us all. He has used his skill and his articulate intellect to advance our issues. Plus, his compassion for disabled veterans has been truly overwhelming.

Having seen the Commander in action, I can tell you that there are few people who can do such a tremendous job of carrying out our message of service and advocacy to every kind of audience.

From representing the DAV in the halls of Congress to the Oval Office and in his compassionate visits to the injured and wounded in military hospitals, patients at the VA medical centers, and the general public, nobody, nobody does it better than Bobby Barrera. (Applause)

Thank you, Commander, for all that you've done and for being with us during this time in our history. And thank you lovely bride Mari who has shared you with us, shared us with you and you with us for over six years now. Thank you again, sir.

As you know, National Headquarters Executive Director Rick Patterson retired recently after 38 years with the DAV. And he leaves behind a superb record that is a gold standard for our organization.

Rick's enthusiasm and dedication has set an example for everyone to emulate and he is someone that we have enjoyed throughout his well-defined and successful career. His exceptional commitment and record as a combat-disabled veteran has made his contribution more than just words.

He took action and served both the DAV and America as a true patriot. Thank you, Rick, for all you've accomplished. And just to let you know, he's going to stay active in DAV. He is here today. I know he is sitting in his District. Rick, please stand and let's give you a round of thanks for 38 years.

(Whereupon, Richard E. "Rick" Patterson stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Executive Director Dave Gorman in Washington and his staff provide unparalleled leadership in the service and legislative arena to meet the needs of those who serve.

Dave, a combat-disabled veteran of Vietnam, has served as Executive Director in Washington since 1995. He has spearheaded every DAV legislative initiative since and his responsibilities also include oversight of our National Service program.

Dave is the organization's principal spokesperson in Washington before Congress, the White House and the VA. Charged with this awesome responsibility, he is recognized as the

premier veterans' service advocate by everyone in Washington. The simple fact is that there is no one better. (Applause)

These gentlemen are the finest professionals that anyone could ever hope for and have carried out their duties in the finest traditions of DAV. They are supported by their highly-professional staffs.

Our mission and goals are fulfilled every day. And most vital to our missions, of course, are Garry Augustine and the National Service Department staff and Joe Violante and his team at the National Legislative Department. And I also want to thank – (Applause) Go ahead.

I also want to offer special thanks to Assistant Executive Director Marc Burgess, Susan Loth from the Fundraising Department and her staff, Tony Baskerville and everybody in the Membership Department, Gary Weaver and his crew at the Communications Department, Bill Saunders and the Information Technology team, Mike Walsh and the National Voluntary Services staff, Barry Jesinowski and Randy Reese and everyone of our Human Resources staff, Nancy O'Brien who administers our charitable programs, Inspector General Ed Hartman, General Counsel Chris Clay, and Comptroller Anita Blum and her team who handle all of our financial matters.

My most sincere thanks to all of our employees, some 650 in all, who do such a fine job every single day in fulfilling our mission. I want to offer my sincere thanks to our support staffs at our headquarters and our offices all around the country with my personal thanks and gratitude to Executive Assistant Carol Ayers and Executive Secretary Sally Miller.

Special appreciation to the Auxiliary National Commander Kay Egan and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep for their service on behalf of America's disabled veterans and their families.

And to all of you, our members, who make up the greatest veterans' service organization in the world, thank you for your commitment. Thank you for your dedication to our mission of serving this nation's disabled veterans.

For 90 years the DAV has grown from a small group of disabled World War I veterans to the nation's most powerful force of advocacy for disabled veterans and their families and their survivors. It's a testament to our legacy and commitment to our core principles of service, quality, integrity in leadership.

That legacy endures thanks to you, our members, and your dedication to our mission. And because of your strength of purpose we will remain committed to meeting the opportunities and challenges now and into the future.

And on one final note, you've noted for sure that your organization is in transition, transition at all levels. And I want to say to you a special word of thanks for your continued support and help to make sure that we can continue to go forward every single day. So I say thank you and God bless our fighting men and women across the world and God bless America. Thank you so much. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Art, for the report and for a wonderful year as well. At this time the chair will entertain a motion to accept the National Adjutant's report? Mic 2.

MR. DANIEL STACK: Dan Stack – whoa. Dan Stack, delegate from the Department of Massachusetts, Silver Star Chapter Number 3, Massachusetts, the birth place of such notable patriots as John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Robert F. Kennedy and Arthur H. Wilson proudly moves to accept the National Adjutant's report. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: May I have a second?

MR. PAQUETTE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 1.

MR. PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette, Chapter 20, I can't match that but I will second his report, the Adjutant's report.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. All those in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you. At this time we'll hear from National Membership Director Tony Baskerville with his report on the status of the DAV membership. Tony.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR ANTHONY "TONY" BASKERVILLE: National Commander Barrera, National Adjutant Arthur Wilson, distinguished guests, delegates to this Convention, greetings.

(Response of "Greetings.")

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: It has been a very productive year. As we celebrate 90 years as an organization and prepare for a new century of service and advocacy we must ask ourselves some very critical questions.

How do non-profits, specifically DAV, sustain relevancy? How do we honor our past while focusing upon the creation of value for future generations? Are organizations such as DAV relevant today, relevant to today's needs, to the expectations of tomorrow and equipped to address the issues and trends of the future?

These are the questions we need to answer. The DAV was founded because our – was formed because our founders wanted to support and empower their fellow disabled veterans. Through the DAV they found a community of likeminded individuals who were willing to band together and stand up for one another.

The DAV gave them a strong, united voice in Washington, D.C. It gave them hope and it allowed them to carry on the camaraderie they had lost when they returned home to a nation that didn't adequately welcome them back. In short, the value of joining the DAV was evident.

Today, many question the roles, indeed the needs, for DAV and other veterans' service organizations. They bring into question the values we bring to addressing the needs of America's disabled veterans and their families.

We can say today that those committed to volunteering and recruiting in their local communities may participate differently than in the past; however, the role of the DAV has not diminished in its purpose and it promotes its interests, welfare and common good for this nation's veterans.

Our membership in the DAV is valuable – is as valuable today for many of the same reasons it was worthwhile nine decades ago. DAV members stay educated on the issues and take vested interest in the wellbeing of their fellow veterans.

Our members are spreading hope and they, and providing service which they will ensure – which will ensure them their unique community and make certain they will not fall through the cracks as what happened to so many in past generations.

Unencumbered by profit motives and constraints of the government we focus on values and relevancy. Today with the convergence of technology, globalization and social diversity DAV will continue to play a vital role.

As agents of change over the past nine decades DAV will drive our organization's adaptation to emerging trends and effectively respond to the need of the 21st Century disabled veterans and new emerging issues.

DAV has 4,680 dedicated men and women working to ensure our membership base remains strong and prevalent well into our next century. As a result of challenging economic times our leadership saw the need to enhance our recruiters' ability to attract new members by allowing a reduction in the minimum down payment of \$20 during the final six months of the 2009-2010 membership year.

I am pleased to report that there were 18,562 new members recorded between February 2010 and the end of the membership year on June 30th. (Applause) This represented a 7 percent increase over last year's figures during the same period.

This year the National Membership Department conducted three direct mail campaigns to approximately 300,000 prospective members. These direct mailings included an invitation of a one-year subscription to DAV Magazine, a \$20 minimum down payment and followed with another mailing for a \$20 minimum down payment to those individuals accepting the DAV Magazine.

Also this year our corps of National Service Officers and Transitional Service Officers experienced a banner year, posting a total of 14,151 full and part life members. This represented a 49 percent increase over last year's figures. Forty-one National Service Officers signed up 100 or more new members.

The top recruiter was John Rodriguez of our office in Illinois with 343 new members. (Applause) John was followed closely in a tight race by Justin B. Hart of Rhode Island with 327 members. (Applause) And Nicholas Bernardi of New Jersey with 291 members. (Applause)

All of our National Service Officers will be recognized later this week for their achievement in recruiting but I would like to take this time to ask all NSOs who are assembled here today to please stand and be recognized for the outstanding efforts you provided this year.

(Whereupon, all National Service Officers present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Each year there is a member who distinguishes him or herself from among others by capturing the title of Recruiter of the Year. This year's winner is a retired United States Navy Petty Officer First Class, Commander of Orange Park Chapter 38, and Department Service Officer for the State of Florida. I'd like to welcome Sheila A. Saunders to receive her recognition. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Recruiter of the Year award was presented to Sheila A. Saunders.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Ms. Saunders signed up 205 full and part life members. In the Division race for the covenant title of Department Commander of the Year I am pleased to present to you from Division I Past Department Commander Robert Linder and Adjutant Daniel Contreras – my lips are stuck – Contreras from the State of California. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division I award was presented to Commander Robert Linder and Adjutant Daniel Contreras.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Division II, Department Commander Alfred L. Holtan and Jeffrey Alger of Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division II award was presented to Commander Alfred L. Holtan and Adjutant Jeffrey Alger.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Division III, Past Department Commander Edward Gary, Adjutant Charles Holdemen of Louisiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division III award was presented to Commander Edward L. Gary and Adjutant Charles Holdemen.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: For Division IV is a repeat award winner, Past Department Commander James Robbins from the Department of Rhode Island who is represented today by Richard Schatz, Past Department Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division IV award was presented to Past Department Commander Richard Schatz on behalf of Past Department Commander James Robbins.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Finally, Division V, Past Department Commander Robert W. Hill and Adjutant Gene Murphy, Department of South Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division V award was presented to Past Department Commander Robert W. Hill and Adjutant Gene Murphy.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: The General Jonathon M. Wainwright Award is presented to the Department that recruited the highest number of new members, part and full. The 2009-2010 Wainwright Award Trophy is presented to the Department of Texas. (Applause) Accepting the award is Department Commander James Scott. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Jonathan M. Wainwright Award was presented to the Department of Texas.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: The Commander said, “We do it big in Texas.” I don’t know. (Laughter) The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the Department with the highest percentage increase in life members over goal. Our 2009-2010 recipient ended the year with a percentage goal of 103.80 percent. Please welcome Commander Alfred Holton on behalf of the Department of Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Judge Robert S. Marx Award was presented to the Department of Minnesota.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Each year up to three members and three National Service Officers who received 100 or more, who recruited 100 or more new members are randomly selected by the membership database to give them an opportunity to choose prizes. These prizes include but are not limited to: laptop computers, Howard Miller Grandfather clocks, golf clubs and more.

This year’s lucky winners are Delbert R. Musgrove of Texas; Michael F. Granger of Massachusetts; and Greg B. Peterson of Minnesota. NSOs selected are Justin B. Hart of Rhode Island; Judy Orosco, Arizona; and Thomas E. Turner from the State of Texas. Each of you can redeem your information regarding your prizes at the registration area.

In conclusion, allow me to thank each of our recruiters for their hard work and dedication to purpose. We ended this year significantly above goal with 169,000 trial members, 214,000 part life members, 847,000-plus full life members, for a total membership of 1,230,642 members – 47 members. (Applause)

As we congratulate these leaders in the fields we must also take the time to learn from their achievements. The upcoming year will be filled with tremendous opportunities for us to expand and reach, outreach to new generations of veterans.

I encourage our top recruiters and those throughout the nation who are finding new ways to engage and attract members to seek opportunities to share their success stories with your fellow members. If you have been a beneficiary of the DAV and are a member you are also a recruiter.

You never know who is eligible or willing to join unless you ask. Please reach out in your community and help us engage and retain the next generation of members who will fuel the

efforts as we prepare for a new century of service and advocacy. Thank you. And thank you, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Tony, for the excellent report. At this point I will entertain a motion to accept Mr. Baskerville's report.

MR. RICHARD E. "RICK" PATTERSON: Mic 2.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 2.

MR. PATTERSON: I've always wanted to do this Commander. (Laughter) Rick Patterson, Chapter 45, Sweet Home Alabama, moves to accept the report.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Your dream has been fulfilled. (Applause) May I have a second? Mic 1.

MS. DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Mic 1. District 16, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Chapter 21, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Delphine. All those in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. I now would like to introduce Robert DiGirolamo, the Board of Directors' Treasurer, for his report.

TREASURER ROBERT S. DIGIROLAMO: National Commander Barrera, National Adjutant Art Wilson, fellow members of the National Executive Committee, DAV members and guests, it is my honor and privilege to present the report on the financial affairs of our organization for the six-month period ending June 30th, 2010.

The DAV's contributions from fundraising through that date were \$49 million. By year's end we expect to send 65.9 million pieces of fundraising mail and generate \$102 million in gross distributions. Under the Department Fundraising program distributions to Departments in December 2009 and June 2010 totaled \$3.1 million.

Since the program began in 1994, \$69.7 million has been distributed to Departments for their service programs. The Board would like to thank all of our Departments for their continued participation in this program and especially our members for their support.

As of June 2010 DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of \$79.5 million. Through June 2010 DAV had total expenditures of \$83.3 million, of which \$61.1 million was for service programs, an increase of 3.1 percent over the first six months in 2009 but 73.3 percent of total expenses.

It is important to remember that these expenses are for the federally-chartered purposes of the organization. Over the same period expenditures for fundraising and administration increased by 9.2 percent due primarily to mailing of 5 million more solicitation pieces.

As of June 30th, 2010, the market value of the General Fund long-term investment portfolio is \$264 million, an increase of 8.5 percent over the same period in 2009. DAV's unrestricted net assets have increased to \$227 million – excuse me, \$227.3 million, an 8.7 percent increase from this time last year.

What is notable about financial figures over the past two years is the fact that a really hardworking staff nationwide as well as at both headquarters has been able to control our operating expenses while increasing expenditures for service to disabled veterans and their families.

We are very proud of our employees and their terrific efforts to date. We are gradually seeing a recovery from our financial position from its low at December 2008.

The financial stability of the Life Membership Fund has been an ongoing source of concern. Based primarily upon actions taken the last eight years by this Board and our predecessor, the National Financial Committee – Finance Committee, we can report that at June the 30th, 2010, the Life Membership Fund reserve was \$54.7 million.

At a projected earning rate on investments of 6.66%, we estimate that the fund would be depleted by the year 2021, with 520,000 members remaining. I would like to thank our National Adjutant Art Wilson and his staff for all their hard work which makes this report possible.

Let me thank you, Commander Barrera, for the support I received in my role at the Board of Directors as the Board of Directors' Treasurer. It has been my honor to serve as the treasurer for this important Committee.

Commander, this 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.

Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2009, and
Independent Auditors' Report

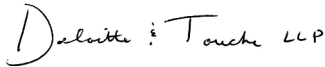
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as of December 31, 2009, 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 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 consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the DAV's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, 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, 2009, 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.



April 23, 2010

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
CASH	\$ 4,010,884	LIABILITIES:	\$ 2,032,732
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	2,119,061	Accounts payable	1,504,317
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	147,078	Accrued expenses	14,526,589
SOLICITATION MATERIALS	1,995,193	Pension liability	46,078,522
PREPAID EXPENSES	3,464,579	Postretirement benefit obligation	703,992
INVESTMENTS	288,542,054	Other liabilities	2,636,459
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — Net	8,075,081	Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	2,149,658
OTHER ASSETS	257,500	Deferred revenue	
LIFE MEMBERSHIP:			
Cash	2,452,693	LIFE MEMBERSHIP:	
Receivables	11,867	Accounts payable	163,390
Interest and dividends receivables	18,289	Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	54,370,764
Investments	52,051,305		
TOTAL	\$ 363,145,584	Total liabilities	124,166,423
		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	238,979,161
		TOTAL	\$ 363,145,584

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:	
Support:	
Contributions received primarily from direct mail solicitations	\$ 101,956,785
Contributed services and facilities, primarily services	39,431,306
Bequests	<u>7,752,665</u>
Total support	<u>149,140,756</u>
Revenue:	
Membership dues and fees	5,418,749
Income from investments — net	7,352,621
List royalties	957,726
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>36,933</u>
Total revenue	<u>13,766,029</u>
Realized investment losses	<u>(8,332,557)</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>154,574,228</u>
EXPENSES:	
Program services:	
National service program	43,434,188
Legislative service program	1,848,286
Voluntary service program	40,113,667
State services, disaster relief, and memorials	7,353,730
Publications and other communications	4,861,983
Membership program	9,485,501
Public awareness outreach	<u>19,297,073</u>
Total program services	<u>126,394,428</u>
Supporting services:	
Fundraising costs	30,407,373
Administrative and general	<u>5,757,434</u>
Total supporting services	<u>36,164,807</u>
Total expenses	<u>162,559,235</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE	(7,985,007)
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>40,890,055</u>
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER EXPENSES	32,905,048
ADJUSTMENT TO MINIMUM PENSION LIABILITY AND EFFECT OF PROVISIONS OF ASC 715	<u>11,187,028</u>
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	44,092,076
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>194,887,085</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 238,979,161</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	National Service Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services Disaster Relief and Memorials	Publications and Other Communications	Membership	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fundraising Costs	Administrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total
Salaries	\$19,746,909	\$ 593,402	\$ 318,643	\$ -	\$ 745,262	\$1,103,069	\$ 721	\$ 22,298,006	\$ 3,586,902	\$3,654,193	\$ 7,241,095	\$ 29,749,101
Employees benefits	12,989,242	288,887	1,015,520		355,888	1,040,658		15,689,995	2,856,219	1,879,234	4,735,453	20,425,348
Payroll taxes	1,624,010	44,648	24,669		63,194	79,739	32	1,836,292	302,683	275,782	578,465	2,414,757
DAV transportation network — volunteers			37,617,818					37,617,818				37,617,818
Winter Sports Clinic			559,250					559,250				559,250
Columbia Trust			67,320					67,320				67,320
Other grants	34,159		236,202	1,416,604	3,000			1,689,965	26,000		26,000	1,715,965
Disaster relief				10,625				10,625				10,625
State service program				5,183,646				5,183,646				5,183,646
Memorials				742,855				742,855				742,855
Scholarships			69,153					69,153				69,153
Expenses of national convention						605,694		605,694				605,694
Expenses of national commander and committees						543,832		543,832				543,832
Travel, training, and relocation	1,785,251	29,186	74,041		52,908	60,503		2,001,889	22,939	114,340	137,279	2,139,168
Facilities	1,813,488							1,813,488				1,813,488
Postage and shipping	866,009	3,032	34,194		1,200,322	250,231		2,355,781	7,442,507	69,616	8,012,123	10,367,904
Equipment rental and maintenance	309,326	1,156	538		16,207	46,238	1,993	373,465	819,035	275,608	1,094,643	1,468,108
Supplies	802,313	114,083	42,856		472,542	269,296	4,793	1,705,883	507,256	158,217	1,864,356	2,337,136
Insurance	111,610	2,923	704		43,244	2,163		160,644	39,396	143,983	183,379	344,023
Telephone	113,834	10,469	3,274		6,223	20,061		133,761	20,371	49,317	69,688	223,449
Outside services	983,792		2,577		14,241	14,241		1,000,610	119,129	177,014	296,143	1,296,753
Project costs	100	110,310			174,543	37,409		322,862	100,297	540	100,837	423,199
Printing of magazine					1,255,145			1,255,145				1,255,145
Cost of solicitation mailings — materials	7,083				4,513	75,750		87,346	30,819,382	(76)	30,819,306	30,906,652
Heat, light, water, and power	263,496							263,496	306,237		306,237	569,733
Security service	336,006							336,006	380,426		380,426	716,432
Depreciation of property and equipment	44,839	8,659	2,128		75,306	21,128		55,869	1,149,545		1,444,077	2,109,686
Legal fees	32,137							32,137	1,093,455		1,093,455	1,125,592
Professional fees	34,053	641,906			276,604	78,206		1,030,669	440,253	757,897	1,981,500	2,228,819
Other expenses	45,498	125	44,780		11,594	4,000,000		4,098,866	1,567	426,334	427,901	4,526,767
Memberships services								4,000,000				4,000,000
Allocations from (to) other departments	1,280,784				105,488	1,229,594	19,289,534	21,905,400	(19,052,860)	(2,852,540)	(21,905,400)	
Total	\$43,434,188	\$1,848,286	\$40,113,667	\$7,353,730	\$ 4,861,993	\$9,485,501	\$ 19,297,073	\$ 126,394,428	\$30,407,373	\$5,757,434	\$36,164,807	\$ 162,559,235

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 44,092,076
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash contributions	(104,617)
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	(50,194,283)
Adjustments to minimum pension liability	(11,187,028)
Depreciation	2,198,086
Gain on disposal of property and equipment	(20,183)
Realized investment losses	8,332,557
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	(705,726)
Change in interest and dividends receivable	1,085,515
Solicitation materials	(560,040)
Prepaid expenses	2,377,559
Other assets	113,300
Accounts payable	(1,511,268)
Accrued expenses	9,789,405
Deferred dues and service fees	(25,151)
Deferred revenue	(708,499)
Other liabilities	(102,121)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	7,985,799
Net cash provided by operating activities	10,855,381
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Payments for property and equipment	(647,321)
Purchases of investments	(616,266,261)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	605,959,074
Net cash used in investing activities	(10,954,508)
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(99,127)
CASH — Beginning of year	6,562,704
CASH — End of year	\$ 6,463,577

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

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.

Cash — The DAV maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The DAV has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Solicitation materials — Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or market, generally determined on the first-in, first-out basis.

Investments in Securities — Investments are recorded at fair 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 are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments in the General fund. DAV's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2009, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
General			
Cash equivalents	\$ 10,919,294	\$ 10,962,094	\$ 42,800
Corporate bonds	14,806,552	14,785,953	(20,599)
Mutual bond funds	94,948,543	93,748,147	(1,200,396)
Common stocks	37,671,973	38,420,625	748,652
Mutual equity funds	128,113,618	130,625,235	2,511,617
Total	<u>\$ 286,459,980</u>	<u>\$ 288,542,054</u>	<u>\$ 2,082,074</u>
Life Membership			
Cash equivalents	\$ 980,485	\$ 989,685	\$ 9,200
Mutual bond funds	15,461,756	15,290,472	(171,284)
Common stocks	5,992,954	5,980,625	(12,329)
Mutual equity funds	29,942,169	29,790,523	(151,646)
Total	<u>\$ 52,377,364</u>	<u>\$ 52,051,305</u>	<u>\$ (326,059)</u>

The following are the major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2009. Fair value is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1) and quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or quoted prices in markets that are not active for identical or similar instruments, and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets (Level 2). DAV does not have any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3).

Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value			
General	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Assets:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 9,732,287	\$ 1,229,807	\$ 10,962,094
Corporate bonds		14,785,953	14,785,953
Mutual bond funds	93,748,147		93,748,147
Common stocks	38,420,625		38,420,625
Mutual equity funds	<u>130,625,235</u>		<u>130,625,235</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 272,526,294</u>	<u>\$ 16,015,760</u>	<u>\$ 288,542,054</u>
Life Membership			
Assets:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 989,685	\$ -	\$ 989,685
Mutual bond funds	15,290,472		15,290,472
Common stocks	5,980,625		5,980,625
Mutual equity funds	<u>29,790,523</u>		<u>29,790,523</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 52,051,305</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 52,051,305</u>

General fund investment income is composed of interest and dividend income of \$7,352,621, net of investment management and custody fees of \$905,732.

Property and Equipment — Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and at December 31, 2009, are composed of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 964,808	\$ 364,696	\$ 600,112
Buildings and improvements	10,360,153	6,836,983	3,523,170
Machinery and other equipment	23,373,271	19,783,265	3,590,006
Construction in process	361,793		361,793
Total	<u>\$35,060,025</u>	<u>\$26,984,944</u>	<u>\$ 8,075,081</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. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the gift.

Contributed Services and Facilities — DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; however, only the portion of those hours that are donated to veterans at medical facilities of the VA are tabulated. Of the 2,207,012 hours accounted for in 2009 — 1,857,670 are for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network. Using a value per hour of \$20.25 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 \$37,617,818. 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 349,342 hours — valued at \$7,074,176, 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, the DAV has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to the DAV are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109*. This guidance was codified into Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, effective July 1, 2009. ASC Topic 740 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is

required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. DAV applied ASC Topic 740, beginning January 1, 2009, and noted no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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 2009, DAV incurred joint costs of \$42,865,631 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, \$19,289,534 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$23,576,097 was allocated to fundraising costs.

3. 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 services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for DAV National Headquarters 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 reserve for future distribution of membership dues represents the liability for the future life membership distributions to DAV National Headquarters, Departments, and Chapters to assist with providing member services.

The following summary represents the changes during 2009 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues:

Balance — January 1, 2009	<u>\$ 46,384,965</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	4,950,611
Earnings on invested assets — net	1,352,276
Loss on sale of investments	(1,984,962)
National organization support	4,000,000
Other income	<u>39,055</u>
Total additions	<u>8,356,980</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	5,393,598
Local chapters	2,132,300
State departments	<u>2,149,511</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>9,675,409</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>9,304,228</u>
Balance — December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 54,370,764</u>

Life membership earnings on invested assets are comprised of interest and dividends of \$1,352,276, net of fees paid of \$92,587.

4. PENSION PLAN AND POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

Pension Plan — 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 2009, 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.

Other Postretirement Benefit Plans — DAV provides certain health care and life insurance benefits (other postretirement benefits) for its retired employees and their spouses. Substantially all of DAV's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach early retirement age and complete 20 years of service.

The measurement date for the plans is December 31, 2009. Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
As of December 31, 2009:		
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 60,443,636</u>	
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 69,361,138	
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		\$ 46,078,536
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(54,834,549)</u>	<u> </u>
Unfunded status recognized	<u>\$ 14,526,589</u>	<u>\$ 46,078,536</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2009:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 2,382,447	\$ 1,406,927
Interest cost	3,655,323	2,552,079
Expected return on assets	(3,887,267)	
Amortization of net loss or gain from earlier periods	2,887,086	
Amortization of prior service costs	31,964	126,039
Amortization of transition obligation		408,998
	<u>5,069,553</u>	<u>4,494,043</u>
Pension settlement cost	<u>5,474,355</u>	
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 10,543,908</u>	<u>\$ 4,494,043</u>
Components of pension and postretirement benefit changes:		
Amortization of transition obligation	\$	\$ 408,998
Amortization of prior service cost	31,964	126,039
Amortization of net loss or gain from earlier periods	2,887,086	
Actuarial net gain or loss during the year	1,320,651	937,935
Settlement loss	<u>5,474,355</u>	
Pension and postretirement benefit changes	<u>\$ 9,714,056</u>	<u>\$ 1,472,972</u>

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension at December 31, 2009, are as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Prior transition obligation	\$ -	\$ 1,217,010
Prior service cost	415,531	955,621
Net actuarial loss (gain)	<u>31,774,815</u>	<u>(4,559,658)</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction in (addition to) unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 32,190,346</u>	<u>\$ (2,387,027)</u>

The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service cost for the pension plan that will be amortized from unrestricted net assets and into net periodic benefit cost in 2010 are \$1,971,325 and \$31,964, respectively. The estimated transition obligation and prior service cost for the postretirement plan that will be amortized from unrestricted net assets and into net periodic benefit cost in 2010 are \$408,998, and \$126,039, respectively.

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2009:		
Benefit expense (including pension settlement cost of \$5,474,355 related to lump-sum payment option under the plan) (Net periodic benefit cost of \$10,543,908 offset by \$617,470 reimbursed by DAV Auxiliary)	\$ 9,926,438	\$ 4,494,043
Employer contribution	2,200,000	1,944,019
Plan participants' contributions		180,487
Benefits paid	9,417,644	2,124,506

Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the

December 31 valuation:

For year-end benefit obligation:

Discount rate	5.50 %	6.00 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.50	3.50

For annual benefit cost:

Discount rate	5.75	6.00
Expected return on plan assets	8.25	n/a
Rate of compensation increase	3.50	4.00

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 9.0% in 2010 to 5.0% in 2015, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

The DAV expects to contribute \$5.1 million to its pension plan in 2010.

The DAV's pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2009, is as follows:

Asset Category	Percentage of Plan Assets
Equity securities	60 %
Fixed-income securities	35
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>5</u>
Total	<u>100 %</u>

The primary objective of the investment policy is preservation of capital with an emphasis on long-term growth without undue exposure to risk and in recognition of the cash flow needs of the plan. The asset allocation ranges are: 51% to 69% total equity securities, and 31% to 49% total fixed-income securities. Approximately 0.5% to 3% of the combined investments are to be in money market or other liquid funds (cash requirements).

The fair values of DAV's pension plan assets at December 31, 2009, by asset category are as follows:

Asset Category	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash equivalents	\$ 2,571,339	\$ -	\$ 2,571,339
Corporate bonds		14,074,677	14,074,677
U.S. Treasury obligations	5,185,863		5,185,863
Common stocks	18,950,558		18,950,558
Mutual equity funds	<u>14,052,112</u>	<u></u>	<u>14,052,112</u>
Total assets	<u>\$40,759,872</u>	<u>\$ 14,074,677</u>	<u>\$ 54,834,549</u>

The DAV pension plan does not have any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3).

In selecting the expected rate of return on plan assets, the DAV considers historical rates of return for the type of investments the plan holds, as well as future market expectations. Expectations are then applied to the target asset allocation to come up with a weighted average of expected returns for the plan's portfolio of assets.

The following pension plan benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid:

Fiscal Years Ending	Payments
2010	\$ 5,058,284
2011	4,755,602
2012	5,537,547
2013	5,134,995
2014	4,998,502
2015–2019	20,656,771

The DAV has concluded that the prescription drug benefits available under their plan to some or all participants for some or all future years are "actuarially equivalent" to Medicare Part D. Thus, they qualify for the subsidy under the *Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003*. This expected subsidy offsets the employer's share of the cost of the underlying postretirement prescription drug coverage on which the subsidy is based.

The following other postretirement benefit payments and subsidy receipts, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid and received:

Fiscal Years Ending	Gross Benefit Payments	Gross Subsidy Receipts	Net Benefit Payments
2010	\$ 2,459,553	\$ (116,610)	\$ 2,342,943
2011	2,642,278	(127,661)	2,514,617
2012	2,772,440	(144,461)	2,627,979
2013	2,869,258	(163,415)	2,705,843
2014	2,940,256	(185,399)	2,754,857
2015–2019	16,086,533	(1,363,698)	14,722,835

DAV also maintains a defined contribution Salary Savings and Investment Plan for its employees. For qualified participating employees, DAV contributes a percentage of the employees' base salary. DAV's contributions in 2009 were \$1,749,153, and are included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation — Some members of the DAV's Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"). The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the 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 financial statements at December 31, 2009, net assets of the Foundation were \$74,295,846. During 2009, DAV provided the Foundation with the use of DAV personnel for assistance with business operations and fundraising. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$154,949. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. Additionally, in 2009, DAV contributed \$67,320 to The Columbia 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, 2009, the Foundation owed \$171,944 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust — Some members of the DAV's Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"). The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the Trust which are held by the Trust and available to DAV only through grants approved by the Trust's Board of Directors. The Trust is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2009, net assets of the Trust were \$11,833,774. During 2009, DAV provided the Trust with the use of DAV personnel for assistance with business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For the personnel services, DAV charged the Trust \$231,254. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. At December 31, 2009, the Trust owed \$238,259 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

In 2009, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services: \$38,000 — National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, \$1,000,000 — Mobile Service Office Program, \$25,000 Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program and \$200,000 — National Transportation Network, and \$163,980 to assist disabled veterans and their families.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary —DAV provides services to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA), which puts the DAV in the position to influence operating policies of the DAVA. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the DAVA which are held by the DAVA. The DAVA is a separate entity from the DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2009, net assets of the DAVA were \$7,905,770. The DAVA occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters' 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 2009. Certain costs are paid by DAV on behalf of the DAVA. Such costs are reimbursed by the DAVA. In addition, the DAV deposits contributions on behalf of the DAVA and subsequently remits them to the DAVA. At December 31, 2009, the DAVA owed approximately \$613,063, for such costs, net of the contributions receivable of \$12,540.

Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. — One member of the DAV's Board of Directors also serves on the Board of Directors for Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. (DVLMF). The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of the DVLMF, which are held by the DVLMF. The DVLMF is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2009, net assets of the DVLMF were \$14,623,808. During 2009, the DAV donated \$742,856 to the DVLMF. At December 31, 2009, DAV owed \$22,916 to DVLMF, which is recorded as a payable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

6. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The DAV evaluated subsequent events through April 23, 2010, which is the date the financial statements were available for issuance.

* * * * *

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2009, and
Independent Auditors' Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the National Finance Committee of
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, 2009, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, 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 consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Auxiliary's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, 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, 2009, 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.

April 23, 2010

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
GENERAL ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 297,884	Accounts payable — DAV National Headquarters	\$ 608,029
Investments	6,870,401	Contributions distributable to state departments	253,448
Accrued interest receivable	45,910	Accrued vacation pay	5,034
Materials and supplies	61,687	Deferred membership fees	325,963
Prepaid expenses	6,499	Other liabilities	<u>24,167</u>
Other assets	3,503	Total liabilities	1,216,641
SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS:		LIFE MEMBERSHIP:	
Cash and cash equivalents	86,339	Due to General Fund	28,369
Investments	300,431	Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	5,691,190
DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS — Cash and cash equivalents		NET ASSETS:	
	13,168	Unrestricted	6,069,243
EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM ASSETS:		Temporarily restricted:	
Cash and cash equivalents	433,146	Service Program	386,770
Investments	675,154	Disaster Relief Program	13,168
Notes receivable (less allowance of \$1,000)	328,289	Permanently restricted — Education Loan Program	<u>1,436,589</u>
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:		Total net assets	<u>7,905,770</u>
Investments	5,666,299		
Accrued interest receivable	<u>53,260</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$ 14,841,970</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 14,841,970</u>		

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted Service Program	Temporarily Restricted Disaster Relief Program	Permanently Restricted — Education Loan Program	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 160,827	\$ 4,643	\$ -	\$ 5,101	\$ 170,571
Life membership dues	451,421				451,421
Contributions	320,933	9,090		5,828	335,851
Contributed facilities	25,300				25,300
Sale of membership items — less related direct costs of \$42,252	4,565				4,565
Conference and meetings	19,800				19,800
National Convention	35,612				35,612
Interest and dividends	274,758	14,456		17,084	306,298
Realized investment losses	(48,423)				(48,423)
Net assets released from restrictions	29,869	(29,869)			
Other	5,011				5,011
Total support and revenue	<u>1,279,673</u>	<u>(1,680)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,013</u>	<u>1,306,006</u>
EXPENSES:					
Program services	994,613	270		4	994,887
Fundraising costs	235,578				235,578
General and administrative	659,560				659,560
Total expenses	<u>1,889,751</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1,890,025</u>
(DEFICIT) EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(610,078)	(1,950)		28,009	(584,019)
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>429,286</u>				<u>429,286</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(180,792)	(1,950)		28,009	(154,733)
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>6,250,035</u>	<u>388,720</u>	<u>13,168</u>	<u>1,408,580</u>	<u>8,060,503</u>
NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 6,069,243</u>	<u>\$ 386,770</u>	<u>\$ 13,168</u>	<u>\$ 1,436,589</u>	<u>\$ 7,905,770</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	2009			
	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Salaries and wages	\$ 253,520	\$ 13,259	\$ 88,689	\$ 355,468
Employee benefits	248,278	4,890	450,818	703,986
Distributions to state departments	140,903			140,903
Fundraising expenses		180,030		180,030
Payroll taxes	19,738	1,012	6,890	27,640
Conferences and meetings	68,091			68,091
Expenses of national convention	99,760			99,760
Printing, stationery, and office supplies	26,275		3,643	29,918
Expenses of national commander and officers	21,526			21,526
Contributed facilities	13,318	3,152	8,830	25,300
Postage	8,530	24,301	1,130	33,961
Travel	24,164		6,714	30,878
Professional fees		7,843	32,830	40,673
Service program benefits	29,869			29,869
VAVS, memberships, and other awards	5,286			5,286
Other	<u>35,629</u>	<u>1,091</u>	<u>60,016</u>	<u>96,736</u>
Total	<u>\$ 994,887</u>	<u>\$ 235,578</u>	<u>\$ 659,560</u>	<u>\$ 1,890,025</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Change in net assets	<u>\$ (154,733)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Change in permanently restricted education loan program	(28,009)
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation in investments	(834,830)
Realized investment losses	48,423
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	834
Materials and supplies	3,909
Prepaid expenses and other assets	7,819
Accounts payable — DAV National Headquarters	561,455
Contributions distributable to state departments	85,520
Deferred membership fees	(2,036)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	273,533
Due to General Fund	(222,243)
Other liabilities	<u>15,540</u>
Total adjustments	<u>(90,085)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(244,818)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchases of general fund, service, and education loan investments	(5,891,955)
Sales of general fund investments	5,659,121
Purchases of life membership fund investments	(4,693,948)
Sales of life membership fund investments	5,050,225
Education loans	(47,500)
Collections from repayment of education loans	<u>37,683</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>113,626</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES — Permanently restricted education fund contributions and investment income	
	<u>28,009</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(103,183)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:	
Beginning of year	<u>933,720</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 830,537</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

1. ORGANIZATION

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters ("DAV Auxiliary") is a not-for-profit membership and service organization formed 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.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The DAV Auxiliary maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The DAV Auxiliary has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Investments — The DAV Auxiliary records investments at fair 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 fair value of investments in securities and the net unrealized gain (loss) as of December 31, 2009, is as follows:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Net Gain (Loss)
General Fund:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 261,128	\$ 261,128	\$ -
Corporate bonds	2,055,650	2,088,162	32,512
U.S. obligations	807,889	842,846	34,957
Mutual funds — equity	1,016,192	1,041,661	25,469
Mutual funds — fixed income	<u>2,648,693</u>	<u>2,636,604</u>	<u>(12,089)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 6,789,552</u>	<u>\$ 6,870,401</u>	<u>\$ 80,849</u>
Service Program —			
Certificates of deposit	<u>\$ 300,431</u>	<u>\$ 300,431</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Education Loan Program —			
Certificates of deposit	<u>\$ 675,154</u>	<u>\$ 675,154</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Life Membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 220,180	\$ 220,180	\$ -
Corporate bonds	3,393,675	3,443,488	49,813
U.S. obligations	200,926	209,613	8,687
Mutual funds — equity	655,900	675,468	19,568
Mutual funds — fixed income	<u>1,127,388</u>	<u>1,117,550</u>	<u>(9,838)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,598,069</u>	<u>\$ 5,666,299</u>	<u>\$ 68,230</u>

The following are the major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2009. Fair value is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1) and quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or quoted prices in markets that are not active for identical or similar instruments, and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets (Level 2). DAV Auxiliary does not have any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3).

	Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value		
	Level 1	Level 2	Total
General Fund:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 261,128		\$ 261,128
Corporate bonds		\$ 2,088,162	2,088,162
U.S. obligations	842,846		842,846
Mutual funds — equities	1,041,661		1,041,661
Mutual funds — fixed income	<u>2,636,604</u>	<u> </u>	<u>2,636,604</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,782,239</u>	<u>\$ 2,088,162</u>	<u>\$ 6,870,401</u>
Service Program —			
Certificates of deposit	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 300,431</u>	<u>\$ 300,431</u>
Education Loan Program —			
Certificates of deposit	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 675,154</u>	<u>\$ 675,154</u>
Life Membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 220,180		\$ 220,180
Corporate bonds		\$ 3,443,488	3,443,488
U.S. obligations	209,613		209,613
Mutual funds — equities	675,468		675,468
Mutual funds — fixed income	<u>1,117,550</u>	<u> </u>	<u>1,117,550</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,222,811</u>	<u>\$ 3,443,488</u>	<u>\$ 5,666,299</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.

Income Taxes — As a not-for-profit service organization, the DAV Auxiliary has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income taxes as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to the DAV Auxiliary are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109*. This guidance was codified into Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, effective July 1, 2009. ASC Topic 740 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. DAV Auxiliary applied ASC Topic 740, beginning January 1, 2009, and noted no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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 \$6,506 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 the bylaws of DAV Auxiliary, 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 local units, state departments, and National Headquarters (DAV Auxiliary) per capita dues for services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for National Headquarters per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of 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 chapter and department dues are distributed at the beginning of the membership year. The reserve for future distribution of membership dues represents the liability for the future life membership distributions to DAV Auxiliary, Departments, and Chapters to assist with providing member services.

The changes during 2009 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

Balance — January 1, 2009	<u>\$5,417,657</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	247,528
Earnings on invested assets	238,000
Loss on sale of investments	<u>(76,557)</u>
Total	<u>408,971</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	447,206
Dues to local units	26,576
Dues to State Departments	51,502
Investment fee	<u>15,698</u>
Total	<u>540,982</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>405,544</u>
Balance — December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 5,691,190</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 \$2,500 per year for a maximum of five 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 \$1,000 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. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to-date, but also for those expected in the future. In 2009, DAV charged the DAV Auxiliary \$703,985 for its share of the retirement plan cost as well as other benefits for employees, including health and life insurance and contributions to a defined contribution plan.

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 2009, DAV did not charge the DAV Auxiliary for these benefits.

7. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The DAV Auxiliary occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters' 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 2009, 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. In addition, the DAV receives contributions on behalf of the DAV Auxiliary and subsequently remits them to the DAV Auxiliary. As of December 31, 2009, the DAV Auxiliary owed approximately \$613,063, for such costs, net of the contributions receivable of \$12,540 and including accrued vacation pay of \$5,034.

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The DAV Auxiliary evaluated subsequent events through April 23, 2010, which is the date the financial statements were available for issuance.

* * * * *

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much Robert for that report. Do I have a second to that motion? Mic 2.

MR. MICHAEL R. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, great State of California, District 16, second.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. At this time I'd like to entertain a motion that the list of delegates and their alternates selected by the 21 National Districts and by the National Blind Veterans Chapter to serve on Convention Committees be admitted into the record of the proceedings of this Convention. Do I hear a second? Mic 2.

* * *

**2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia**

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

DISTRICT	NAME (DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER NO. & STATE
01	William J. Patterson	MASSACHUSETTS 003
(Alt)	Mason J. Sullivan	MASSACHUSETTS 030
02	Dennis L. Krulder	NEW YORK 125
(Alt)	Richard T. Robinson	NEW YORK 015
03	Denise M. DeBlois	NEW HAMPSHIRE 019
(Alt)	Richard W. Schatz	RHODE ISLAND 012
04	Allen W. Gumpenberger	CONNECTICUT 005
(Alt)	Ronnie E. Revels	DELAWARE 006
05	Raymond Greene	PENNSYLVANIA 007
(Alt)	Timothy E. Birtle	PENNSYLVANIA 034
06	Gregory N. Jones	MARYLAND 017
(Alt)	Alejandro D. Murphy Lugo	PUERTO RICO 007
07	Albert H. Linden Jr.	FLORIDA 090
(Alt)	Richard L. Tolf	FLORIDA 084
08	Carl L. Bailey	ALABAMA 045
(Alt)	Carmen E. Cherry	TENNESSEE 045
09	Harmon Lee Evans	SOUTH CAROLINA 004
(Alt)	John C. Ashmore	SOUTH CAROLINA 028
10	John P. Lamphere	MICHIGAN 039
(Alt)	Morris G. Cole	MICHIGAN 024
11	Robert H. Bertschy	OHIO 047
(Alt)	Roger L. Clark	OHIO 103
12	Robert J. Arens Jr.	ILLINOIS 036
(Alt)	Stephen R. Leopold	WISCONSIN 044
13	Michael A. Whelihan	INDIANA 052
(Alt)	Gregory C. Reed	INDIANA 003
14	Kevin R. Grantier	MONTANA 003
(Alt)	Douglas R. Patenaude	NORTH DAKOTA 002
15	Kristine S. Childers	NEBRASKA 007
(Alt)	John P. Hughes	MISSOURI 002
16	Michael R. Steinbaugh	CALIFORNIA 007
(Alt)	Dr. Mariana M. Raba	CALIFORNIA 006
17	Timothy J. Timmerman	NEW MEXICO 009
(Alt)	Emilio Medina	WYOMING 009
18	John J. Hansen Ret.	NEVADA 001
(Alt)	Thomas E. Mullalley	NEVADA 012
19	Bradley S. Barton	OREGON 001
(Alt)	Jerald A. Royse Sr.	WASHINGTON 046
20	Donald R. DuPree	TEXAS 084
(Alt)	Hilton J. Ferguson III	TEXAS 014
21	Charles D. Stake	ARKANSAS 057
(Alt)	Donald R. Cox	ARKANSAS 057
BLIND VETS	Paul W. Kaminsky	BLIND VETERANS 001
(Alt)	Dennis J. O'Connell	BLIND VETERANS 001

ADVISORS: Fred Bristol – Edward Hartman

**2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia**

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

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01	Bryan E. Simpson	MASSACHUSETTS 076
(Alt)	Marion B. Heckel	MASSACHUSETTS 037
02	Donald Day	NEW YORK 154
(Alt)	William F. Gibney	NEW YORK 038
03	William E. Henshaw Sr.	MAINE 011
(Alt)	Justin B. Hart	RHODE ISLAND 021
04	Willie Jones	NEW JERSEY 032
(Alt)	Charles J. Picaroni	DELAWARE 001
05	Philip G. Arnold	PENNSYLVANIA 081
(Alt)	Kevin D. Noel	PENNSYLVANIA 008
06	Curtis P. Holt	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 003
(Alt)	Sarah V. M. Costa	VIRGINIA 006
07	Grant Raymond Raulerson	FLORIDA 011
(Alt)	Grant L. Raulerson	FLORIDA 011
08	Dennis R. Bell	LOUISIANA 030
(Alt)	Leo J. Aragon	LOUISIANA 007
09	Carroll E. Prosser	SOUTH CAROLINA 030
(Alt)	Harmon L. Evans	SOUTH CAROLINA 004
10	Gerald N. Cool	MICHIGAN 020
(Alt)	James D. Boozer	MICHIGAN 020
11	Arlinda L. Mitchell	OHIO 035
(Alt)	Dennis F. Hanneman	OHIO 077
12	Charles Vandenplas	WISCONSIN 053
(Alt)	Louis Vargas	ILLINOIS 103
13	Joseph D. Weatherford	KENTUCKY 066
(Alt)	Dwayne Karr	
14	Warren J. Tobin	NORTH DAKOTA 031
(Alt)	Dana E. Baker	NORTH DAKOTA 031
15	Robert D. Everhard	IOWA 029
(Alt)	Gary J. Prescott II	KANSAS 004
16	James E. Guglielmoni	CALIFORNIA 144
(Alt)	Salvador C. Ayala	CALIFORNIA 055
17	James Emerson Jr.	COLORADO 007
(Alt)	Ronald Justin Marble	COLORADO 016
18	Johnie W. Treadway	ARIZONA 002
(Alt)	William L. Price	ARIZONA 020
19	Francis P. Reding	WASHINGTON 006
(Alt)	Wanda Stephanie Janus	OREGON 001
20	John E. Hill	TEXAS 020
(Alt)	Marvin Vaughan	TEXAS 128
21	Robert A. Brandt	OKLAHOMA 032
(Alt)	Jerletta M. Halford	OKLAHOMA 009
Blind Vets	Joseph F. Wallace	BLIND VETERANS 001

ADVISORS: Michael E. Dobmeier - Anthony Baskerville

2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

DISTRICT	NAME (DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER NO. & STATE
01	Leo R. Mooney	MASSACHUSETTS 033
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02	Keith A. Robinson	NEW YORK 015
(Alt)	Howard Brittain III	NEW YORK 135
03	Norman M. Gravel	NEW HAMPSHIRE 001
(Alt)	Jim S. Gehring	MAINE 010
04	Robert E. Macdonald	NEW JERSEY 067
(Alt)	Paul V. Lardizzone	DELAWARE 001
05	Vincent P. Darcangelo	PENNSYLVANIA 055
(Alt)	Darlene Bielecki	PENNSYLVANIA 073
06	Cynthia Marie Madison	VIRGINIA 027
(Alt)	Richard E. Price	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 001
07	Patricia Cocilovo	FLORIDA 042
(Alt)	David B. Parker	FLORIDA 067
08	Charles D Richmond	ALABAMA 004
(Alt)	Raybon L. Windham	MISSISSIPPI 011
09	Glenn D. Martin	GEORGIA 006
(Alt)	Beverly Ann Vereen	GEORGIA 001
10	Douglas K Wells Jr.	MICHIGAN 113
(Alt)	Stacey June Plunkett	MICHIGAN 004
11	Michael R. Stith	OHIO 035
(Alt)	Douglas Martin Miles	OHIO 020
12	James R. McDermott	ILLINOIS 028
(Alt)	Brian S. Wilson	WISCONSIN 007
13	James M. Quesinberry	KENTUCKY 032
(Alt)	Bobby W. Alexander	KENTUCKY 003
14	James V. Hamann	MINNESOTA 001
(Alt)	Robert W. Hill	SOUTH DAKOTA 022
15	Otto Fox	IOWA 004
(Alt)	Shirley Jean Roy	KANSAS 006
16	Ronald C. Hansel	CALIFORNIA 044
(Alt)	Ruben R. Trejo	CALIFORNIA 039
17	Terry Schow	UTAH 004
(Alt)	Eric D. McGinnis	UTAH 002
18	Johnny N. Stewart	ARIZONA 002
(Alt)	John J. Hansen Ret.	NEVADA 001
19	Pamela F. Beale	ALASKA 007
(Alt)	Ronald H. Morgan	OREGON 006
20	Robert Meaney	TEXAS 194
(Alt)	Carolyn Ann Mitchell	TEXAS 005
21	Russell T. Dority	ARKANSAS 007
(Alt)	Mark D. Moore	OKLAHOMA 088

ADVISORS: Harold J. Hicks – John L. Wilson

2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND DUES

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01	Donald R. Burning	MASSACHUSETTS 004
(Alt)	James F. Follis	MASSACHUSETTS 085
02	Frank J. Cassella	NEW YORK 082
(Alt)	David H. Wilson	NEW YORK 082
03	Richard J. Vaccari	RHODE ISLAND 009
(Alt)	Paul L. Lizotte III	MAINE 006
04	Albert E. Church II	CONNECTICUT 005
(Alt)	Harry R. Newell Jr.	CONNECTICUT 047
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(Alt)	Philip G. Arnold	PENNSYLVANIA 081
06	Allan L. McCroskey	VIRGINIA 014
(Alt)	Dennis C. Hurley	WEST VIRGINIA 056
07	Alexander Kovac	FLORIDA 012
(Alt)	Richard L. Tolfa	FLORIDA 084
08	William J. Baker	ALABAMA 009
(Alt)	Eugene B. Benford	ALABAMA 095
09	Albert Don Byrum	SOUTH CAROLINA 003
(Alt)	Silas J. Dawson	SOUTH CAROLINA 005
10	Rebecca A. Mott	MICHIGAN 061
(Alt)	Kwan Cortez Tillman	MICHIGAN 119
11	Joseph R. Lenhart	OHIO 073
(Alt)	David K. Farrell	OHIO 074
12	Dennis W. Thompson	ILLINOIS 103
(Alt)	Holly C. Hoppe	WISCONSIN 003
13	Bobby R. Hazen	KENTUCKY 089
(Alt)	Michael E. Sparks	KENTUCKY 012
14	Jerome G. Krejci	NORTH DAKOTA 002
(Alt)	Paul Douglas Kroenke	MONTANA 003
15	Lawrence E. Monaghan	KANSAS 006
(Alt)	John P. Hughes	MISSOURI 002
16	Shontay S. Rand	CALIFORNIA 021
(Alt)	Richard Adams III	CALIFORNIA 006
17	Vickie L. Michaels	COLORADO 026
(Alt)	Dannie R. Roberts	NEW MEXICO 009
18	Thomas W. Linton II	ARIZONA 001
(Alt)	Marvin R. Varias	NEVADA 012
19	Brigitte G. Marker	OREGON 012
(Alt)	Robert E. Lougee	OREGON 001
20	Robert C. Douglass	TEXAS 009
(Alt)	Dennis O. Garriott	TEXAS 061
21	Paul D. Parham	OKLAHOMA 060
(Alt)	Vernon A. Cook	ARKANSAS 007

ADVISORS: Robert S. DiGirolamo – J. Marc Burgess

2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Georgia

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02	Michael Anthony Keba Jr.	NEW YORK 212
	Ronald D. Tears	NEW YORK 015
(Alt)	Paul A. Morales	NEW YORK 154
03	George W. Mathis	MAINE 006
(Alt)	Brandon McKinney	MAINE 006
04	Paul D. Cobb	NEW JERSEY 067
(Alt)	John J. Grone	NEW JERSEY 044
05	Robert A. Fisher	PENNSYLVANIA 025
(Alt)	Angel Luis Escribano	PENNSYLVANIA 025
06	David W. Cuff	VIRGINIA 060
(Alt)	Michael K. Slater	MARYLAND 022
07	Albert H. Linden Jr.	FLORIDA 090
(Alt)	Bradley A. Bouters	FLORIDA 016
08	Edward L. Gary	LOUISIANA 019
(Alt)	Victor S. Lee	MISSISSIPPI 059
09	John L. Finger	NORTH CAROLINA 074
(Alt)	Clark R. Masters	NORTH CAROLINA 045
10	Frank T. Shepherd Jr.	MICHIGAN 007
(Alt)	Robert E. Elliott	MICHIGAN 014
11	David T. May	OHIO 050
(Alt)	Jackie E. Burlingame	OHIO 039
12	Johnnie Baylark Jr.	ILLINOIS 006
13	Thomas E. Gordon	KENTUCKY 156
(Alt)	Timothy Wayne Duke Ret.	KENTUCKY 089
14	Gregory A. Wheelden	NORTH DAKOTA 001
(Alt)	Van D. Karg	MINNESOTA 037
15	Gregory R. Holloway	NEBRASKA 007
(Alt)	Robert A. Mauseith II	IOWA 029
16	Mariana M. Raba M.D.	CALIFORNIA 006
(Alt)	Kirk H. Johnson	CALIFORNIA 085
17	Daniel J. Rioux	UTAH 014
18	Richard Didi Walker Jr.	NEVADA 012
(Alt)	Arthur L. Thomas	ARIZONA 020
19	Stan Barton	OREGON 001
(Alt)	Robert L. Bigness	IDAHO 022
20	William P. Brown	TEXAS 009
(Alt)	Donald L. Ryan	TEXAS 020
21	Jonathan M. Trimble	OKLAHOMA 031
(Alt)	Brian L. Barton	OKLAHOMA 031
BLIND VETS	Anthony Martino	BLIND VETERANS 001

ADVISORS: Adrian Atizado - Chad Moos

**2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia**

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02	Chester Wisnesky Jr.	NEW YORK 182
(Alt)	Leo Ortiz	NEW YORK 212
03	Raymond W. Boucher	NEW HAMPSHIRE 001
(Alt)	Ron Reilly	NEW HAMPSHIRE 004
04	Stephen Smith Jr.	NEW JERSEY 027
(Alt)	Abraham J. Velez	DELAWARE 001
05	Ronald V. Boyden	PENNSYLVANIA 053
(Alt)	Franklin L. Homme	PENNSYLVANIA 007
06	Mary H. Beamer	VIRGINIA 002
(Alt)	Luz A. Berrios	PUERTO RICO 005
07	Salvator E. Uccello	FLORIDA 042
(Alt)	Mary Ann Keckler	FLORIDA 067
08	Jeffrey R. Lee	LOUISIANA 020
(Alt)	John L. Daly III	TENNESSEE 008
09	Leigh Ann Mann	NORTH CAROLINA 010
(Alt)	Peter E. McCann	NORTH CAROLINA 025
10	David C. Martin	MICHIGAN 007
(Alt)	Ricky L. Barenbrugge	MICHIGAN 019
11	Will L. Davis	OHIO 144
(Alt)	Harlan F. Plummer	OHIO 071
12	Michael Hiley	ILLINOIS 016
(Alt)	Roger F. Dorman	WISCONSIN 060
13	George Hall	KENTUCKY 169
(Alt)	M. Michael Williams	INDIANA 017
14	Wayne W. Blue	MINNESOTA 001
(Alt)	Edward S. Sandau	SOUTH DAKOTA 001
15	Roger Franklin	NEBRASKA 002
(Alt)	Charles L. Walker	IOWA 010
16	Delphine Metcalf-Foster	CALIFORNIA 021
(Alt)	Thomas J. Mack Jr.	CALIFORNIA 009
17	Timothy J. Timmerman	NEW MEXICO 008
(Alt)	Ralph T. Warrehime	COLORADO 007
18	Alfred L. Simpson	ARIZONA 014
(Alt)	Katherine A. Baran	NEVADA 007
19	Carl Edward Hoppe	OREGON 001
(Alt)	Michele L. Colpaert	WASHINGTON 005
20	Israel Cortez Jr.	TEXAS 194
(Alt)	Jo-Ann Davis	TEXAS 042
21	Gregory A. Dubin	OKLAHOMA 088
(Alt)	Linda L. Miller	OKLAHOMA 029

ADVISORS: Delphine Metcalf-Foster - Joy J. Ilem – Michael Walsh

**2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia**

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS

DISTRICT	NAME (DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER NO. & STATE
01	David F. Epps	MASSACHUSETTS 188
(Alt)	Brooklyn D. Brown-Northup	MASSACHUSETTS 076
02	William Novak Jr.	NEW YORK 212
(Alt)	Tony Lee	NEW YORK 126
03	Russell S. Manchester Jr.	NEW HAMPSHIRE 001
(Alt)	Leon H. Green	NEW HAMPSHIRE 001
04	Colleen A Sullivan	CONNECTICUT 005
(Alt)	James w. Clynych	CONNECTICUT 012
05	Robert F. Cudworth	PENNSYLVANIA 001
(Alt)	Bryan J. Held	PENNSYLVANIA 008
06	Margaret L. Steele	VIRGINIA 041
(Alt)	Gregory N. Jones	MARYLAND 017
07	John E. Markiewica	FLORIDA 001
(Alt)	Guy L. Diffenbaugh	FLORIDA 001
08	Gerald E. Humphries	MISSISSIPPI 011
(Alt)	Van Norstrand	
09	Richard D. Mann	NORTH CAROLINA 089
(Alt)	Wanda D. Autrey	NORTH CAROLINA 020
10	Edward E. Reeves	MICHIGAN 130
(Alt)	David R. Van Hill	MICHIGAN 116
11	Phillip A. Alexander	OHIO 015
(Alt)	Charles E. Lambert	OHIO 015
12	Kenneth L. Kuenhl Jr.	WISCONSIN 020
(Alt)	Ted Buck	ILLINOIS 028
13	Gary L. Rice USA Ret.	KENTUCKY 003
(Alt)	Thomas P. Bratcher	INDIANA 027
14	Robert J. Erickson	MINNESOTA 002
(Alt)	Eric J. Van Emmerik	SOUTH DAKOTA 001
15	Robert E. Brown Sr.	MISSOURI 002
(Alt)	Frank J. Tentler	NEBRASKA 018
16	Michael B. Burns	CALIFORNIA 095
(Alt)	Gary A. Crossland	CALIFORNIA 002
17	Jeanclaude Wicks	UTAH 002
(Alt)	Brian E. Austin	COLORADO 007
18	Wilfred Bocage	NEVADA 012
(Alt)	Gale Arcia	ARIZONA 020
19	Brian L. Alspach	IDAHO 022
(Alt)	Karen M. Key	WASHINGTON 009
20	Tracy L. McAdams	TEXAS 084
(Alt)	Parke McAdams	TEXAS 084
21	Robert D. Cohoon	OKLAHOMA 029
(Alt)	James D. Parker	ARKANSAS 047

ADVISORS: Joseph A. Violante - Brenda Kecskes

2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Georgia

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

DISTRICT	NAME (DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER NO. & STATE
01	Daniel P. Stack	MASSACHUSETTS 017
02	Sidney Siller	NEW YORK 023
(Alt)	Donald A. Sioss	NEW YORK 076
03		
(Alt)	Wilfred A. Biron II	NEW HAMPSHIRE 001
04	John J. Malone	NEW JERSEY 081
(Alt)	Salvatore LoSauro	NEW JERSEY 015
05	Robert W. McClellan	PENNSYLVANIA 025
(Alt)	Philip A. Fiumara Jr.	PENNSYLVANIA 076
06	Carol F. Reding USN Ret.	MARYLAND 026
07	Dennis A. Joyner	FLORIDA 016
(Alt)	Kenneth D. Wolfe	FLORIDA 101
08	Ricky L. Vickery	TENNESSEE 076
(Alt)	Carmen E. Cherry	TENNESSEE 045
09	Michael Patrick Dover	GEORGIA 007
(Alt)	George E. Balch	NORTH CAROLINA 017
10	John P. Lamphere	MICHIGAN 039
(Alt)	Thomas E. Wendel	MICHIGAN 102
11	Frank D. Williams	OHIO 003
(Alt)	Samuel E. Lanza	OHIO 011
12	Alfred C. Reynolds	ILLINOIS 017
(Alt)	John R. Hoeft	WISCONSIN 017
13	James V. Thureau USA Ret.	INDIANA 052
(Alt)	Clarence N. Wright Jr.	INDIANA 052
14	Eugene A. Murphy	SOUTH DAKOTA 001
(Alt)	Joseph M. Litzinger	NORTH DAKOTA 002
15	Rufus L. Cobb	KANSAS 006
(Alt)	Larry D. Miller	MISSOURI 062
16	Michael W. Tempesta	CALIFORNIA 001
(Alt)	George H. Steese Jr.	CALIFORNIA 001
17	Franklin D. Maughan Jr.	UTAH 004
(Alt)	Gary A. Lucas	WYOMING 011
18	Manuel M. Rodriguez	ARIZONA 011
(Alt)	Thomas E. Mullalley	NEVADA 012
19	Michael K. Riley	WASHINGTON 004
(Alt)	Michael D. Smith	IDAHO 001
20	Armando C. Albarran	TEXAS 005
(Alt)	James H. Scott	TEXAS 128
21	Danny D. Oliver	OKLAHOMA 088
(Alt)	David W. Spurgin	ARKANSAS 046

BLIND VETS

Richard Bugbee

BLIND VETERANS 001

ADVISORS: Gene A. Murphy - Richard E. Marbes

MR. JOHN L. FINGER: John Finger from the great State of North Carolina, I make a motion that they be accepted.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Second.

MR. FINGER: Oh, we second that motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. Thank you. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. I will now at this time ask National Adjutant to read the names of the Convention Committee Advisors that I have appointed and who have received the approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The Committee Advisors are Credentials, Michael Dobmeier and Anthony Baskerville; General Resolutions and Membership, Adrian Atizado and Chad Moos; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joseph Violante and Brenda Kecskes;

Constitution and Bylaws, Fred Bristol and Ed Hartman; Finance is Robert S. DiGirolamo and J. Marc Burgess; Employment is Harold Hicks and John Wilson. Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Page 2. (Laughter)

Hospital and Voluntary Services, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Joy Ilem and Mike Walsh; Nomination of National Officers, Gene Murphy and Richard Marbes. The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders in the Resolutions Coordinating Office located in Chicago C and D on the Exhibit Level.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Art. At this time I will ask Art, do we have any announcements to make, please?

ADJUTANT WILSON: Beginning at 2:45 today Convention Committees are scheduled to meet. Those of you who have been elected to Convention committees are asked to be on time in the room assigned for your meeting. We ask the Committees to complete their work just as soon as possible.

Please report to the Resolutions Office in Chicago C and D on the Exhibit Level with the results of the Committee work immediately following your meetings. The National Commander's Reception begins this evening at 7:00 o'clock in the Centennial Ballroom.

As a reminder, we are honored to be hosting the President on Monday morning. President Obama is scheduled to speak at 11:30. And the doors will open at approximately 9:00 o'clock Monday morning. And delegates and members and registered guests who wish to attend this session will be asked to wear their credentials that they are given at the Registration.

And the final announcement is the Nominating Committee will start to interview candidates this afternoon in the Inman Room on the Atlantic Conference Level. That's all I have.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. Also as a reminder, we are giving away a DAV jacket to five delegates who are attending the Convention. I will call out the names. If your name is called and you are in the hall, please see Tony Baskerville here on the stage as soon as we adjourn to receive your jacket.

You must be present to win. Bobby Barrera first. No. (Laughter) Carl Edward Hoppe; second, Alvin Jones; Franklin L. Homme; Eugene Goldsmith; and, finally, Edie Mae Robinson. So you are the five winners so see Mr. Baskerville as soon as we adjourn. At this time I will ask you that please rise and I will ask Chaplain Edwards to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Our God, we realize that Your power is without measure. The treasury of Your goodness is without limit for You bless the Disabled American Veterans with many dedicated members to carry on the work of assisting other veterans, other disabled veterans and their families.

Therefore, we ask, our God, that You stay close to all of us, giving us health, wisdom, and perseverance in this most noble cause. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Convention stands in recess until nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:34 o'clock, p.m., on Saturday, July 31, 2010.)

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION
August 1, 2010**

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 89th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday morning, August 1, 2010, and was called to order at 9:04 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

COMMANDER ROBERTO "BOBBY" BARRERA: The Convention will please come to order. I would now ask our outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Dave Riley to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by DAV Outstanding Disabled American Veteran of the Year David Riley.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Dave. What an honor it is to have him lead us in the Pledge to the flag this morning. At this point I will ask Chaplain Edwards for prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Dear God, You have given us light in the midst of darkness, love in the midst of loneliness, and hope in the midst of despair. We thank You for individually and collectively giving us those gifts. Help us now to use them wisely and to share them effectively as we attempt to bring light, love, hope to those we serve.

Grant us the serenity, the peace of mind, the contentment to accept the things we cannot change, the courage, the fortitude, the commitment to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference, and the wisdom to know that we indeed do and can make a difference.

Let Your presence go with us each day. Make us ready and willing to do what we can with what we have and crown our efforts with success. Guard and protect all of us as we serve this outstanding organization, the Disabled American Veterans. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Chaplain. At this time I would like – please be seated. (Laughter) Thank you, sir. I'd like to remind everyone at this time to please turn off your cell phones. In order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must first be recognized by the chair.

Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. The delegate must state his or her name, the chapter number, the state that you represent and the mic that you are speaking at. Thank you so much. At this time I would like to call on the Credentials Committee for its report, Chairman Donald Day.

MR. DAY: Comrade Commander, the Credentials Committee met this morning in Dunwoody at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel. Roll call showed 1,182 delegates and 29 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at 4:00 p.m. on 7/31/2010.

At the present time we have 458 Chapters, 44 Departments, 27 National Officers, 8 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,182 delegates and 29 alternates for a total vote of 8,419. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. The DAV is the premier veterans' service organization because we have the experience, the knowledge, the expertise and insightful leadership that's necessary to be the leader in veterans' issues.

At the core of our leadership in the veterans' community is the Executive Director of our Washington Headquarters. This position requires an abundance of sound judgment, knowledge and extraordinary dedication. Dave Gorman and his staff of skilled professionals have all that and more.

Dave is a combat-disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. He was appointed Executive Director of our National Service and Legislative Headquarters in 1995. Charged with oversight of our Service and Legislative programs, he is a trusted leader and a valuable resource in our dealings with the Congress, the White House, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Recognized as the nation's foremost expert in the complex array of services and programs for our nation's veterans and their families, Dave has a keen understanding of how the VA works.

Because of his expertise and his knowledge he serves on numerous VA and congressionally created advisory committees. He is a natural choice for many other ad hoc groups focusing on America's veterans.

He attended Cape Cod Community College before enlisting in the Army in 1969. He served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the famed "Sky Soldiers" of the Vietnam War.

After being severely wounded he was discharged from the Army in 1970 and immediately joined the DAV. He is a life member of the National Amputation Chapter and of Chapter 4 in Wheaton, Maryland.

In Dave's long history with the DAV he has served as a National Service Officer and in various management positions in the National Service Department and our Legislative Department.

As Executive Director Dave has been central in nearly every veterans' issue in Washington, D.C., for the last 15 years. He has truly a remarkable record of achievement for the DAV. Ladies and gentlemen, I introduce to you Washington Headquarters' Executive Director Dave Gorman. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by David W. Gorman, Executive Director, DAV Washington Headquarters:)

**Annual Report of
David W. Gorman
Executive Director
Washington Headquarters
to the
89th National Convention
of the
Disabled American Veterans
Atlanta, Georgia
July 31 - August 3, 2010**

As Executive Director of the DAV's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, it is truly an honor and a privilege to present this annual report to this National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

It has been a historically successful year in Washington for veterans, finally ensuring sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care. These vastly important accomplishments achieved during the past year to protect veterans benefits from erosion and enhance services required the full commitment and support of DAV's leadership and the enduring dedication and participation of our membership.

I want thank National Commander Roberto Barrera for his tremendous leadership and commitment to the DAV and our mission of service and hope for this nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Over the past year Bobby Barrera has been a valued asset to the DAV, not only as our National Commander, but as one who has earned the respect of government officials in Washington D.C., and the admiration of countless people all across the country.

Bobby has been a steadfast advocate for our cause, and all our nation's service-connected disabled veterans, their families and survivors owe him a great debt of gratitude for his efforts on their behalf. His achievements are a tribute to our commitment to service to this nation's veterans.

It has been a truly memorable year, Commander, and I hope you'll accept our profound thanks and appreciation for all that you have done in the cause of disabled veterans.

I also want to express my appreciation and enormous respect to our National Adjutant Art Wilson. Art's inspired leadership, wise counsel and unwavering support have made it possible for me and all of us to continue serving all of you and your families.

Art's vision, commitment and keen judgment have enabled the DAV to maintain a solid financial position even in these most challenging of times. He has demonstrated time and again the unique ability to combine sound business practices with the unwavering commitment to our mission of compassion and service.

Under Art's leadership, we have steadily improved and expanded the services we provide on behalf of our nation's disabled veterans. That is what distinguishes the DAV from all other veterans organizations.

None of our success would be possible without the remarkable work carried out by the skilled leadership and dedicated staff and employees at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky. In particular, I want to express my sincere thanks and well wishes to recently retired Executive Director Rick Patterson.

Rick gave of himself more than 40 years to the DAV, positively affecting the quality of life for countless disabled veterans and their families. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude. At the same time, I look forward to working more closely with acting Executive Director Marc Burgess.

Auxiliary National Commander Kay Egan and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep have given all of us such great support. I offer my deepest thanks to them as well. We would not be nearly as effective in our mission without the Auxiliary and all those members who work so tirelessly on behalf of our great organization.

At Washington Headquarters, our team—Service, Legislation, Voluntary Services, Communications; our professional and support staffs, alike—all work toward fulfilling our mission. And I am very proud of the team we have in place.

Our National Service Department just underwent a change in leadership. Until Randy Reese's recent transfer to National Headquarters in Cold Spring, he directed our ever-expanding program of service to disabled veterans and their families.

Randy did a remarkable job and will be dearly missed. Fortunately, Garry Augustine has been promoted to National Service Director. I have considerable confidence as he leads our corps of National Service Officers (NSOs) and Transition Service Officers (TSOs) in the timely and successful completion of their mission.

National Legislative Director Joseph Violante has provided excellent leadership in advancing the legislative goals of the DAV. Joe and his staff registered monumental victories for veterans this year despite a very challenging political environment. National Director of Voluntary Services Michael Walsh continues to make his mark on the further development of our voluntary programs. These outstanding professionals and their staffs have contributed to the tremendous success we've had this past year.

I also want to acknowledge a valued member of our very fine team at Washington Headquarters, Executive Secretary Sally Miller, who continues to keep things running smoothly. My sincerest thanks to Sally and the entire support staff for the remarkable job they do every day and their dedication to our mission.

National Service Program

The DAV certainly realizes the world is changing faster than ever before with today's advanced technology. In keeping with today's technology, every National Service Officer has a desktop computer, are able to access information via web-based applications, and will be provided with new, more advanced computer systems that will include dual monitors.

As the Department of Veterans Affairs moves toward electronic files, so too must the DAV position itself in order to operate in this environment. Dual monitor systems will allow NSOs the ability to serve clients better than ever before and better than anyone else out there.

As a service organization committed to building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families, DAV strives to do more and more for veterans in the means of programs and services. Another investment made during 2009 was the purchase of 10 new Mobile Service Offices to replace an aging fleet which served our clients well during the past 10 years.

Many of you may recall our fleet of vans called Field Service Units, 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.

It was not until 2000 that the Mobile Service Office program was reintroduced as a modern-day replacement to those Field Service Units that had been discontinued for so many years. The DAV understands that a significant number of our Nation's veterans are unable to travel to a VA facility or NSO office for assistance due to their service-connected disabilities.

DAV continues to ensure that programs which are most beneficial to our members receive the funding necessary to continue into the future. 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. They also enhance public awareness of the DAV's mission: Building better lives for all of our Nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Service Numbers

In 110 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, the DAV employs a corps of about 260 NSOs and 34 TSOs, who represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the VA, the Department of Defense (DoD), and other government agencies. With outlays of more than \$43 million in 2009, these direct hands-on services make up the largest item in the DAV's budget for program services.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2009, our NSOs and TSOs, all wartime service-connected disabled veterans, represented nearly a quarter of a million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining nearly \$4.5 billion for them in new and retroactive benefits.

National Service Officer Training Programs

The expertise required for the outstanding assistance provided by NSOs involves extensive training. It begins with a rigorous 16-month on-the-job training program, which provides the foundation for new trainees. Trainees are instructed by tenured supervisory NSOs with subject matter expertise. The National Service staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters administers and monitors the program and the instructors.

NSOs also participate in a comprehensive Structured and Continuing Training (SCT) program designed to keep them up-to-date on changes to the laws and regulations affecting veterans' benefits. NSOs are required to pre-test and successfully complete 32 training modules with testing on each.

Full completion requires post-testing at the conclusion of the program. Recognized by the highly regarded American Council on Education (ACE), the DAV's SCT course of study uses the latest technology to continually upgrade each NSO's knowledge. DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by ACE.

In addition to these training programs, supervisory staff and selected NSOs from field offices across the nation receive specialized training in management and leadership development. The goal of the DAV's National Service Program is to produce the most highly trained NSOs possible for veterans and their families.

National Appeals Office

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is the highest appellate level of the VA responsible for the final decision concerning appellate review for entitlement to veterans' benefits. About 95 percent of the claims before the BVA involve disability compensation issues.

DAV's highly skilled National Appeals Officers (NAOs) provide an invaluable service to appellants in the preparation of written briefs for BVA review, and by conducting formal hearings before Veterans Law Judges. DAV maintains the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing more than 31 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2009.

Judicial Appeals Office

We have maintained our leading position among veterans' service organizations representing veterans, their dependents and survivors before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In July 2008, we implemented a long-anticipated plan to utilize the services of carefully selected law firms to provide pro bono representation to some DAV clients at the veterans court.

Through the combined efforts of DAV and its first partner law firm, 140 veterans received free representation before the court in 2009. We added another law firm to this team in late 2008. As a result an additional 160 veterans were able to benefit from this valuable representation in 2009.

Mobile Service Offices

During 2009, our specially equipped Mobile Service Offices (MSOs) traveled more than 114,056 miles while visiting 727 cities and towns. NSOs interviewed 18,647 veterans and other potential claimants. The MSOs remain on the road and we look forward to another successful year.

In August 2006, the Harley-Davidson Foundation pledged \$1 million over a four-year period to partnership with DAV to form the Harley's Heroes program. During 2009, the MSOs visited 168 Harley-Davidson dealerships across the country. DAV expended over \$750,000 to the Mobile Service Office program during 2009.

Transition Services

For those soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, guardsmen and officers making the all-important transition back into civilian life, the DAV participates in formal Transition Assistance Programs and Disabled Transition Assistance Programs. Due to a generous grant provided by the General Electric Foundation, we have been able to increase our staff of Transition Service Officers.

Our TSOS provide benefits counseling and assistance to service members filing initial claims for VA benefits at more than 100 military installations throughout the country. By filing compensation claims at separation centers where service medical records and examination facilities are readily available, DAV is able to provide prompt and effective service to these future veterans.

Over the last year, TSOs conducted 3,136 formal presentations to approximately 86,130 transitioning service members. During that same time they filed 26,207 claims for VA benefits.

In addition, NSOs provided representation before Physical Evaluation Boards, Discharge Review Boards, and Boards for Correction of Military Records. Counsel and representation was provided for active duty service members during their transition through the military's Disability Evaluation System. In 2009, DAV devoted approximately \$2.1 million to this program.

Outreach Programs

The National Service Department is fortunate to have the cooperation, support, and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers (DSOs/CSOs) from around the nation.

We want to ensure that each receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs.

This provides an environment where our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department and Chapter Service Officers, and volunteers work together for the common goal of service to America's disabled veterans. In 2009, the DAV provided training to and certified 1,542 DSOs and CSOs in 40 states.

Information seminars are another outreach initiative offered by the National Service Department. During 2009, our NSOs conducted 39 Information Seminars at various DAV Chapters around the country, with 4,251 individuals in attendance.

Information Seminars not only provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with DAV National Service Officers in their own community, they are a great way for local Chapters to recruit new members and encourage Chapter involvement.

Disaster Relief Program

The DAV offers aid and assistance to our members and other disabled veterans when disaster strikes. National Service Officers are dispatched to disaster areas to provide monetary assistance, conduct benefit counseling, and to offer referral sources.

Throughout the last year, we have provided disaster relief grants in the aftermath of natural disasters and emergencies in areas around the nation. During 2009, almost \$10,625 in grants was disbursed to flood victims and hurricane victims. Since the program's inception in 1968, \$8,761,581 has been disbursed.

Employment

Our National Service Program is responsible for the organization's employment related program and works alongside the Department of Labor, VA, Office of Personnel Management, Congress, and other government agencies to ensure disabled veterans are treated fairly and equitably in the work force.

Historically, disabled veterans have not fared as well as non-disabled veterans and other workers in the job market. Our primary goal is to seek legislation and policies to enhance programs and services provided by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, and other government agencies. Our active involvement and oversight ensure disabled veterans get fair consideration in the job market.

Women Veterans

In historic numbers, women are serving our country with pride, patriotism, and honor equal to their male counterparts. But women veterans use VA health care facilities and other earned benefits in lower numbers than their male counterparts. As a result, we advocate for women veterans on a variety of fronts.

We have organized top-level forums designed to bring women veterans and government policymakers together to openly address topics of concern. We are involved in the congressionally chartered VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

In addition, our own Women's Advisory Committee, primarily made up of women veterans from across the country, meets annually at our National Convention. We actively seek out and recruit women veterans for our National Service Officer corps.

Gulf War and the Global War on Terror

We maintain an active role in ensuring veterans engaged in the Global War on Terror who are suffering from illnesses related to their service are provided adequate health care and are compensated for their disabilities.

The DAV provides oversight and feedback to committees of the VA and the Department of Defense dealing with scientific and health care issues of veterans of the Gulf War, and the ongoing Global War on Terror. Our participation on the VA Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation provides an opportunity for input concerning the maintenance and readjustment of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf are suffering from a variety of physical disabilities, chronic ailments, and undiagnosed illnesses. Effective treatments in many cases have yet to be developed. And even though there are instances where treatment could be helpful, it is not uniformly provided to affected veterans.

Obviously, these problems remain a major concern to the DAV. The DAV participates on the VA Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans to provide advice for programs and policies affecting Gulf War veterans.

One of the greatest challenges facing military personnel engaged in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts are multiple deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Record numbers of National Guard and Reserve units have been deployed in these conflicts.

DAV is actively engaged with VA and the DoD to address the adjustment problems encountered by OIF/OEF veterans, including the provision of adequate screening, diagnosis, and treatment programs for psychiatric conditions including post-traumatic stress disorder.

We are also advocating for effective research and treatment of traumatic brain injury inflicted upon service members from improvised explosive devices. The DAV will continue to push for adequate health care and compensation for all sick and disabled veterans who answer our nation's call to arms.

National Legislative Programs

For the past several years, DAV's top legislative priority has been to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system.

An aggressive campaign was launched through our Stand Up for Veterans initiative to reform the budget and appropriations process for the VA health care system. We pressed Congress to enact a proposal for advance appropriations to ensure sick and disabled veterans gained and kept timely access to high quality VA health care services.

In late October 2009, our grassroots network led to an amazing victory with the enactment of Public Law (P.L.) 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009.

DAV was instrumental in leading a coalition of veterans service organizations that made up the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, building Congressional support and the eventual drafting and introduction of the now-approved legislation.

DAV members and DAV Auxiliary members should note with a great deal of pride that their actions including thousands of calls, letters, and visits to their Senators and Representatives had a real impact and made possible the achievement of this historic legislative goal.

This victory is a direct result of our grassroots standing up for veterans and demanding Congress take action to ensure an uninterrupted, predictable flow of resources for veterans health care programs. Everyone should be extremely proud of what we achieved as an organization with the passage of this Act. It clearly shows what we can achieve when we speak with one voice.

Our effective influence of the legislative process has never been more evident than in the overall success of DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative. As a result of a generous grant from an anonymous donor, the legislative staff was able to expand our legislative goals over the past two years. This campaign allowed us to focus congressional and public attention on the needs of disabled veterans from the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as those of prior wars and conflicts.

I am pleased to report that we achieved remarkable success in all of our Stand Up for Veterans legislative goals, culminating with the passage of another important measure—the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, signed by President Obama on May 5, 2010.

This comprehensive measure includes specific provisions for which DAV advocated to enhance health services for the nation's 1.8 million women veterans, establish a package of support services for caregivers of severely disabled veterans as well as expand mental health services and health care access for veterans living in rural areas.

Virtual March

Following last year's National Convention, on September 15, 2009, the DAV kicked off the first-ever "Virtual March for Disabled Veterans," also known as the "Million Claims March." DAV launched the online event to draw attention to serious problems facing veterans and, as a result, saw an instant increase in e-mails to lawmakers.

Thousands of e-mails from "marchers" filled in-boxes on Capitol Hill, demanding the VA disability benefits process be revamped since the claims backlog now nears one million. On the first day of the march, we tracked more than 3,000 e-mails sent through our advocacy page, roughly six times what we see typically in a whole week.

Employing all social media, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and other social networking sites, about 25,000 marchers registered. More than 30,000 logged into the Virtual March's website.

During the first week of the march, I conducted two live online chats and numerous other chats were held with then-National Service Director Randy Reese, National Membership Director Tony Baskerville, National Director of Voluntary Services Michael Walsh and Washington Headquarters Executive Director David Gorman.

Live chats were also held with Congressman John Hall and Congressman Tim Walz, both of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Based on the success of these chats, we plan to stay in touch with members and supporters in this way as often as we can, including live online congressional town hall meetings with members of Congress.

Being an online event, the march remains active and we continue to ask supporters to register and contact lawmakers.

Hearings

Since last year's National Convention, the DAV legislative staff has testified at 26 Congressional hearings, covering 69 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues. Below is a summary of all of these hearings.

On August 20, 2009, Assistant National Legislative Director John L. Wilson testified at a House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearing regarding Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment contracts for veteran counseling.

On September 17, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Report to the Secretary of VA by the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation.

On September 24, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified at two hearings. The first was held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding burial benefits, cemetery policy and the ways VA and the American Battle Monuments Commission can better serve veterans.

The second hearing was held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. This was a legislative hearing, at which 13 bills of various levels of interest to DAV members were discussed.

On October 1, 2009, Assistant National Legislative Director Adrian Atizado testified at a legislative hearing held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. Nine bills were discussed at this hearing.

On October 8, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified at a legislative hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs discussing four bills regarding veterans' benefits issues.

On October 15, 2009, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding inappropriate billing practices within the Veterans Health Administration.

On October 21, 2009, Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem submitted testimony for the record for a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on legislation pending before the Committee. Twelve bills were considered at that day's hearing.

On November 4, 2009, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the cultural perception of Gulf War Illness, Gulf War Illness research, VA medical care and benefits for ill Gulf War veterans, and education and outreach efforts for Gulf War veterans.

On November 19, 2009, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health on the VA's Health Care Effectiveness through Resource Optimization (HERO) project.

On November 19, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity regarding various housing grant programs.

On February 3, 2010, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding DAV's views on the VA's Health care Effectiveness through Resource Optimization (HERO) project.

On February 3, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to address Public Law 110-389, an implementation and status update on the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act.

On February 4, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to present the views of The Independent Budget (IB) on veterans' benefits programs.

On February 24, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to address the VA Benefits Delivery at Discharge and Quick Start Programs.

On February 26, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on behalf of the IB, on VA benefits programs.

On March 2, 2010, National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for the year.

On March 3, 2010, Mr. Atizado testified for the record before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding H.R. 4241, a bill to allow for increased flexibility in payments to State veterans homes for the care of service-connected veterans.

On March 23, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies on behalf of the IB, on VA benefits programs.

On March 24, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR) program.

On March 25, 2010, Ms. Ilem testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health on eight bills and three draft measures of interest to the DAV.

On May 6, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the Veterans Benefits Administration's work credit and work management systems.

On May 19, 2010, Mr. Wilson submitted testimony for the record at the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing concerning 19 pending measures.

On May 20, 2010, Ms. Ilem testified before a joint hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Health and Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning collaboration between the VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to address health care services and disability compensation issues related to military sexual trauma.

On June 15, 2010, I testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the state of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Enacted Legislation

Public Law 111-81

Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009

On October 22, 2009, President Obama signed Public Law 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, in a signing ceremony attended by representatives from all of the organizations in the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, including National Commander Barrera and myself.

This bill provides advance appropriations authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care accounts, and creates new budget reporting requirements to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable health care funding for veterans. The DAV and others have worked toward passage of budget reform for more than two decades. After we gained support from President Obama, House and Senate leadership and the VA Secretary, we began the final stretch to see this bill enacted.

On October 7, 2009, H.R. 1016 was brought to the House floor for debate. During House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Filner's opening remarks in support of passage of H.R. 1016, he made mention of the fact that DAV National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera, Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman and I were present in the House Gallery to observe this historic occasion. H.R. 1016 passed the House by a vote of 419 to 1 on October 8, 2009 and was sent to the Senate.

It was unanimously passed by voice vote in the Senate on October 13, 2009. On October 14, the organizations that make up Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform were invited to House Speaker Pelosi's office for an enrollment ceremony, where she signed the bill for submittal to the President.

Enactment of this historic legislation ensures current and future veterans will have access to timely, high quality VA health care services. After the bill was signed by the President, Commander Barrera noted that every disabled veteran will benefit from this momentous Act, and that it is one of the most significant legislative victories for veterans since World War II.

Public Law 111-163

Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010

President Obama signed Public Law 111-163, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act on May 5, 2010. The public signing ceremony was attended by representatives of veterans service, military and family organizations. Among those present was Deputy National Legislative Director Ilem, who represented DAV.

Several years ago, we began to see an increasing number of severely injured veterans returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As advances in medicine allowed more of the severely injured to be medically rescued on the battlefield, VA had to confront the issue of how to provide a lifetime of care for these young heroes returning home with polytrauma, severe traumatic brain injury, multiple amputations and a host of post-deployment health issues that VA had not confronted before.

After acute hospitalization, most family members want to care for their loved ones in the home, even if they are severely injured. Caregivers shouldering this burden are often unable to maintain full-time employment, limiting their income and ability to obtain health insurance.

Caregivers who do remain employed often give up opportunities for career advancement to care for their injured family members, while their employers sustain millions of dollars in losses related to employee absence and decreased productivity.

Because of these challenges, the DAV worked with other veterans and military and family service organizations to bring about the introduction and passage of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010.

This precedent-setting legislation established a number of critical new programs to address DAV's highest priority legislative goals over the past several years identified through our Stand Up for Veterans campaign.

To help meet the hardships associated with lengthy recovery and rehabilitation periods, this legislation authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to create an array of supportive services for family caregivers of disabled veterans from all eras of military service, including providing education on how to be a better caregiver in the home, counseling and mental health services, and providing more flexible periods of respite care so that these veterans can avoid long-term institutionalization.

The law also provides a monthly financial stipend, CHAMPVA health care and additional benefits to financially burdened family members providing care at home to the most severely wounded and disabled Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

This comprehensive legislation also expands and improves health care access and services for the nation's 1.8 million women veterans. We want to recognize DAV's grassroots efforts that helped ensure that women veterans, who have played an increasingly essential role in all of our military service branches including the National Guard, Air National Guard, and Reserve forces, receive quality, timely and gender-appropriate health care services.

While it is our responsibility to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits they deserve, we believe it is important to recognize the extraordinary contributions and unique challenges women veterans face in today's military and when they return home.

This important legislation will for the first time allow VA to cover the costs for up to seven days of post-natal care for newborn infants of women veterans receiving maternity services at VA's expense and—to eliminate barriers for veterans accessing intensive health and mental health services—it authorizes VA to establish a child care pilot program.

The bill also includes provisions that:

- Expand the VA's authority to provide recruitment and retention incentives so that VA can recruit high-quality health care providers.
- Increase the oversight of care purchased in the community by mandating financial incentives for providers who maintain high-quality standards.
- Expand the VA's telemedicine program, and its ability to collaborate with the Indian Health Service and community organizations to provide medical services, including mental health care, in rural communities.
- Remove barriers to emergency care and care for the catastrophically disabled by:
- Eliminating co-payments for veterans who are catastrophically disabled.
- Enhancing the VA's ability to reimburse veterans for emergency care received at non-VA facilities in certain circumstances.

The House of Representatives approved the bill by a vote of 419 to 0 on April 21, 2010. On April 22, 2010, the Senate gave final approval to S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus

Health Services Act. The legislation, some sections of which were first proposed over two years ago, has been strongly backed by DAV and other veterans organizations.

The legislation forges a new paradigm of long-term care for severely wounded service personnel and veterans—one that acknowledges and fully supports the vital role of the family caregiver in any successful rehabilitation plan and marks another significant legislative victory for sick and disabled veterans and their families, and for DAV.

Health Reform Legislation and Its Effect on Veterans

On March 23, 2010, Congress passed comprehensive health care reform, Public Law 111-148. We received many inquiries from DAV members and others asking how the new health insurance reform law would affect our nation's veterans, and in particular those enrolled in VA health care programs.

As many of you know, in general the new law requires most U.S. citizens and legal residents to obtain private health insurance coverage by 2014 or they (or their employers) will face financial penalties through the U.S. Tax Code.

Under this new law with subsequent added amendments, veterans enrolled in VA health care and their dependents and survivors under CHAMPVA, and all military families, military retirees and dependents enrolled in military health care, TRICARE, and TRICARE for Life, are deemed to have the minimum essential coverage that satisfies the individual requirement in the law for health insurance coverage.

As such, we believe these veterans and military families and retirees are not required to buy private coverage in addition to their government-provided health services, a stipulation the DAV had insisted to Congress and the Administration to avoid our opposition to the bill.

Furthermore, under the new law but outside VA and the DoD, veterans and their family dependents, the same as all other Americans, may gain the option to buy a private plan through state-run insurance exchanges, beginning in 2014. Based on income limits, they may also be eligible for financial assistance in purchasing insurance coverage.

With all the misinformation that has appeared in the media and on the Internet, we can understand why some veterans and their families have become concerned about what they think might happen to them under the new law.

One specific and unintended problem surfaced that concerns a few hundred severely disabled children of Vietnam and Korean War veterans with spina bifida, but that problem was addressed by the Veterans Committees in Congress with a technical correction.

Bills were introduced in both the House and Senate to amend the reform law to guarantee that VA's spina bifida program for these children would be considered minimum essential coverage for them.

That bill, H.R. 5014, was signed into law as Public Law 111-173 by the President on May 27, 2010. Otherwise, we believe veterans who rely on VA health care and their family members who rely on CHAMPVA will be unaffected by the new health reform law.

Nonetheless, in an overabundance of caution due to ambiguous language, legislation has been introduced to clarify the intent of the law, as follows:

H.R. 4887, passed by the House, passed in the Senate on April 12, 2010 and sent to the President, provides that coverage under TRICARE and DoD's Non-appropriated Fund Health Benefits Program (for DoD employees of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and others) constitutes minimal essential health care coverage as required by the health insurance reform law. This bill became Public Law 111-159 on April 26, 2010.

H.R. 4894 would amend the health insurance reform law to ensure nothing in that law could be construed to diminish the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of Defense over the VA and DoD health care programs, respectively. This bill would also directly amend the reform law to ensure that enrollment in DoD or VA health care is considered minimum essential coverage.

DAV will remain vigilant to protect the VA health care system upon which so many service-connected disabled veterans must rely. We will also continue to monitor the implementation of the larger health insurance reform law to ensure that it will not adversely impact our nation's wartime disabled veterans, their families or their dependents.

Stand Up for Veterans Initiative

DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative continues to receive recognition for its public affairs campaign. On April 26, 2009, at the Houston International Film Festival, WorldFest, the DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative was honored with several awards. First, we received a Telly Award for our Stand Up for Veterans video.

In the TV Commercial Awards, Not-For-Profit category, Stand Up for Veterans received a Gold Remi Award for a 60-second Web spot regarding post-traumatic stress disorder. The initiative received two awards in the Film and Video Production Awards – Social/Economic Issues category. First, a Platinum Remi for its Women Veterans video; second, a Gold Remi for its Stand Up for Veterans Initiative video.

In September 2009, DAV's Stand Up For Veterans initiative won the "Thoth Award" from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) National Capitol Chapter in the category of Public Affairs / Issue Management. DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative was also honored for its comprehensive grassroots education, public relations and issue advocacy campaign focused on strengthening veterans health care programs.

In March 2010, the Stand Up for Veterans campaign was named a Gold finalist for the 2010 Sabre Awards given by the Holmes Report. However, we did not win this award during the May awards dinner.

Also in March, DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative was named a finalist for the 2010 PRSA Silver Anvil award in Public Affairs, nonprofit category. On June 3, 2010, it was announced that DAV had indeed been selected to receive that most prestigious top honor from the PRSA.

Key Legislative Initiatives

On January 20, 2010, Veterans' Affairs Committee Bob Filner held a congressional roundtable on veterans service organization (VSO) legislative priorities. On January 27, 2010, Chairman Filner held a roundtable on rural health care. The DAV participated in both.

In February 2010, IB for FY 2011 was released. The four coauthoring organizations of the IB, AMVETS, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, have worked in collaboration for 24 years to honor veterans and their service to our nation.

Throughout the year, each organization works collaboratively to identify and address legislative and policy issues that affect the organizations' memberships, the broader veterans' community, the work of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and that of the VA health care system, always with an eye to protecting and enhancing the federal benefits veterans have earned and deserve.

On February 21, 2010, Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem participated in the annual legislative and policy conference of the American Federation of Government Employees. Ms. Ilem discussed DAV's legislative priorities for the 111th Congress.

On March 18, 2010, Chairman Filner held a roundtable on the VA's claims process, with 50 VSO/MSOs, military families, government agencies, the VA, and other entities. I was present to represent the interests of the DAV.

On May 12, 2010, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi held her quarterly roundtable, in which the DAV attended to discuss reform of the VA disability claims process.

Reforming The Veterans Benefits Approval System: "Getting It Done Right The First Time"

One of the biggest problems facing veterans today is their inability to get correct and timely decisions on their applications for VA benefits, particularly disability compensation. As of May 15, 2010, there were 533,279 pending claims for disability compensation and pensions awaiting rating decisions by the VBA; 189,344 (35.5 percent) of the claims exceeded VBA's 125-day strategic goal.

Worse, by VBA's own measurement the accuracy of disability compensation rating decisions for the 12-month period ending in March 2010 was just 83%, continuing a downward trend over the past several years. These statistics confirm what DAV and others have known for some time: the process for approving veterans claims for disability compensation is broken. As a result, too many disabled veterans today are waiting too long for rating decisions that are too often wrong.

In the past year, with mounting pressure from DAV and other veterans service organizations, as well as a host of media reports about the growing backlog, Congress and the Administration have put increasing focus on VBA's problems in processing claims for benefits.

However, it is imperative that we remain focused on addressing the root causes of the problem, not just the symptoms (such as the backlog); otherwise any progress would only be temporary.

For that reason, DAV has been working with a growing coalition of veterans and military organizations to change the terms of the debate from "Reducing the Backlog" to "Getting It Done

Right the First Time.” We are working to develop recommendations and new legislation that address the root causes of the problem – lack of quality and accuracy, not solely bringing down the backlog.

To accomplish this goal, we must insist that VA focus first and foremost on quality, which VA can do by changing how it measures, controls and rewards the quality, not just the quantity, of the work completed by employees, management and leadership.

VBA must modernize its IT infrastructure and optimize business processes; VA must develop a work culture that makes quality and accuracy at least as important as quantity and production; and VA must design and implement a simpler and more transparent application and approval process for veterans to use in seeking just compensation for their injuries and illnesses sustained while serving.

Perhaps most important to VBA’s long term modernization is the ongoing development of several new IT systems—including the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and the Veterans Relationship Manager (VRM) to manage work flow and provide greater access to veterans and VSOs.

DAV has been working with both VBA and Congress to ensure that the new software system is built properly to provide timely and accurate decisions on veterans claims for benefits. Toward this goal, Congress must provide VA with both sufficient resources and sufficient time to get this job done right, not just quickly, balancing the need for aggressive oversight against the pitfalls of micro-management.

Over the past 12 months, VBA has begun almost 40 initiatives to modernize the claims approval process, many of them supported and inspired by DAV recommendations. For example, DAV has long pushed for the creation and use of standardized templates for physicians so that private medical evidence can be developed and delivered in a uniform manner.

If adopted, this policy will allow a VBA rating specialists to make rating determinations without the need to order redundant VA examinations. In a pilot program at the Pittsburgh VA Regional Office, VBA has begun to employ exactly this procedure.

DAV has also advocated for VBA to use its existing authority to assign interim ratings whenever there is sufficient evidence to establish a compensable service-connected condition. This will more quickly provide many service-disabled veterans with financial support and access to VA health care.

Similarly, we have called for an expedited process to review and approve claims that are fully-developed when they are filed. Both of these ideas are now among the 38 new initiatives; recently VBA began rolling out DAV’s idea of the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) program nationally.

However, with so many proposals under development simultaneously, one of DAV’s highest priorities will be to ensure that Congress provides focus on continuous and aggressive oversight of these pilot programs and the development of a new information technology system.

We remain concerned that VA lacks a unified plan to incorporate any of the improvements generated from the pilot programs into coherent system improvements that would modernize the current benefits approval system overall.

In 2010, DAV has visited several of these VBA pilot programs, including the ones in Little Rock, Arkansas, Providence, Rhode Island and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, VA Regional Offices, and we will be examining several more in the balance of the year to ensure that VBA is on the right track and that the interests of disabled veterans remain paramount.

We are also working to ensure that VBA fully integrates the work that DAV’s National Service Officers perform in assisting veterans in filing claims for disability compensation and other benefits into all of their future plans.

For the balance of the 111th Congress, DAV will remain focused on aggressive monitoring of VBA’s ongoing pilot programs and IT initiatives. In addition, we will continue growing the coalition of veterans and military organizations interested in working cooperatively to reform the benefits approval system.

As we look forward toward the 112th Congress that will begin early next year, DAV expects to bring forward new recommendations and legislative ideas to create a benefits approval system that veterans can rely on to get them accurate decisions in a timely manner—a system that gets it right the first time.

In all of this work, it has been and will continue to be essential that our membership and supporters continue to press Congress and the Administration to reform the veterans benefits approval system. With your continued involvement, we will move ever closer to finally

reforming the system so that whenever a disabled veteran files a claim for benefits to which he or she is entitled, they can rely on a VA system that gets it right the first time.

2010 Mid-Winter Conference

On February 28 through March 3, 2010, the DAV held its annual Mid-Winter Conference. The focal point of the conference was National Commander Roberto Barrera's presentation to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for 2010.

During the conference, DAV's national service and legislative staffs presented key information on a variety of subjects of our concern to hundreds of members from across the country. DAV members in attendance used that week to visit their elected representatives on Capitol Hill, to present DAV's most important national legislative issues as well as their own issues of concern from their states and local congressional districts.

This Mid-Winter conference experience is grassroots lobbying at its finest and most effective, and provides my staff its energy to conduct our work in Washington, D.C. throughout the year. I congratulate and thank all our members who attended this year's highly successful DAV Mid-Winter Conference.

During February and March, DAV presented various elected officials with Cooperstown baseball bats to thank them for "going to bat" for our nation's veterans through their support of advance appropriations for veterans health care. Twenty officials were honored, including the President and various members of Congress.

In a special White House ceremony, DAV National Commander Bobby Barrera, National Adjutant Arthur Wilson and then-National Headquarters Executive Director Richard Patterson presented President Obama with a Cooperstown bat inscribed with special thanks from DAV for his support of our nation's service-disabled veterans.

Voluntary Services

Our Voluntary Services Program continues to be second to none and a vital force of compassion in the lives of the veterans who populate the wards of the VA.

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 their own.

The statistics in this report merely measure what DAV and Auxiliary members, families and 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 heart.

VA Voluntary Services Program

Our VA Voluntary Services program (VAVS) is the largest of our volunteer initiatives. Under this program, 12,217 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 2,028,820 hours in the 12 months ending September 2009.

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 19 State Chairmen, 141 VAVS Representatives, 175 Deputy Representatives, six Associate Representatives and one Deputy Associate Representative.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 1,960 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 178,192 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided 2,207,012 hours of VAVS service over the past year – considerably more than any other service organization. This is equivalent to the VA having an additional 975 full-time employees with an estimated value of more than \$41 million in hourly wages alone.

Local Veterans Assistance Program

Opportunities have always existed for individuals to assist veterans and their dependents, and members of the DAV and the Auxiliary have always answered that call. We see examples of this each and every day aimed at meeting the main objective of our organization to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their dependents.

We have always enjoyed the success of a great corps of volunteers who volunteer in VAVS programs at VA medical centers as well as our Transportation Network. Given the fact that not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facility, the LVAP will allow volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families in their local community and be recognized for that service.

We can't afford to have volunteers who currently volunteer in VAVS programs or drivers in our Transportation Network reallocate their volunteer time in this new program. Our VAVS and Transportation Network volunteers are vital to the continued success of those programs and the veterans who rely on them each and every day.

We simply needed to create a program for those who want to do something for veterans and their families, but could not due to their geographical location in relationship to VA facilities.

DAV is the only veterans' service organization which has a national volunteer recognition program to provide incentive awards for volunteers who provide service in activities in the name of DAV. LVAP volunteers will receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program.

To date, a corps 1,618 LVAP volunteers from 23 states have gained the satisfaction of giving to others by donating 322,662 hours of service. The statistics are quite impressive. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and make a difference. Remember, LVAP volunteers will receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program.

And don't forget that youth volunteers who serve in the LVAP will also be eligible to apply for a scholarship through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program so long as they meet the minimum eligibility requirements for consideration.

LVAP volunteers may report volunteer time for a variety of activities which include, but are not limited to Chapter and Department Service Officer work; DAV specific outreach efforts (DAV Airshow Outreach Program, Harley's Heroes, National Guard mobilizations and demobilizations, etc.); fundraising efforts (Forget-Me-Not and other approved fundraisers) and direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families by doing yard work, home repairs, grocery shopping – the list abounds.

Hospital Service Coordinator – Transportation Network

Our nationwide Transportation Network Program continues to show tremendous growth as an indispensable resource for veterans. Across the nation, DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) operate 195 active programs. They've recruited 8,985 volunteer drivers who logged 27,667,515 miles last year, providing 727,708 rides for veterans to and from VA healthcare facilities.

Many of these veterans rode in vans DAV purchased and donated to VA healthcare facilities for use in the Transportation Network. DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have now donated 2,368 vans to VA healthcare centers nationwide at a cost of \$51,204,507.

At the DAV's 88th National Convention, Ford Motor Company donated nine Ford E-350, 12-passenger vans to the DAV Transportation Network. The VAMCs that received these vehicles were: Topeka, Kansas; Phoenix, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Grand Junction, Colorado; Lake City, Florida; Batavia, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Temple, Texas; and Billings, Montana.

This generous gift reflects Ford Motor Company's continued commitment to veterans. From the start, they have shown 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.

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 32 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 Voluntary Service Program Managers throughout the nation are each encouraged to submit nominations for DAV and Auxiliary volunteers.

These nominations are then thoroughly evaluated by an independent committee of authorities in the field of voluntary service. The volunteers selected by the committee are brought to the DAV National Convention for the award presentation. After reviewing the nominations of DAV and Auxiliary volunteers, the committee chose as this year's winners:

DAV – Joseph Patterson: Joe Patterson, a member of Chapter 1 in Washington, D.C., says volunteering is what he wants to do, and he's happy to do it. He's been volunteering for 23 years and has accumulated 22,825 hours.

Arriving at 6:30 a.m. and extending his services to 4:30 p.m. and later, the DAV Seal Trophy recipient has donated time in many duties, from Transportation Network driver to Hospital Service Coordinator. He even has time to deliver the newspapers to hundreds of patients every day.

Joe was instrumental in obtaining the record 400 percent growth in the DAV Transportation Network. The growth was incurred in less than a year's time thanks in part to Joe's proficiency and dedication to excellence. His motto is, "There is no better way to honor veterans than to serve veterans."

He's gotten so used to volunteering that it is second nature to him at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center where he directs the DAV Transportation Network program. He is an active volunteer donating day after day to the operation of the VAVS program in Washington. Joe is truly an inspiration to veterans and other volunteers.

"Volunteering isn't about me," said Patterson. "It's about my fellow veterans. I get peace of mind out of volunteering. My life on earth is to help, and as long as I can do that, I have accomplished what I have set out to do."

DAV Auxiliary – Barbara D. Centeno: Barbara D. Centeno, a member of Auxiliary Unit 3, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has more than 44 years as a volunteer, with 16,614 hours of service. Her volunteer assignments have directly resulted in enhanced patient morale because of her committed care and concern for veterans.

At the Albuquerque VA medical center, patients are greeted by Auxiliary Seal Trophy recipient Centeno with a big smile and a hot cup of coffee. "It makes me feel good to serve them coffee," she said. "The 'thank you's' they give me for being there are always returned with my thanks for their service. They really thank you for being a volunteer."

In addition to volunteering at the VAMC, Ms. Centeno also volunteers at various other places. She distributes wheelchair bags and lap robes to patients at the Manor Care Nursing Home and participates in Project Hand Up, which is an annual stand down for homeless veterans.

Ms. Centeno really gets a kick out of serving a home-cooked meal to her grandchildren, but for this volunteer, serving disabled veterans is her greatest joy. Being fluent in Spanish is a great comfort for patients who speak that language. While being a great organizer and a hard working volunteer Barbara showcases the mission of the Auxiliary to support disabled veterans. Because she grew up in Albuquerque, there are a lot of people at the VAMC she knows.

The truth be known, Barbara has help. "I'm slowing down and I don't know how much I more I can do," said the 84-year-old volunteer. "My husband, who's 93, volunteers at the VA every Friday to help me."

Mr. Patterson and Ms. Centeno will be presented with their awards during the opening session of the 2010 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The DAV and Auxiliary can be proud of people like Mr. Patterson and Ms. Centeno 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 Joe and Barbara 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.

Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program was created to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VAVS and Local Veterans Assistance Program. The scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities.

The DAV is deeply appreciative of Ford Motor Company for helping DAV recognize the thousands of hours these outstanding students have donated to care for and comfort disabled veterans.

The winners of the 2010 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common – they honor those who defended our nation's freedom by donating their time to assist disabled veterans.

The outstanding service provided by this dedicated group of young volunteers is inspiring to those veterans who are the recipients of their care and to the families of those veterans. They prove that our nation's youth care about veterans and the service and sacrifice they made for our nation.

They have proven their desire to help disabled veterans and they clearly have gained a great deal from their association with our veterans. It is a privilege to have these young men and women working to assist our sick and disabled veterans. The tremendous response we have received for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program is growing. In the future, it will encourage increased volunteerism to help our nation's veterans.

The selection committee once again stated that all of the nominees are very special volunteers and it was a difficult job to choose a winner. Each eligible nominee has been awarded a certificate of merit for outstanding volunteer performance in meeting the needs of disabled veterans.

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

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 experience fewer medical problems than those who aren't, therapists say.

Athletics help maintain cardiovascular conditioning, increase circulation to the extremities and 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.

During March 28-April 2, 2010, over 350 severely disabled veterans took part in the 24th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass Village, Colorado. With hundreds of volunteers – including ski instructors, most of whom are certified in teaching the disabled – it was one of the best winter sports clinics ever conducted.

An annual event sponsored jointly by the DAV and VA, the clinic is open to veterans and active duty service members with visual impairments, spinal-cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations, or other severe disabilities.

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 the rehabilitation process.

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." Every year, one participant is chosen for The Disabled American Veterans Freedom Award for Outstanding Courage and Achievement.

The 2010 DAV Freedom Award was presented to John Barnes, a soldier whose journey from a mortar attack in Iraq to the mountain of Snowmass encompasses the horrors of traumatic brain injury and the hope of recovery from devastating injury. Six weeks after 9/11, as our nation prepared its answer to the horrific terrorist attacks, a young man from Tampa Bay, Florida skipped high school on his 18th birthday to join in the Army.

This young man, who was born the son of a Coast Guard veteran at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, grew up with a commitment to his country at the highest level. He enlisted and became an infantryman in the famed 101st Airborne out of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

The young soldier thrived as a "Screaming Eagle" and rose to the rank of sergeant. Like hundreds of thousands of brave men and women in uniform, the young sergeant was sent to Iraq to help liberate that country and bring democracy to those who had only known tyranny.

On March 14, 2006, the sergeant was helping unload a supply truck in southwest Baghdad when a mortar shell came crashing down and exploded only a few feet away. Of the 17 soldiers wounded in the attack, he bore the brunt of the blast. Shrapnel tore through his helmet and cut into his brain.

Teetering on the brink of death, the soldier was taken first to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, and survived a harrowing journey out of the combat zone to Landstuhl, Germany. Defying the odds stacked against him, he made it to Bethesda Naval Hospital.

With his loving and dedicated mother by his side and his young son as an inspiration, the soldier survived the critical phase of his injury only to be confronted by the seemingly impossible prospect of recovery.

With shrapnel still lodged in his brain, the affects of his traumatic brain injury included memory loss, seizures, partial paralysis, and depression. Along with these injuries came the loss of identity as a soldier, loss of mobility and independence, and – as a final blow – the end of his marriage.

The black cloud of helplessness was only made worse by his self-medication with alcohol and unwillingness to dedicate himself to therapy and recovery. He'd fallen into an unfortunate cycle of self destruction and recovery-defying behavior that was nearly as destructive as the wounds he'd received in combat.

His mother watched helplessly as her son slid further and further into despondency. Her best efforts to steer him toward a path of recovery fell short. She then heard about an event called the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic from her good friend and fellow mother of a TBI patient Cheryl Lynch. Cheryl knew quite a bit about the "miracles on the mountainside" as the mother of clinic veteran and disabled soldier Chris Lynch.

It took three years for this pained mother to convince her son to come to the clinic, only to be met with fierce and determined resistance. Finally, last fall, the sergeant reluctantly agreed to participate. He had embraced sobriety and agreed to start setting goals and taking small steps toward recovery.

What happened next has been described in a letter written by Valerie to the clinic. I would like to read some of her words to you now: "When we arrived Saturday and his luggage was nowhere to be found, my son was so convinced that this was going to be a horrible week and said we should just go home.

"Then, by Sunday, the altitude was affecting him greatly and he felt miserable. He was irritable, negative and just kept saying he wanted to go home. He also said he would never come back here again.

"All of that changed Monday afternoon. John went snowboarding Monday morning. When he left the snow, he was excited, happy and exhilarated. He was excitedly telling everyone who would listen how he was going to get back out on the mountain Wednesday and 'tear it up.'

"The next morning, when he woke up, he told me he felt like a million bucks. Before breakfast, he was telling me about what he wants to do when he comes back next year." As much as anything I've ever heard about the Winter Sports Clinic, Valerie's words perfectly encapsulate the miracles that are possible here in Snowmass for the brave men and women who accept the challenge of this clinic.

Valerie told me that her son has smiled more during that past week than he did in the years since his injury. In addition to the sports opportunities that have allowed him to reconnect to his athletic past, the sergeant was able to attend a TBI meeting here at the clinic and connect with other servicemen and women who are enduring the same pain and struggles.

He has renewed his dedication to recovering from the mortar blast that took so much from him. Along with the love of his four-year-old son and the support of his mother, I know he will become the kind of leader he was before his injury.

The 25th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic promises to be better and bigger and will be held March 27 through April 1, 2011, in Snowmass Village, Colorado. Celebrity Entertainment Program

Continuing to provide a morale boost to disabled veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program assures that hospitalized patients 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.

Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) star Rich "Ace" Franklin has been visiting sick and disabled veterans hospitalized during his entire UFC career, bringing cheer and encouragement to the men and women who sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty.

The DAV is indeed honored that such outstanding celebrities want to be a part of the DAV Celebrity Entertainment 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.

We continue to sponsor celebrities and several major and minor league baseball players at VA hospital visits by signing autographs, presenting patients with photographs and help brighten the day for sick and disabled veterans in VA healthcare facilities all across the country.

Conclusion

Our record of success over the past year in service, legislation, and volunteerism reflects well on the DAV's commitment to our mission. Members of Congress, the VA, and other influential policymakers in Washington recognize that the DAV is the finest veterans service organizations in the nation.

Every one of your program directors and their staffs have spent years advocating on behalf of disabled veterans and their families on a daily basis. They are top-notch professionals determined and dedicated to protecting and preserving the rights of our fellow disabled veterans.

And while your staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington has excelled at providing the very best services to you and your families, we would not be able to succeed without our National Officers, our Department and Chapter leaders, and our individual members. You are the critical ingredients that make it all worthwhile.

So, on behalf of the entire Washington Headquarters staff, please accept our thanks and our gratitude for the privilege of serving you. We truly rely on you and the faith and support

you provide as we carry on the DAV's mission of service and hope for all of America's disabled veterans and their families.

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WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID W. GORMAN: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: National Commander Barrera, delegates and distinguished guests, once again may I say it is an honor to be able to report to you some of the activities and the accomplishments on the service and the legislative front over this past year.

Before I do that I would like to thank and commend you, Commander, for the year that you have had. You have devoted to our mission of service extraordinarily. To say that your leadership has been inspirational would fall far short of how we all feel about you.

Your leadership has truly inspired us to refocus our energies and our commitment. Our profound thanks, Commander, not only for this past year but for your lifetime of service.

Each year I express to you my thanks, respect and admiration for our National Adjutant Art Wilson. And I do so again this year but with renewed meaning. The recent past has brought economic chaos to our country, to us individually and collectively as an organization.

Under the stewardship of Art Wilson DAV never faltered in our mission of service. We continued and we expanded our programs of service. Art's vision, his wisdom and his commitment to purpose elevated us above all others.

Art's vision was executed by Rick Patterson, our recently retired Executive Director of National Headquarters. Rick's abilities, his creativeness and his professionalism allowed us to truly excel from both a financial and a business perspective, which placed DAV in the most enviable position.

Rick has been a trusted colleague, an associate, and a close personal friend of mine for the last 38 years so I wish my best wishes to both Rick and to Linda as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

You know, as children all of us had heroes and individuals we looked up to, we tried to copy, and we wanted to be like some day. Growing up around the Boston area I was an avid fan and a follower of the Boston Celtics basketball team. In their heyday there was none better.

From 1956 to 1969 the Celtics won 11 World Championships. Back then the leader of the Boston Celtics was a man named Bill Russell. I want to take a minute to talk about Bill Russell, about his philosophy as a player, a coach, and ultimately as a man.

Russell was the first athlete ever to win an NCAA Championship, an Olympic Gold Medal in basketball, and an NBA Championship all in the same year. In his 13 years as a Celtic he won 11 World Championships and was the NBA's Most Valuable Player five times. He was the first African-American to coach a professional sports team.

HBO recognized Russell as the Greatest Winner of All Times and Sports Illustrated named him the Greatest Team Player of the 20th Century. It's this last accolade that draws what I believe a parallel between Bill Russell and what we do as individual DAV members and as an organization.

Russell was all about his team's success versus his personal success. He repeatedly talks about the acts and acts in the best interest of the team. And this is what we do in the DAV when it comes to service. Russell was all about pride. He called it "Celtic Pride."

He once said, "Satisfied customers are not enough; I want to create raving fans." I think that's what we have in the veterans' community when DAV's name is mentioned. We have "raving fans." And there is a reason for that and it is all of you sitting out in front of me.

Everything we do begins and ends with DAV's guiding values: service, quality, integrity and leadership. What we do is a team effort. It's DAV Pride. It is that team ego that has placed us at the pinnacle of veterans' affairs.

Just talk about volunteers, DAV continues to lead the pack when it comes to not only donated hours but innovative volunteer programs. I would venture to say there is not another volunteer program in the country, let alone in VA circles, that can rival our Transportation Program.

The countless number of veterans who received needed medical care as a result of our program and your efforts who would otherwise have gone without is staggering. And you heard those numbers yesterday from Adjutant Wilson. And it's all because of you.

Since DAV last convened 12 months ago in Denver we've had enormous success in strengthening federal programs and policies supporting disabled veterans. Our award-winning Stand Up for Veterans initiative begun in 2007 has helped to pave the way for some remarkable legislative achievements.

Thanks to DAV's efforts in Washington and the tremendous grassroots support all of you provide back home we have taken our success to a new level. Last October President Obama signed truly historic legislation. It's called the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act. It was the DAV's highest legislative priority.

This law now requires that advanced appropriations, which is a term familiar to all of you, be provided to VA to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans' health care programs. And as a result, even though Congress appears headed towards another budget showdown and stalemate this year, VA hospitals and clinics already have their funding in place for next year.

We had another great victory this past May. (Applause) That victory was when President Obama signed the Caregivers and the Veterans Omnibus Health Care Services Act of 2010. This new law authorizes a comprehensive program of education, training and support for the caregivers of our young disabled veterans.

The law also includes provisions expanding and modernizing health care programs for women veterans whose needs are often different from their male counterparts. And, of course, none of these successes, the accolades or the awards could have been accomplished without the work that all of you do back home.

But, as I said, we can't rest yet because there is more that needs to be done. Every single DAV member understands the importance of VA's disability compensation system. And, sadly, most of us are also acutely aware of the many problems within that system.

Today there are more than a million claims for VA benefits awaiting a decision. And that number grows weekly. Even more troubling than the number is how long it takes – than how long it takes is VA's 20 to 30 percent error rate in their decision making process. That's some bad news.

Now for some good news. Congress is more focused on this problem than I have seen them in years. Veterans' service organizations are more united to solve this problem than we have been in years. And the VA seems more open to new and creative solutions than they have been since Jesse Brown was the Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

We need to be very clear about what DAV believes must be accomplished in order to truly solve this problem. And, first, it is absolutely crucial that everyone understand that the backlog is not the problem. It's only a symptom of a much larger problem.

Unless we effectively address the underlying problems that created the backlog in the first place – the lack of accuracy, accountability, quality control and training – these problems will persist and it is only a matter of when, not if, the backlog grows.

So the goal is not to eliminate the backlog; rather, our goal is to reform and modernize this system, the claims processing system. VA needs to focus on doing it right the first time. (Applause)

I believe there is more good news. VA is now aggressively testing ways to reform the claims processing system. More than three dozen pilot programs experimenting with new ways to reorganize their work, to modernize their procedures, and streamline the benefits application and approval process are ongoing right now.

For the past year Joe Violante and his legislative team have been meeting with, testifying before Congress to offer DAV's recommendations on claims processing reform. Garry Augustine and his service team have been meeting regularly with VBA officials, sharing ideas from their vast claims experience and from our NSOs whose ideas come in to us. And we'll continue to do so.

Now, no discussion about service would ever be complete or credible without mentioning the outstanding work and the commitment accomplished all across our nation by our National Service Officers. I would ask that all NSOs who are here please stand to be recognized.

(Whereupon, all National Service Officers present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, their efforts and their expertise are unmatched anywhere. I also applaud the service and the efforts of our Transition Service Officers, our Department and Chapter Service Officers, also. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please stand to be recognized.

(Whereupon, all Transition Service Officers as well as all Department and Chapter Service Officers present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: We all thank you for what you do on a daily basis. DAV will continue expanding our support for reforming the claims processing system through new social media and technologies.

Last fall DAV sponsored the very first ever Virtual March on Washington to call on Congress to reform the disability claims processing system. About 30,000 people registered for that online event and we have had more than 100,000 unique visitors since then.

Last month we followed up with the first in a series of virtual town hall meetings featuring Senator Richard Burr from the Veterans Affairs Committee. We had over 1,000 people participate live in that online session and because it's a virtual meeting more than 50,000 people have reviewed it since then.

And we will continue to call on you, our membership, to keep the heat on Congress and the Administration. Over the past year we have truly accomplished a lot together and together we can and we will do more.

As I was preparing for this year's convention I thought about the many inspired and inspirational DAV members and volunteers who never seem to tire and I reflected on why the work DAV does matters so very much.

I recall the story that I heard about a decade ago that has stuck with me ever since. It concerned a Korean War veteran named Ed Reeves who, by all rights, should have died from the wounds he suffered during intense fighting around the Chosen Reservoir in Korea.

And if I may I'd like to share with you a short excerpt written by Ed Reeves shortly thereafter, and I quote:

"I had been hit by exploding mortar. My legs were crippled. For hours we waited, wounded, in pain, for support to arrive. Then, Chinese soldiers stormed the trucks. They robbed us then began to torch the trucks with us still inside them.

"My truck was out of gas and wouldn't ignite so two of them climbed aboard to finish us off. Each fired a shot between the eyes of every American soldier in their path. As I lay there waiting to die I found out you can still sweat when it's 35 degrees below zero.

"Then it was my turn. The Chinese soldier aimed his gun at my forehead and he fired no more than three feet away. Somehow the bullet produced nothing but a scalp wound.

"For the next three days I lay among my dead buddies, the only one who had survived. Then, more Chinese came to loot the dead corpses. I kept myself still until a Chinese soldier felt my body heat. He knew that I was alive.

"He and several other Chinese beat me with their rifle butts until they were sure I was dead then tossed me on a heap of dead bodies. 'Jesus, here I come,' I muttered to myself. I was near death and slipping in and out of consciousness when one of the Ice Marines found me.

"I was so bad off that when I reached the hospital in Japan the doctor told the medic not to bother nursing me since there was no way I was going to make it. But I guess the Lord didn't want me to die on that road, but 400 of my wounded buddies in those trucks didn't make it."

Ed Reeves did survive but his injuries, particular the frostbite, were so severe the doctors had to amputate both his feet and all of the fingers on both hands. Time Magazine wrote at that time that Ed didn't want sympathy. He often told his parents, "You count what you've got left, not what you've lost."

I'm certain that Ed Reeves faced tremendous challenges then and throughout his life, but he found the support and the inspiration to keep working and moving forward. He went on to get married. He raised seven children – two of them Korean adoptees.

He completed a career as a computer programmer. He became a leader in his church, inspiring countless others, all the while remaining an active and proud member of several veterans' service organizations, including DAV.

Six weeks ago Ed Reeves passed away. A small obituary mentioned that he served as a Private First Class in the United States Army during the Korean War but it didn't talk at all about what Ed Reeves went through. It described his life in but a couple of sentences but not all he accomplished or all those he helped and those he inspired.

It is for and because of men and women like Ed Reeves that we can and we must find the inspiration to get up every day and continue working to improve the lives of disabled veterans and their families through DAV's unique mission of service and advocacy. (Applause)

Let me end where I began, with another reference to Bill Russell. When Russell was the player-coach of the Celtics he placed a small sign above the locker room door leading out to that famed parquet court of Boston Garden.

It was simple and I think profound and it read, "The game is on the schedule. We have to play it. We might as well win it." DAV is a game to play, ladies and gentlemen, a game that will continue to affect the lives of countless disabled veterans.

I say to you we go out and we play it and together we can win it. Commander, that completes my report. I thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Dave, a beautiful report. May I now have a motion to accept Mr. Gorman's report?

MR. ALBERT H. LINDEN JUNIOR: Mic 2.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 2.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, delegate, Gator 90, Florida, moves to accept his outstanding report with a great deal of gratitude for Dave and his staff.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, the great State of California, District 16, second.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. Motion carries. Thank you so much.

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: As disabled veterans we know that the VA has thousands of dedicated employees who work very hard putting veterans first each day.

Each year at this Convention we present the National Commander's Awards for Outstanding Department of Veterans Affairs Employees to recognize their service, their compassion, their commitment and their professionalism in what they do for veterans.

The 2010 Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration employee of the year is Kathleen Hanley, a Decision Review Officer at the Togus, Maine, VA Regional Office. Ms. Hanley has spent 29 years serving veterans. But her association with the VA started long ago. Her father was a VA employee and, as a matter of fact, she was born on the Togus facility grounds and literally grew up there.

Today, she trains veterans' service rating representatives in delivering earned benefits to veterans as part of the claims process. Kathleen knows first-hand the dedication of our veterans because her son is a veteran. He joined the Army in 2003 after high school and has served two tours of duty in Iraq.

She also knows about the physical and the mental injuries our young service members suffer and the services they need. So please join me in presenting the National Commander's Award for Veterans Benefits to Kathleen Hanley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Kathleen Hanley was presented with the National Commander's Award for Veterans Benefits.)

MS. KATHLEEN HANLEY: I'd like to thank DAV. I'm not a very good public speaker but I am good at granting benefits and – (Applause) I am proud to say that Togus has a 91 percent accuracy rate and that I will continue to do all I can to pay the benefits the veterans are entitled to.

And thank you very much and thank you Gidget Rizzo for nominating me and thank you to all of our veterans. God bless. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: Now, between us in this room, I think Kathleen deserves another award. She has been there 29 years which means she worked a good portion of those years with Gary Burns. (Laughter) And that, in itself, is deserving of an award.

Sarah Nowitzke is the OEF/OIF Program Manager of the Ann Arbor, Michigan, VA medical center or VA Healthcare System. She was a military wife for 13 years before her husband was severely injured and later passed away as a result of those injuries.

She knows the heartbreak often suffered by the families of veterans and the vital need for compassion in VA health care systems. All veterans and especially those who are disabled have a special place in her heart. She shares what veterans and their families have experienced and she's there for them.

Ladies and gentlemen, the recipient of the National Commander's Award recognizing the Outstanding Member of the Veterans Health Administration, Sarah Nowitzke. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Sarah Nowitzke was presented with the National Commander's Award for Outstanding Member of the Veterans Health Administration.)

MRS. SARAH NOWITZKE: Thank you so much. This is an amazing honor. It's both professional and personally – personally because the DAV helped me. They were my durable power of attorney and if it wasn't for you I wouldn't be here today.

I went to college after my husband was 100 percent service-connected and became a social worker and put so much passion into working with veterans and becoming the OEF/OIF Program Manager.

It's just so important for me to make sure that the veterans that I work with are afforded the same benefits that I was afforded and I received. And I just can't thank you enough and how important it is that you veterans, my heroes, the ones that have sacrificed so much, have recognized what I've done. I thank you. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: Thank you, Sarah. The National Commander's Award for Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee is being presented Edward Holmes, a heavy equipment operator at the National Cemetery in Riverside, California. A Marine Corps veteran –

(Response of "Oorah.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: Thank you – Edward believes in returning the good deeds that you receive to others. Ed has tremendous empathy for the families of deceased veterans and feels his work is more than a duty. And he believes that no one can care for a veteran better than another veteran. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Edward Holmes. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Edward Holmes was presented with the National Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans' Affairs National Cemetery Administration Employee.)

MR. EDWARD HOLMES: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. HOLMES: First and foremost I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because without Him this is impossible for me. I want to thank the DAV for this award. I want to thank Riverside National Cemetery for nominating me for this award.

I thank the Salvation Army for teaching me how to accept this award today. I also want to thank the DAV Chapter 28 Riverside, California. I would also like to thank my DAV sponsor, Mr. Alan Hollis.

I want to thank all the veterans, men and women, that went before me to make this happen. Last but not least I'd like to thank my wife for her support and coming with me and standing with me. Thank you very much. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GORMAN: Well, thank you all for your great work on behalf of veterans. The recipients of the Outstanding VA Employee Awards consider their work much more than a job.

Each has a personal reason to ensure that the veterans receive the best from each branch of the VA. Their work is part of their lives and their personal experiences are, in large part, a fundamental reason they have chosen to serve our nation's veterans and their families.

The DAV is pleased to recognize them for what they do and their colleagues for what they do for our nation's veterans. They are making valuable contributions to the men and women who have served our nation with honor and devotion and who paid for our freedom with their sacrifices.

These awards are given with our deepest appreciation for what you do in putting veterans first. Once again, please give these outstanding VA employees a big round of applause. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: It's quite easy to see why these individuals deserve this recognition. They are truly examples of the standard of excellence at the VA. Once again, please give them another round of applause, please. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Michael E. Walsh, National Director of Voluntary Services:)

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**ANNUAL REPORT
MICHAEL J. WALSH
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES
TO THE
89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 31 – AUGUST 3, 2010**

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTO “BOBBY” BARRERA, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND DELEGATES TO THE 89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

“It is better to give than to receive.” Those words have struck a responsive chord in the hearts of good, kind, and loving people ever since biblical times.

The man who put real meaning to that statement was Francis of Assisi, a man who was ready to put his money where his mouth was. Turning his back on the great wealth he stood to inherit from his father, he gave everything he owned to the poor and devoted the rest of his life to the needs of others.

When his hour of death came, he suffered horribly, but he was enveloped by the love of many hundreds of people who had gathered to pay him their final tribute...people who believed that “It is better to give than to receive”... people who would carry that phrase through the centuries that followed.

St. Francis’ admonition definitely rings in the hearts of the men and women who offer their love to the world throughout the volunteer programs of the Disabled American Veterans and the DAV Auxiliary. Their own volunteer action has proven how great the personal rewards can be when one gives of one’s self.

Even as the DAV celebrates its 90 years of service to America’s disabled veterans and their families, the DAV Voluntary Services Program embarks on 64 years of volunteer service that has been second to none and a vital force of compassion in the lives of the veterans who populate the wards of the VA.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of the DAV and all of the DAV volunteer programs, we really celebrate the wonderful people who have made our organization and its programs the envy of the veterans’ community. I’d like to take a moment to salute those members and everything they’ve accomplished during the year just past.

While we can and should be proud of our past achievements, we must also look ahead. We must determine where the DAV and Auxiliary will find new volunteers to meet the growing needs of our veterans, particularly those who are aging. After all, our volunteers are aging too, but maybe not as much. I’ve heard rumors that volunteering can keep you young!

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.

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 represent 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 their own.

The statistics in this report merely measure what DAV and Auxiliary members, families and 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 Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services program is the largest of our volunteer initiatives. Through it, DAV volunteers provide a broad array of services to veterans in our nation's VA healthcare facilities. Under this program, 12,217 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 2,028,820 hours in the 12 months ending September 2009.

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 19 State Chairmen, 141 VAVS Representatives, 175 Deputy Representatives, six Associate Representatives and one Deputy Associate Representative.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 1,960 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 178,192 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided 2,207,012 hours of VAVS service over the past year – considerably more than any other service organization. This is equivalent to the VA having an additional 975 full-time employees with an estimated value of more than \$41 million in hourly wages alone.

LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP)

In October 2007, we were happy to announce the creation of the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP) to assist veterans and their dependents in their local communities that are not near a VA medical facility.

Opportunities have always existed for individuals to assist veterans and their dependents, and members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Auxiliary have always answered that call. We see examples of this each and every day aimed at meeting the main objective of our organization to build better lives for America's disabled veterans and their dependents.

We have always enjoyed the success of a great corps of volunteers who volunteer in VAVS programs at VA medical centers as well as our Transportation Network. Given the fact that not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facility, the LVAP will allow volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families in their local community and be recognized for that service.

We can't afford to have volunteers who currently volunteer in VAVS programs or drivers in our Transportation Network reallocate their volunteer time in this new program. Our VAVS and Transportation Network volunteers are vital to the continued success of those programs and the veterans who rely on them each and every day. We simply needed to create a program for those who want to do something for veterans and their families, but could not due to their geographical location in relationship to VA facilities.

DAV is the only veterans' service organization which has a national volunteer recognition program to provide incentive awards for volunteers who provide service in activities in the name of DAV. LVAP volunteers will receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program.

To date, a corps 1,618 LVAP volunteers from 23 states have gained the satisfaction of giving to others by donating 322,662 hours of service. The statistics are quite impressive. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and make a difference. Remember, LVAP volunteers will receive the same incentive awards as enjoyed by volunteers in the VAVS program.

And don't forget that youth volunteers who serve in the LVAP will also be eligible to apply for a scholarship through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program so long as they meet the minimum eligibility requirements for consideration.

LVAP volunteers may report volunteer time for a variety of activities which include, but are not limited to Chapter and Department Service Officer work; DAV specific outreach efforts (DAV Airshow Outreach Program, Harley's Heroes, National Guard mobilizations and demobilizations, etc.); fundraising efforts (Forget-Me-Not and other approved fundraisers) and direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families by doing yard work, home repairs, grocery shopping – the list abounds.

DAV HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROGRAM

Because so many sick and disabled veterans lack transportation to and from VA healthcare facilities for needed treatment, 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 195 active programs. They've recruited 8,985 volunteer drivers who logged 27,667,515 miles last year, providing 727,708 rides for veterans to and from VA healthcare facilities.

Many of these veterans rode in vans DAV purchased and donated to VA healthcare facilities for use in the Transportation Network. DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have now donated 2,368 vans to VA healthcare centers nationwide at a cost of \$51,204,507.

At the DAV's 88th National Convention, Ford Motor Company donated nine Ford E-350, 12-passenger vans to the DAV Transportation Network. The VAMCs that received these vehicles were: Topeka, Kansas; Phoenix, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Grand Junction, Colorado; Lake City, Florida; Batavia, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Temple, Texas; and Billings, Montana.

This generous gift reflects Ford Motor Company's continued commitment to veterans. From the start, they have shown 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.

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 32 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 Voluntary Service Program Managers throughout the nation are each encouraged to submit nominations for DAV and Auxiliary volunteers.

These nominations are then thoroughly evaluated by an independent committee of authorities in the field of voluntary service. The volunteers selected by the committee are brought to the DAV National Convention for the award presentation. After reviewing the nominations of DAV and Auxiliary volunteers, the committee chose as this year's winners:

DAV – Joseph Patterson

Joe Patterson, a member of Chapter 1 in Washington, D.C., says volunteering is what he wants to do, and he's happy to do it. He's been volunteering for 23 years and has accumulated 22,825 hours.

Arriving at 6:30 a.m. and extending his services to 4:30 p.m. and later, the DAV Seal Trophy recipient has donated time in many duties, from Transportation Network driver to Hospital Service Coordinator. He even has time to deliver the newspapers to hundreds of patients every day.

Joe was instrumental in obtaining the record 400 percent growth in the DAV Transportation Network. The growth was incurred in less than a year's time thanks in part to Joe's proficiency and dedication to excellence. His motto is, "There is no better way to honor veterans than to serve veterans."

He's gotten so used to volunteering that it is second nature to him at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center where he directs the DAV Transportation Network program. He is an active volunteer donating day after day to the operation of the VAVS program in Washington. Joe is truly an inspiration to veterans and other volunteers.

"Volunteering isn't about me," said Patterson. "It's about my fellow veterans. I get peace of mind out of volunteering. My life on earth is to help, and as long as I can do that, I have accomplished what I have set out to do."

DAV Auxiliary – Barbara D. Centeno

Barbara D. Centeno, a member of Auxiliary Unit 3, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has more than 44 years as a volunteer, with 16,614 hours of service. Her volunteer assignments have directly resulted in enhanced patient morale because of her committed care and concern for veterans.

At the Albuquerque VA medical center, patients are greeted by Auxiliary Seal Trophy recipient Centeno with a big smile and a hot cup of coffee. "It makes me feel good to serve them coffee," she said. "The 'thank you's' they give me for being there are always returned with my thanks for their service. They really thank you for being a volunteer."

In addition to volunteering at the VAMC, Ms. Centeno also volunteers at various other places. She distributes wheelchair bags and lap robes to patients at the Manor Care Nursing Home and participates in Project Hand Up, which is an annual stand down for homeless veterans.

Ms. Centeno really gets a kick out of serving a home-cooked meal to her grandchildren, but for this volunteer, serving disabled veterans is her greatest joy. Being fluent in Spanish is a great

comfort for patients who speak that language. While being a great organizer and a hard working volunteer Barbara showcases the mission of the Auxiliary to support disabled veterans. Because she grew up in Albuquerque, there are a lot of people at the VAMC she knows.

The truth be known, Barbara has help. "I'm slowing down and I don't know how much more I can do," said the 84-year-old volunteer. "My husband, who's 93, volunteers at the VA every Friday to help me."

Mr. Patterson and Ms. Centeno will be presented with their awards during the opening session of the 2010 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The DAV and Auxiliary can be proud of people like Mr. Patterson and Ms. Centeno 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 Joe and Barbara 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.

2010 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program was created to honor outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VAVS and Local Veterans Assistance Program.

The scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities. The DAV is deeply appreciative of Ford Motor Company for helping DAV recognize the thousands of hours these outstanding students have donated to care for and comfort disabled veterans.

The winners of the 2010 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common – they honor those who defended our nation's freedom by donating their time to assist disabled veterans.

1 st Place	Stephanie Wu, San Francisco, CA VAMC	\$15,000
2 nd Place	Solene Goycochea, San Diego, CA VAMC	\$10,000
3 rd Place	Joshua Riggins, Bay Pines, FL VAMC	\$ 7,500
	Christopher Davis, Cincinnati, OH VAMC	\$ 7,500
4 th Place	Errol Jimerson, Jackson, MS VAMC	\$ 5,000
	Reshma Muppala, Washington, DC VAMC	\$ 5,000
	Benjamin Meidinger, Reno, NV VAMC	\$ 5,000
	Amy Hansen, Muskogee, OK VAMC	\$ 5,000
	Samantha Lambert, Lexington, KY VAMC	\$ 5,000
	Janez Young, Jackson, MS VAMC	\$ 5,000
	Johnathan Schickinginger, Louisville, KY	\$ 5,000
	Keyla Gammarano, Dallas, TX VAMC	\$ 5,000

The outstanding service provided by this dedicated group of young volunteers is inspiring to those veterans who are the recipients of their care and to the families of those veterans. They prove that our nation's youth care about veterans and the service and sacrifice they made for our nation.

They have proven their desire to help disabled veterans and they clearly have gained a great deal from their association with our veterans. It is a privilege to have these young men and women working to assist our sick and disabled veterans.

The tremendous response we have received for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program is growing. In the future, it will encourage increased volunteerism to help our nation's veterans.

Ms. Stephanie Wu will be presented with her scholarship during the opening session of the 2010 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

The selection committee once again stated that all of the nominees are very special volunteers and it was a difficult job to choose a winner. Each eligible nominee has been awarded a certificate of merit for outstanding volunteer performance in meeting the needs of disabled veterans.

NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Athletic programs for handicapped veterans have always been important to 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.

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 experience fewer medical problems than those who aren't, therapists say.

Athletics help maintain cardiovascular conditioning, increase circulation to the extremities and 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.

During March 28-April 2, 2010, over 350 severely disabled veterans took part in the 24th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic at Snowmass Village, Colorado. With hundreds of volunteers – including ski instructors, most of whom are certified in teaching the disabled – it was one of the best winter sports clinics ever conducted.

An annual event sponsored jointly by the DAV and VA, the clinic is open to veterans and active duty service members with visual impairments, spinal-cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations, or other severe disabilities.

We want to thank the sponsors of the 2010 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic for their generous support. A special note of thanks to the several DAV and Auxiliary entities who are committed to this event. Our sponsors this year were:

HOST (\$30,000 +): Cisco, Deloitte Consulting; Ford Motor Company; Health Net; Sprint; TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Veterans Canteen Service.

NATIONAL (\$20,000 – \$29,999): AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Baxter Healthcare Corporation; GTSI/Sightlogix/Tangent and Hewlett Packard.

GOLD (\$10,000 – \$19,999): 3M Health Care; Booz / Allen / Hamilton; DAV Portland Chapter #1; Fifth Third Asset Management, Inc.; Harris Corporation; Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.; Lilly; Merlin International; Paul Wolfowitz; Prudential Insurance; Purdue Pharma; QTC Medical Services, Inc.; United Airlines; VANGENT and World Wide Technology, Inc.

SILVER (\$5,000 – \$9,999): AMSUS Sustaining Members; CDW-G; Coca-Cola; Daughters of the American Revolution; DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.; DAV Department of New Jersey; Elks National Veterans; EMC²; GTRI; Iron Bow Technologies; North Carolina DAV & DAV Auxiliary; RR Donnelley Response Marketing Services; SAIC; Selz Foundation; Wheelin' Sportsmen and the National Wild Turkey Foundation.

BRONZE (\$2,500 – \$4,999): American Board for Certification in Orthotics, Prosthetics & Pedorthics, Inc.; Aspen Seating LLC Ride Designs; Bowlers to Veterans Link; Convergys; Corrigo Health Care Solutions, LLC; CRAssociates, Inc.; DAV Auxiliary; DAV Department of Colorado; DAV Department of Florida; DAV Department of Indiana; DAV Department of Maryland; DAV Department of Virginia; DAV State Commanders and Adjutants Association; EMW, Inc., Frank Pacello, Inc., Frontline Medical, Genentech, Highmark, Impact Promotions, Invacare Corporation; KRANKcycleRx; Military Officers Association of America, Western Colorado Chapter; Omni Medical; Philips Respironics; Sullivan International Group, Inc.; The Fischer Family; The Roho Group; Three Wire Systems; and William Malcomb.

CONTRIBUTOR (To \$2,499): The Blanc Family Foundation; DAV Chapter 33, Greenfield, Massachusetts; DAV Auxiliary Chapter 103, New Lenox, Illinois; DAV Auxiliary of South Carolina; Karen M. Lee; E. C. Sampson; Col. Ted H. Reinsch; O. Danel Louis Gray; Louis H. Guernsey, Jr.; Mary A. Nametka; and L. Penny Harnish.

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 the rehabilitation process.

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." Every year, one participant is chosen for The Disabled American Veterans Freedom Award for Outstanding Courage and Achievement.

The 2010 DAV Freedom Award was presented to John Barnes, a soldier whose journey from a mortar attack in Iraq to the mountain of Snowmass encompasses the horrors of traumatic brain injury and the hope of recovery from devastating injury. Six weeks after 9/11, as our nation prepared its answer to the horrific terrorist attacks, a young man from Tampa Bay, Florida skipped high school on his 18th birthday to join in the Army.

This young man, who was born the son of a Coast Guard veteran at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, grew up with a commitment to his country at the highest level. He enlisted and became an infantryman in the famed 101st Airborne out of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

The young soldier thrived as a “Screaming Eagle” and rose to the rank of sergeant. Like hundreds of thousands of brave men and women in uniform, the young sergeant was sent to Iraq to help liberate that country and bring democracy to those who had only known tyranny.

On March 14, 2006, the sergeant was helping unload a supply truck in southwest Baghdad when a mortar shell came crashing down and exploded only a few feet away. Of the 17 soldiers wounded in the attack, he bore the brunt of the blast. Shrapnel tore through his helmet and cut into his brain.

Teetering on the brink of death, the soldier was taken first to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, and survived a harrowing journey out of the combat zone to Landstuhl, Germany. Defying the odds stacked against him, he made it to Bethesda Naval Hospital.

With his loving and dedicated mother by his side and his young son as an inspiration, the soldier survived the critical phase of his injury only to be confronted by the seemingly impossible prospect of recovery.

With shrapnel still lodged in his brain, the affects of his traumatic brain injury included memory loss, seizures, partial paralysis, and depression. Along with these injuries came the loss of identity as a soldier, loss of mobility and independence, and – as a final blow – the end of his marriage.

The black cloud of helplessness was only made worse by his self-medication with alcohol and unwillingness to dedicate himself to therapy and recovery. He’d fallen into an unfortunate cycle of self destruction and recovery-defying behavior that was nearly as destructive as the wounds he’d received in combat.

His mother watched helplessly as her son slid further and further into despondency. Her best efforts to steer him toward a path of recovery fell short. She then heard about an event called the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic from her good friend and fellow mother of a TBI patient Cheryl Lynch. Cheryl knew quite a bit about the “miracles on the mountainside” as the mother of clinic veteran and disabled soldier Chris Lynch.

It took three years for this pained mother to convince her son to come to the clinic, only to be met with fierce and determined resistance. Finally, last fall, the sergeant reluctantly agreed to participate. He had embraced sobriety and agreed to start setting goals and taking small steps toward recovery.

What happened next has been described in a letter written by Valerie to the clinic. I would like to read some of her words to you now: “When we arrived Saturday and his luggage was nowhere to be found, my son was so convinced that this was going to be a horrible week and said we should just go home.

“Then, by Sunday, the altitude was affecting him greatly and he felt miserable. He was irritable, negative and just kept saying he wanted to go home. He also said he would never come back here again. “All of that changed Monday afternoon. John went snowboarding Monday morning.

“When he left the snow, he was excited, happy and exhilarated. He was excitedly telling everyone who would listen how he was going to get back out on the mountain Wednesday and ‘tear it up.’

“The next morning, when he woke up, he told me he felt like a million bucks. Before breakfast, he was telling me about what he wants to do when he comes back next year.”

As much as anything I’ve ever heard about the Winter Sports Clinic, Valerie’s words perfectly encapsulate the miracles that are possible here in Snowmass for the brave men and women who accept the challenge of this clinic.

Valerie told me that her son has smiled more during that past week than he did in the years since his injury. In addition to the sports opportunities that have allowed him to reconnect to his athletic past, the sergeant was able to attend a TBI meeting here at the clinic and connect with other servicemen and women who are enduring the same pain and struggles.

He has renewed his dedication to recovering from the mortar blast that took so much from him. Along with the love of his four-year-old son and the support of his mother, I know he will become the kind of leader he was before his injury.

Clinic Statistics

Veteran Participants: total veterans: 353; new veterans: 122; new OIF veterans: 26; male veterans: 320; women veterans: 33; youngest participant: 21; oldest participant: 87

Branch of Service: Army: 172; Air Force: 63; Navy: 68; Marines: 50; Coast Guard: 6

Periods of War: World War II: 6; Gulf War: 31; Korean War: 7; Operation Iraqi Freedom: 46; Vietnam War: 78; Operation Enduring Freedom: 26

Locations: states represented: 44; VA medical centers represented: 83

The 25th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic promises to be better and bigger and will be held March 27 through April 1, 2011, in Snowmass Village, Colorado.

DAV CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Continuing to provide a morale boost to disabled veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program assures that hospitalized patients 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.

Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) star Rich "Ace" Franklin has been visiting sick and disabled veterans hospitalized during his entire UFC career, bringing cheer and encouragement to the men and women who sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty.

The DAV is indeed honored that such outstanding celebrities want to be a part of the DAV Celebrity Entertainment 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.

We continue to sponsor celebrities and several major and minor league baseball players at VA hospital visits by signing autographs, presenting patients with photographs and help brighten the day for sick and disabled veterans in VA healthcare facilities all across the country.

IN CLOSING

Many deserve our thanks for the great year the DAV volunteer programs have had. If it were not for their support, the many programs mentioned in this report would not have been realized.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Laura Balun, who heads up the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program, her staff, and the VAVS leadership team 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 DAV National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera and Auxiliary National Commander Kay Egan and their staffs, the National Officers, DAV Interim Hospital Committee, The Columbia Trust, National Service Foundation, and the Charitable Service Trust.

Their assistance and support were essential ingredients of our 2009 success story. My sincere gratitude for the support of the staff of National Headquarters led by recently retired Executive Director Richard E. Patterson, Acting Executive Director Marc Burgess, and the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters led by Executive Director David W. Gorman.

My personal thanks to Voluntary Services Support Specialist Linda DeMartino; Program Coordinator Joyce Barrett; Voluntary Services Administrative Secretary Amanda Rice and Correspondents Wilma Henderson and Odie Hall for their invaluable assistance.

We've experienced outstanding support from DAV's corps of National Service Officers and Hospital Service Coordinators who have played a vital role in support of the Voluntary Services 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 committed to DAV's Voluntary Services Program and, on behalf of the Voluntary Services Department, we wish to thank him for his leadership and guidance and for having confidence in me to use my talents in extending the DAV's mission of hope into VA medical centers and the local community.

I would be remiss not to mention the true champions – the men and women and today's youth who care enough to make a difference in the lives of so many – the volunteer corps of the DAV and Auxiliary.

As has often been said, "there is no higher distinction than service to others." And there are none more distinguished than the men and women who are out there right now, working to bring the comfort of love and the joy of life to our nation's disabled veterans and their families. Your devotion, compassion and commitment to DAV's mission of building better lives for America's disabled veterans is truly second to none.

Thank you.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)

(October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009)

NUMBER OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED VAVS VOLUNTEERS	14,177
NUMBER OF HOURS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	2,169,549
NUMBER OF HOURS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	37,463
NUMBER OF HOURS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	2,207,012

VAVS APPOINTED POSITIONS

NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN	19
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN ALSO SERVING AS REPRESENTATIVES	8
NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES	141
NUMBER OF DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	175
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	6
NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	1
NUMBER OF APPOINTED POSITIONS	350
ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR	56

DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

(January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009)

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS (HSCs)	179
NUMBER OF VETERANS TRANSPORTED	743,701
TRANSPORTATION HOURS	1,637,171
TRANSPORTATION MILES	28,324,072

2009 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK GRANTS

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK HSC PROGRAM GRANTS	\$ 383,375
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANTS (152 vans purchased and delivered in 2009)	\$ 3,623,545

2009 Total National Grant Expenditures	\$ 4,006,920
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(The following written annual report was submitted by Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director:)

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
for
2009-2010
by
JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
for presentation to
THE 89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia
July 31-August 3, 2010

NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTO “BOBBY” BARRERA AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

On this occasion of the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and this great organization’s 90th anniversary, I am pleased to provide a report on the status of the National Legislative Department.

This report includes both an outline of current and upcoming steps necessary to attain the legislative goals established by our 1.2 million members and a summary of the legislative activities that occurred during the months since our previous National Convention.

For the past several years, DAV’s top legislative priority has been to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system.

We launched an aggressive campaign through our Stand Up for Veterans initiative to reform the budget and appropriations process for the VA health care system. We pressed Congress to enact a proposal for advance appropriations to ensure sick and disabled veterans gained and kept timely access to high quality VA health care services.

I am pleased to report that in late October 2009, the tenacity of our grassroots network led to an amazing victory with the enactment of Public Law (P.L.) 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009. DAV was instrumental in leading a coalition of veterans service organizations that made up the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, building Congressional support and the eventual drafting and introduction of the now-approved legislation.

DAV members and DAV Auxiliary members should note with a great deal of pride that their actions including thousands of calls, letters, and visits to their Senators and Representatives had a real impact and made possible the achievement of this historic legislative goal.

This victory is a direct result of our grassroots standing up for veterans and demanding Congress take action to ensure an uninterrupted, predictable flow of resources for veterans health care programs. Everyone should be extremely proud of what we achieved as an organization with the passage of this Act. It clearly shows what we can achieve when we speak with one voice.

Our effective influence of the legislative process has never been more evident than in the overall success of DAV’s Stand Up for Veterans initiative. As a result of a generous grant from an anonymous donor the legislative staff was able to expand our legislative goals over the past two years.

This campaign allowed us to focus congressional and public attention on the needs of disabled veterans from the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as those of prior wars and conflicts. I am pleased to report that we achieved remarkable success in all of our Stand Up for Veterans legislative goals, culminating with the passage of another important measure—the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, signed by President Obama on May 5, 2010.

This comprehensive measure includes specific provisions for which DAV advocated to enhance health services for the nation’s 1.8 million women veterans, establish a package of support services for caregivers of severely disabled veterans as well as expand mental health services and health care access for veterans living in rural areas.

The successes we achieved during the past year to protect veterans benefits from erosion and enhance services required the full commitment and support of DAV's leadership and the enduring dedication and participation of our membership.

Therefore, let me acknowledge the highly effective manner in which National Commander Bobby Barrera and the DAV National Line Officers communicated our message to our elected officials and to the American public.

Let me especially acknowledge the essential support we receive from DAV's professional management, National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman, now retired National Headquarters Executive Director Richard E. Patterson, and the professional staffs of our Washington Service and Legislative Headquarters and National Headquarters.

Of course, my own staff of the Legislative Department works diligently to keep abreast of new developments and ensure we respond with appropriate and timely action. Their dedication and hard work ensured the successes DAV has experienced during the last several years.

Most of you know them, but just let me mention them by name: Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem, Assistant National Legislative Director Adrian Atizado, Assistant National Legislative Director John Wilson and Legislative Support Specialists Lisa Bogle, Caren Wooley and Angela D'Aguilar.

In addition, our efforts have been supported by three highly effective advisors, John M. Bradley, Peter Dickinson and Amy Hogan, who have worked tirelessly on our Stand Up for Veterans campaign.

Certainly, we rely heavily on DAV National Service Officers and DAV and Auxiliary officers and members to keep us informed and coordinate with our Benefits Protection Team Leaders in grassroots lobbying. We also rely on the efforts of the members of our grassroots program, the DAV Commanders Action Network—DAV CAN.

In addition, we use numerous organizational resources to achieve our goals, including the latest innovations in electronic media to carry our message to legislators and the American public. We also continue to use the power of the Internet to communicate with public officials, our membership and the public. In today's fast-paced, competitive world, we must take advantage of every tool at our disposal.

Virtual March

Following last year's National Convention, on September 15, 2009, the DAV kicked off the first-ever "Virtual March for Disabled Veterans," also known as the "Million Claims March." DAV launched the online event to draw attention to serious problems facing veterans and, as a result, saw an instant increase in e-mails to lawmakers.

Thousands of e-mails from "marchers" filled in-boxes on Capitol Hill, demanding the VA disability benefits process be revamped since the claims backlog now nears one million. On the first day of the march, we tracked more than 3,000 e-mails sent through our advocacy page, roughly six times what we see typically in a whole week.

Employing all social media, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and other social networking sites, about 25,000 marchers registered. More than 30,000 logged into the Virtual March's website.

During the first week of the march, I conducted two live online chats and numerous other chats were held with then-National Service Director Randy Reese, National Membership Director Tony Baskerville, National Director of Voluntary Services Michael Walsh and Washington Headquarters Executive Director David Gorman.

Live chats were also held with Congressman John Hall and Congressman Tim Walz, both of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Based on the success of these chats, we plan to stay in touch with members and supporters in this way as often as we can, including live online congressional town hall meetings with members of Congress.

Being an online event, the march remains active and we continue to ask supporters to register and contact lawmakers.

Hearings

Since last year's National Convention, the DAV legislative staff has testified at 26 Congressional hearings, covering 69 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues. Below is a summary of all of these hearings.

On August 20, 2009, Assistant National Legislative Director John L. Wilson testified at a House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity hearing regarding Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment contracts for veteran counseling.

On September 17, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Report to the Secretary of VA by the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation.

On September 24, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified at two hearings. The first was held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding burial benefits, cemetery policy and the ways VA and the American Battle Monuments Commission can better serve veterans.

The second hearing was held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. This was a legislative hearing, at which 13 bills of various levels of interest to DAV members were discussed.

On October 1, 2009, Assistant National Legislative Director Adrian Atizado testified at a legislative hearing held by the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. Nine bills were discussed at this hearing.

On October 8, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified at a legislative hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs discussing four bills regarding veterans' benefits issues.

On October 15, 2009, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding inappropriate billing practices within the Veterans Health Administration.

On October 21, 2009, Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem submitted testimony for the record for a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on legislation pending before the Committee. Twelve bills were considered at that day's hearing.

On November 4, 2009, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the cultural perception of Gulf War Illness, Gulf War Illness research, VA medical care and benefits for ill Gulf War veterans, and education and outreach efforts for Gulf War veterans.

On November 19, 2009, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health on the VA's Health Care Effectiveness through Resource Optimization (HERO) project.

On November 19, 2009, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity regarding various housing grant programs.

On February 3, 2010, Mr. Atizado testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding DAV's views on the VA's Health care Effectiveness through Resource Optimization (HERO) project.

On February 3, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to address Public Law 110-389, an implementation and status update on the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act.

On February 4, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to present the views of *The Independent Budget* (IB) on veterans' benefits programs.

On February 24, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs to address the VA Benefits Delivery at Discharge and Quick Start Programs.

On February 26, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on behalf of the IB, on VA benefits programs.

On March 2, 2010, National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for the year.

On March 3, 2010, Mr. Atizado testified for the record before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding H.R. 4241, a bill to allow for increased flexibility in payments to State veterans homes for the care of service-connected veterans.

On March 23, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies on behalf of the IB, on VA benefits programs.

On March 24, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR) program.

On March 25, 2010, Ms. Ilem testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health on eight bills and three draft measures of interest to the DAV.

On May 6, 2010, Mr. Wilson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the Veterans Benefits Administration's work credit and work management systems.

On May 19, 2010, Mr. Wilson submitted testimony for the record at the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing concerning 19 pending measures.

On May 20, 2010, Ms. Ilem testified before a joint hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittees on Health and Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning collaboration between the VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to address health care services and disability compensation issues related to military sexual trauma.

On June 15, 2010, I testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the state of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Enacted Legislation

Public Law 111-81

Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009

On October 22, 2009, President Obama signed Public Law 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, in a signing ceremony attended by representatives from all of the organizations in the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, including National Commander Barrera and myself.

This bill provides advance appropriations authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care accounts, and creates new budget reporting requirements to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable health care funding for veterans. The DAV and others have worked toward passage of budget reform for more than two decades.

After we gained support from President Obama, House and Senate leadership and the VA Secretary, we began the final stretch to see this bill enacted. On October 7, 2009, H.R. 1016 was brought to the House floor for debate.

During House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Filner's opening remarks in support of passage of H.R. 1016, he made mention of the fact that DAV National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera, Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman and I were present in the House Gallery to observe this historic occasion.

H.R. 1016 passed the House by a vote of 419 to 1 on October 8, 2009 and was sent to the Senate. It was unanimously passed by voice vote in the Senate on October 13, 2009. On October 14, the organizations that make up Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform were invited to House Speaker Pelosi's office for an enrollment ceremony, where she signed the bill for submittal to the President.

Enactment of this historic legislation ensures current and future veterans will have access to timely, high quality VA health care services. After the bill was signed by the President, Commander Barrera noted that every disabled veteran will benefit from this momentous Act, and that it is one of the most significant legislative victories for veterans since World War II.

Public Law 111-163

Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010

President Obama signed Public Law 111-163, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act on May 5, 2010. The public signing ceremony was attended by representatives of veterans service, military and family organizations. Among those present was Deputy National Legislative Director Ilem, who represented DAV.

Several years ago, we began to see an increasing number of severely injured veterans returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As advances in medicine allowed more of the severely injured to be medically rescued on the battlefield, VA had to confront the issue of how to provide a lifetime of care for these young heroes returning home with polytrauma, severe traumatic brain injury, multiple amputations and a host of post-deployment health issues that VA had not confronted before.

After acute hospitalization, most family members want to care for their loved ones in the home, even if they are severely injured. Caregivers shouldering this burden are often unable to maintain full-time employment, limiting their income and ability to obtain health insurance.

Caregivers who do remain employed often give up opportunities for career advancement to care for their injured family members, while their employers sustain millions of dollars in losses related to employee absence and decreased productivity.

Because of these challenges, the DAV worked with other veterans and military and family service organizations to bring about the introduction and passage of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010.

This precedent-setting legislation established a number of critical new programs to address DAV's highest priority legislative goals over the past several years identified through our Stand Up for Veterans campaign.

To help meet the hardships associated with lengthy recovery and rehabilitation periods, this legislation authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to create an array of supportive services for family caregivers of disabled veterans from all eras of military service, including providing education on how to be a better caregiver in the home, counseling and mental health services, and providing more flexible periods of respite care so that these veterans can avoid long-term institutionalization.

The law also provides a monthly financial stipend, CHAMPVA health care and additional benefits to financially burdened family members providing care at home to the most severely wounded and disabled Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

This comprehensive legislation also expands and improves health care access and services for the nation's 1.8 million women veterans. We want to recognize DAV's grassroots efforts that helped ensure that women veterans, who have played an increasingly essential role in all of our military service branches including the National Guard, Air National Guard, and Reserve forces, receive quality, timely and gender-appropriate health care services.

While it is our responsibility to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits they deserve, we believe it is important to recognize the extraordinary contributions and unique challenges women veterans face in today's military and when they return home.

This important legislation will for the first time allow VA to cover the costs for up to seven days of post-natal care for newborn infants of women veterans receiving maternity services at VA's expense and—to eliminate barriers for veterans accessing intensive health and mental health services—it authorizes VA to establish a child care pilot program.

The bill also includes provisions that:

- Expand the VA's authority to provide recruitment and retention incentives so that VA can recruit high-quality health care providers.
- Increase the oversight of care purchased in the community by mandating financial incentives for providers who maintain high-quality standards.
- Expand the VA's telemedicine program, and its ability to collaborate with the Indian Health Service and community organizations to provide medical services, including mental health care, in rural communities.
- Remove barriers to emergency care and care for the catastrophically disabled by:
 - Eliminating co-payments for veterans who are catastrophically disabled.
 - Enhancing the VA's ability to reimburse veterans for emergency care received at non-VA facilities in certain circumstances.

The House of Representatives approved the bill by a vote of 419 to 0 on April 21, 2010. On April 22, 2010, the Senate gave final approval to S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act. The legislation, some sections of which were first proposed over two years ago, has been strongly backed by DAV and other veterans organizations.

The legislation forges a new paradigm of long-term care for severely wounded service personnel and veterans—one that acknowledges and fully supports the vital role of the family caregiver in any successful rehabilitation plan and marks another significant legislative victory for sick and disabled veterans and their families, and for DAV.

Health Reform Legislation and Its Effect on Veterans

On March 23, 2010, Congress passed comprehensive health care reform, Public Law 111-148. We received many inquiries from DAV members and others asking how the new health insurance reform law would affect our nation's veterans, and in particular those enrolled in VA health care programs.

As many of you know, in general the new law requires most U.S. citizens and legal residents to obtain private health insurance coverage by 2014 or they (or their employers) will face financial penalties through the U.S. Tax Code.

Under this new law with subsequent added amendments, veterans enrolled in VA health care and their dependents and survivors under CHAMPVA, and all military families, military retirees and dependents enrolled in military health care, TRICARE, and TRICARE for Life, are deemed to have the minimum essential coverage that satisfies the individual requirement in the law for health insurance coverage.

As such, we believe these veterans and military families and retirees are not required to buy private coverage in addition to their government-provided health services, a stipulation the DAV had insisted to Congress and the Administration to avoid our opposition to the bill.

Furthermore, under the new law but outside VA and the DoD, veterans and their family dependents, the same as all other Americans, may gain the option to buy a private plan through

state-run insurance exchanges, beginning in 2014. Based on income limits, they may also be eligible for financial assistance in purchasing insurance coverage.

With all the misinformation that has appeared in the media and on the Internet, we can understand why some veterans and their families have become concerned about what they think might happen to them under the new law.

One specific and unintended problem surfaced that concerns a few hundred severely disabled children of Vietnam and Korean War veterans with spina bifida, but that problem was addressed by the Veterans Committees in Congress with a technical correction. Bills were introduced in both the House and Senate to amend the reform law to guarantee that VA's spina bifida program for these children would be considered minimum essential coverage for them.

That bill, H.R. 5014, was signed into law as Public Law 111-173 by the President on May 27, 2010. Otherwise, we believe veterans who rely on VA health care and their family members who rely on CHAMPVA will be unaffected by the new health reform law.

Nonetheless, in an overabundance of caution due to ambiguous language, legislation has been introduced to clarify the intent of the law, as follows:

- H.R. 4887, passed by the House, passed in the Senate on April 12, 2010 and sent to the President, provides that coverage under TRICARE and DoD's Non-appropriated Fund Health Benefits Program (for DoD employees of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and others) constitutes minimal essential health care coverage as required by the health insurance reform law. This bill became Public Law 111-159 on April 26, 2010.
- H.R. 4894 would amend the health insurance reform law to ensure nothing in that law could be construed to diminish the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of Defense over the VA and DoD health care programs, respectively. This bill would also directly amend the reform law to ensure that enrollment in DoD or VA health care is considered minimum essential coverage.

DAV will remain vigilant to protect the VA health care system upon which so many service-connected disabled veterans must rely. We will also continue to monitor the implementation of the larger health insurance reform law to ensure that it will not adversely impact our nation's wartime disabled veterans, their families or their dependents.

Stand Up for Veterans Initiative Wins Film Awards

DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative continues to receive recognition for its public affairs campaign. On April 26, 2009, at the Houston International Film Festival, WorldFest, the DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative was honored with several awards. First, we received a Telly Award for our Stand Up for Veterans video.

In the TV Commercial Awards, Not-For-Profit category, Stand Up for Veterans received a Gold Remi Award for a 60-second Web spot regarding post-traumatic stress disorder. The initiative received two awards in the Film and Video Production Awards – Social/Economic Issues category. First, a Platinum Remi for its Women Veterans video; second, a Gold Remi for its Stand Up for Veterans Initiative video.

In September 2009, DAV's Stand Up For Veterans initiative won the "Thoth Award" from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) National Capitol Chapter in the category of Public Affairs / Issue Management. DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative was also honored for its comprehensive grassroots education, public relations and issue advocacy campaign focused on strengthening veterans health care programs.

In March 2010, the Stand Up for Veterans campaign was named a Gold finalist for the 2010 Sabre Awards given by the Holmes Report. However, we did not win this award during the May awards dinner.

Also in March, DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative was named a finalist for the 2010 PRSA Silver Anvil award in Public Affairs, nonprofit category. On June 3, 2010, it was announced that DAV had indeed been selected to receive that most prestigious top honor from the PRSA.

Key Legislative Initiatives

On January 20, 2010, Veterans' Affairs Committee Bob Filner held a congressional roundtable on veterans service organization (VSO) legislative priorities. I had the honor to represent DAV at that roundtable.

On January 27, 2010, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Filner held a roundtable on rural health care, in which the DAV participated.

In February 2010, IB for FY 2011 was released. The four coauthoring organizations of the IB, AMVETS, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

United States, have worked in collaboration for 24 years to honor veterans and their service to our nation.

Throughout the year, each organization works collaboratively to identify and address legislative and policy issues that affect the organizations' memberships, the broader veterans' community, the work of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and that of the VA health care system, always with an eye to protecting and enhancing the federal benefits veterans have earned and deserve.

On February 21, 2010, Deputy National Legislative Director Joy Ilem participated in the annual legislative and policy conference of the American Federation of Government Employees. Ms. Ilem discussed DAV's legislative priorities for the 111th Congress.

On March 18, 2010, Chairman Filner held a roundtable on the VA's claims process, with 50 VSO/MSOs, military families, government agencies, the VA, and other entities. I was present to represent the interests of the DAV.

On May 12, 2010, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi held her quarterly roundtable, which I attended on behalf of DAV to discuss reform of the VA disability claims process.

Reforming The Veterans Benefits Approval System: "Getting It Done Right The First Time"

One of the biggest problems facing veterans today is their inability to get correct and timely decisions on their applications for VA benefits, particularly disability compensation. As of May 15, 2010, there were 533,279 pending claims for disability compensation and pensions awaiting rating decisions by the VBA; 189,344 (35.5 percent) of the claims exceeded VBA's 125-day strategic goal.

Worse, by VBA's own measurement the accuracy of disability compensation rating decisions for the 12-month period ending in March 2010 was just 83%, continuing a downward trend over the past several years.

These statistics confirm what DAV and others have known for some time: the process for approving veterans claims for disability compensation is broken. As a result, too many disabled veterans today are waiting too long for rating decisions that are too often wrong.

In the past year, with mounting pressure from DAV and other veterans service organizations, as well as a host of media reports about the growing backlog, Congress and the Administration have put increasing focus on VBA's problems in processing claims for benefits. However, it is imperative that we remain focused on addressing the root causes of the problem, not just the symptoms (such as the backlog); otherwise any progress would only be temporary.

For that reason, DAV has been working with a growing coalition of veterans and military organizations to change the terms of the debate from "Reducing the Backlog" to "Getting It Done Right the First Time." We are working to develop recommendations and new legislation that address the root causes of the problem – lack of quality and accuracy, not solely bringing down the backlog.

To accomplish this goal, we must insist that VA focus first and foremost on quality, which VA can do by changing how it measures, controls and rewards the quality, not just the quantity, of the work completed by employees, management and leadership.

VBA must modernize its IT infrastructure and optimize business processes; VA must develop a work culture that makes quality and accuracy at least as important as quantity and production; and VA must design and implement a simpler and more transparent application and approval process for veterans to use in seeking just compensation for their injuries and illnesses sustained while serving.

Perhaps most important to VBA's long term modernization is the ongoing development of several new IT systems—including the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and the Veterans Relationship Manager (VRM) to manage work flow and provide greater access to veterans and VSOs.

DAV has been working with both VBA and Congress to ensure that the new software system is built properly to provide timely and accurate decisions on veterans claims for benefits. Toward this goal, Congress must provide VA with both sufficient resources and sufficient time to get this job done right, not just quickly, balancing the need for aggressive oversight against the pitfalls of micro-management.

Over the past 12 months, VBA has begun almost 40 initiatives to modernize the claims approval process, many of them supported and inspired by DAV recommendations. For example, DAV has long pushed for the creation and use of standardized templates for physicians so that private medical evidence can be developed and delivered in a uniform manner.

If adopted, this policy will allow a VBA rating specialist to make rating determinations without the need to order redundant VA examinations. In a pilot program at the Pittsburgh VA Regional Office, VBA has begun to employ exactly this procedure.

DAV has also advocated for VBA to use its existing authority to assign interim ratings whenever there is sufficient evidence to establish a compensable service-connected condition. This will more quickly provide many service-disabled veterans with financial support and access to VA health care.

Similarly, we have called for an expedited process to review and approve claims that are fully-developed when they are filed. Both of these ideas are now among the 38 new initiatives; recently VBA began rolling out DAV's idea of the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) program nationally.

However, with so many proposals under development simultaneously, one of DAV's highest priorities will be to ensure that Congress provides focus on continuous and aggressive oversight of these pilot programs and the development of a new information technology system.

We remain concerned that VA lacks a unified plan to incorporate any of the improvements generated from the pilot programs into coherent system improvements that would modernize the current benefits approval system overall.

In 2010, DAV has visited several of these VBA pilot programs, including the ones in Little Rock, Arkansas, Providence, Rhode Island and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, VA Regional Offices, and we will be examining several more in the balance of the year to ensure that VBA is on the right track and that the interests of disabled veterans remain paramount.

We are also working to ensure that VBA fully integrates the work that DAV's National Service Officers perform in assisting veterans in filing claims for disability compensation and other benefits into all of their future plans.

For the balance of the 111th Congress, DAV will remain focused on aggressive monitoring of VBA's ongoing pilot programs and IT initiatives. In addition, we will continue growing the coalition of veterans and military organizations interested in working cooperatively to reform the benefits approval system.

As we look forward toward the 112th Congress that will begin early next year, DAV expects to bring forward new recommendations and legislative ideas to create a benefits approval system that veterans can rely on to get them accurate decisions in a timely manner—a system that gets it right the first time.

In all of this work, it has been and will continue to be essential that our membership and supporters continue to press Congress and the Administration to reform the veterans benefits approval system. With your continued involvement, we will move ever closer to finally reforming the system so that whenever a disabled veteran files a claim for benefits to which he or she is entitled, they can rely on a VA system that gets it right the first time.

DAV 2010 Mid-Winter Conference

On February 28 through March 3, 2010, the DAV held its annual Mid-Winter Conference. The focal point of the conference was National Commander Roberto Barrera's presentation to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for 2010.

During the conference, DAV's national service and legislative staffs presented key information on a variety of subjects of our concern to hundreds of members from across the country. DAV members in attendance used that week to visit their elected representatives on Capitol Hill, to present DAV's most important national legislative issues as well as their own issues of concern from their states and local congressional districts.

This Mid-Winter conference experience is grassroots lobbying at its finest and most effective, and provides my staff its energy to conduct our work in Washington, D.C. throughout the year. I congratulate and thank all our members who attended this year's highly successful DAV Mid-Winter Conference.

During February and March, DAV presented various elected officials with Cooperstown baseball bats to thank them for "going to bat" for our nation's veterans through their support of advance appropriations for veterans health care. Twenty officials were honored, including the President and various members of Congress. Those honored were:

President Barack Obama
Secretary Ray LaHood
Senator Daniel K. Akaka
Senator Richard Burr
Senator Robert Byrd
Senator Kent Conrad
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator James Inhofe
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator Harry Reid

Senator Olympia Snowe
Representative Chet Edwards
Representative Bob Filner
Representative Phil Hare
Representative Walter Jones
Representative Michael Michaud
Representative David Obey
Representative Nancy Pelosi
Representative John Spratt
Representative Zach Wamp

In a special White House ceremony, DAV National Commander Bobby Barrera, National Adjutant Arthur Wilson and then-Executive Director, National Headquarters Richard Patterson, presented President Obama with a Cooperstown bat inscribed with special thanks from DAV for his support of our nation's service-disabled veterans.

Conclusion

In the upcoming year, we will deal with VA-related benefits and health issues from a position of strength and a devotion to purpose. DAV will continue to lead the way in helping solve the complex problems that have plagued the VA benefits approval process to ensure that all disabled veterans receive the full range of benefits they have earned through their service, and in a timely manner.

We will also work to ensure that the provisions in Public Law 111-163, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, are implemented faithfully as we and Congress intended.

This legislation was written to forge a new paradigm of long-term care support services for severely wounded service members—and to acknowledge and fully support the sacrifice and vital role played by family caregivers of all generations of veterans.

In the year ahead there will undoubtedly be a number of new issues that arise and challenges to maintain the benefits disabled veterans have earned through their service to America. DAV stands ready to face these issues and challenges head-on with the unwavering support and strength of our membership. We need your strength and dedication to help us achieve these important goals.

In closing, I want to thank all DAV and DAVA members for their contributions during this extremely successful past year, a truly historic year for DAV and its membership, and I call upon you to continue engaging with us, Congress and the Administration in fulfilling our organizational mission of building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

(The following written annual report was submitted by Garry J. Augustine, National Service Director:)

ANNUAL REPORT
Garry J. Augustine
NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR
to the
Disabled American Veterans
89th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Atlanta, Georgia
July 31 – August 3, 2010

DAV – 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

As the newly appointed National Service Director, it is my honor to report on the achievements of the National Service Department as we complete 90 years of service. As an organization we can be proud of our accomplishments since our origins back in 1920.

The world is changing faster than ever before with today's advanced 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 access

information via Web-based applications as never before. Once again, the DAV has made a significant investment into technology and will be providing new, more advanced, computers to every employee in the DAV field offices.

These systems will include dual computer monitors for all NSOs. As the Department of Veterans Affairs moves toward electronic files, so too must the DAV position itself in order to operate in this environment. Dual monitor systems will allow NSOs the ability to serve clients better than ever before and better than anyone else out there.

“To do for the world more than the world does for you - that is success. “ ~ Henry Ford

As a service organization committed to building better lives for America’s disabled veterans and their families, DAV strives to do more and more for veterans in the way of programs and services. Another investment made during 2009 was the purchase of 10 new Mobile Service Offices (MSOs) to replace an aging fleet which served our clients well during the past 10 years.

Many of you may recall our fleet of vans called Field Service Units, 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.

It was not until 2000 that the Mobile Service Office Program was reintroduced as a modern day replacement to those Field Service Units that had been discontinued for so many years. The DAV understands that a significant number of our Nation’s veterans are unable to travel to the nearest VA facility or NSO office for assistance due to their service-connected disabilities.

DAV continues to ensure that programs which are most beneficial to our members receive the funding necessary to continue into the future.

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. They also enhance public awareness of the DAV’s mission: Building better lives for all of our Nation’s disabled veterans and their families.

DAV National Service Program

Our largest endeavor to fulfill our mission is our National Service Program. In 110 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, the DAV employs a corps of approximately 260 NSOs and 34 Transition Service Officers (TSOs), who represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the VA, the Department of Defense (DoD), and other government agencies.

Veterans need not be DAV members to take advantage of this outstanding assistance, which is provided free of charge. With outlays of more than \$43 million in 2009, these direct hands-on services make up the largest item in the DAV’s budget for program services.

Between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009, our NSOs and TSOs, all wartime service-connected disabled veterans, represented nearly a quarter of a million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining nearly \$4.5 billion for them in new and retroactive benefits.

NSOs function as attorneys-in-fact, assisting veterans and their families in filing claims for VA health care, disability benefits, rehabilitation and education programs, loan guaranty, life insurance, survivor’s benefits, and much more.

They provide free services, such as information seminars, counseling and community outreach. NSOs also represent veterans and active duty military personnel before Discharge Review Boards, Boards for Correction of Military Records, Physical Evaluation Boards, the Disability Transition Assistance Program (DTAP), the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), and many other official panels.

Our NSOs are highly trained professionals and skilled experts in developing and prosecuting veterans’ claims through in-depth reviews of medical histories, and with sound application of current law and regulations. They also review rating board decisions, informing veterans and their families of the appeals process and of their appellate rights.

DAV National Service Officer Training Programs

The expertise required for the outstanding assistance provided by NSOs involves extensive training. It begins with a rigorous 16-month on-the-job training program, which provides the foundation for new trainees. Trainees are instructed by tenured supervisory NSOs with subject matter expertise. The National Service staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters administers and monitors the program and the instructors.

NSOs also participate in a comprehensive Structured and Continuing Training (SCT) program designed to keep them up to date on changes to the laws and regulations affecting

veterans' benefits. NSOs are required to pre-test and successfully complete 32 training modules with testing on each. Full completion requires post-testing at the conclusion of the program.

Recognized by the highly regarded American Council on Education (ACE), the DAV's SCT course of study uses the latest technology to continually upgrade each NSO's knowledge. DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by ACE.

In addition to these training programs, supervisory staff and selected NSOs from field offices across the nation receive specialized training in management and leadership development. The goal of the DAV's National Service Program is to produce the most highly trained NSOs possible for veterans and their families.

National Appeals Office

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is the highest appellate level of the VA responsible for the final decision concerning appellate review for entitlement to veterans' benefits. About 95 percent of the claims before the BVA involve disability compensation issues.

DAV's highly skilled National Appeals Officers provide an invaluable service to appellants in the preparation of written briefs for BVA review, and by conducting formal hearings before Veterans Law Judges. DAV maintains the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing more than 31 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2009.

Judicial Appeals Office

We have maintained our leading position among veterans' service organizations representing veterans, their dependents and survivors before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In July 2008, we implemented a long-anticipated plan to utilize the services of carefully selected law firms to provide pro bono representation to some DAV clients at the veterans' court.

Through the combined efforts of DAV and its first partner law firm, 140 veterans received free representation before the court in 2009. We added another law firm to this team in late 2008. As a result an additional 160 veterans were able to benefit from this valuable representation in 2009.

Mobile Service Office Program

By literally putting our service offices on the road, assisting veterans where they live, the DAV is increasing accessibility to the benefits our nation provides to its veterans. The DAV currently has 10 of these specially equipped Mobile Service Offices to visit communities across the country.

This outreach effort generates a considerable amount of claims work from those veterans who may not otherwise have the opportunity to seek assistance at DAV National Service Offices.

During 2009, our MSOs traveled more than 114,056 miles while visiting 727 cities and towns. NSOs interviewed 18,647 veterans and other potential claimants. The MSOs remain on the road and we look forward to another successful year.

In August 2006, the Harley-Davidson Foundation pledged \$1 million over a four-year period to partnership with DAV to form the Harley's Heroes program. During 2009, the MSOs visited 168 Harley-Davidson dealerships across the country. DAV expended over \$750,000 to the Mobile Service Office program during 2009.

Transition Service Program

For those soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, guardsmen, and officers making the all-important transition back into civilian life, the DAV participates in formal Transition Assistance Programs and Disabled Transition Assistance Programs. Due to a generous grant provided by the General Electric Foundation, we have been able to increase our staff of Transition Service Officers.

Our TSOs provide benefits counseling and assistance to service members filing initial claims for VA benefits at more than 100 military installations throughout the country. By filing compensation claims at separation centers where service medical records and examination facilities are readily available, DAV is able to provide prompt and effective service to these future veterans.

Over the last year, TSOs conducted 3,136 formal presentations to approximately 86,130 transitioning service members. During that same time they filed 26,207 claims for VA benefits. In addition, NSOs provided representation before Physical Evaluation Boards, Discharge Review Boards, and Boards for Correction of Military Records.

Counsel and representation was provided for active duty service members during their transition through the military's Disability Evaluation System. In 2009, DAV devoted approximately \$2.1 million to this program.

Outreach Programs

The National Service Department is fortunate to have the cooperation, support, and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers (DSOs/CSOs) from around the nation. We want to ensure that each receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantee the vitality and growth of our local service programs.

This provides an environment where our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department and Chapter Service Officers, and volunteers work together for the common goal of service to America's disabled veterans. In 2009, the DAV provided training to and certified 1,542 DSOs and CSOs in 40 states.

Information Seminars are another outreach initiative offered by the National Service Department. During 2009, our NSOs conducted 39 Information Seminars at various DAV Chapters around the country, with 4,251 individuals in attendance.

Information Seminars not only provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with DAV National Service Officers in their own community, they are a great way for local Chapters to recruit new members and encourage Chapter involvement.

During 2006, DAV NSOs have offered services at other community-based events, including participation with state and county fairs, air shows, Major League Baseball, the National Football League, NASCAR, and other events.

Disaster Relief Program

The DAV offers aid and assistance to our members and other disabled veterans when disaster strikes. National Service Officers are dispatched to disaster areas to provide monetary assistance, conduct benefit counseling, and to offer referral sources.

Throughout the last year, we have provided disaster relief grants in the aftermath of natural disasters and emergencies in areas around the nation. During 2009, almost \$10,625 in grants was disbursed to flood victims and hurricane victims. Since the program's inception in 1968, \$8,761,581 has been disbursed.

Homeless Veterans

DAV's Homeless Veterans Initiative is to seek legislation and policies to enhance programs and services to help homeless veterans break the cycle of poverty and isolation and move from the streets toward self-sufficiency. Many of our Departments and Chapters are actively involved in the homeless initiative in their respective communities as well.

Employment

Our National Service Program is responsible for the organization's employment related program and works alongside the Department of Labor, VA, Office of Personnel Management, Congress, and other government agencies to ensure disabled veterans are treated fairly and equitably in the work force. Historically, disabled veterans have not fared as well as non-disabled veterans and other workers in the job market.

Our primary goal is to seek legislation and policies to enhance programs and services provided by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, and other government agencies. Our active involvement and oversight ensure disabled veterans get fair consideration in the job market.

Women Veterans

In historic numbers, women are serving our country with pride, patriotism, and honor equal to their male counterparts. But women veterans use VA health care facilities and other earned benefits in lower numbers than their male counterparts.

As a result, we advocate for women veterans on a variety of fronts. We have organized top-level forums designed to bring women veterans and government policymakers together to openly address topics of concern. We are involved in the congressionally chartered VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

In addition, our own Women's Advisory Committee, primarily made up of women veterans from across the country, meets annually at our National Convention. We actively seek out and recruit women veterans for our National Service Officer corps.

Gulf War and the Global War on Terror

We maintain an active role in ensuring veterans engaged in the Global War on Terror who are suffering from illnesses related to their service are provided adequate health care and are compensated for their disabilities. The DAV provides oversight and feedback to committees of the VA and the Department of Defense dealing with scientific and health care issues of veterans of the Gulf War and the ongoing Global War on Terror.

Our participation on the VA Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation provides an opportunity for input concerning the maintenance and readjustment of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf are suffering from a variety of physical disabilities, chronic ailments, and undiagnosed illnesses. Effective treatments in many cases have yet to be developed. And even though there are instances where treatment could be helpful, it is not uniformly provided to affected veterans.

Obviously, these problems remain a major concern to the DAV. The DAV participates on the VA Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans to provide advice for programs and policies affecting Gulf War veterans.

One of the greatest challenges facing military personnel engaged in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts are multiple deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Record numbers of National Guard and Reserve units have been deployed in these conflicts.

DAV is actively engaged with VA and the DoD to address the adjustment problems encountered by OIF/OEF veterans, including the provision of adequate screening, diagnosis, and treatment programs for psychiatric conditions including post-traumatic stress disorder.

We are also advocating for effective research and treatment of traumatic brain injury inflicted upon service members from improvised explosive devices. The DAV will continue to push for adequate health care and compensation for all sick and disabled veterans who answer our Nation's call to arms.

Retirements

Our experienced professional NSOs who have retired this past year leave a legacy of commitment and dedication of serving their comrades as advocates for fair and equitable benefits. These individuals served their country in her hour of need and returned home, many with deep scars of war, to work on behalf of others disabled due to their military service. From the National Service Staff, we wish each of these NSOs a long and healthy retirement. We appreciate their efforts in support of our cause.

For the record, those who retired this past year are: Leslie James, Edwin Cooke, and Richard Patterson.

Deaths

DAV salutes our fallen comrades who have provided services and helped improve the quality of life for generations of disabled veterans, their dependents and survivor's.

We recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: Alfred Brodeur and John Riegel.

Conclusion

At this time, I wish to recognize the leadership, professionalism, and personal sacrifices made by our National Commander Roberto Barrera, and all of the National Line Officers; members of the National Executive Committee; the National Finance Committee; and the Officers and Board of Directors for both the National Service Foundation and Charitable Service Trust. I extend my thanks and salute you for a job well done.

I thank National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson for his leadership, vision, and direction. Our success is a reflection of his tireless efforts to inspire and ensure quality and professionalism in all that we do. Additionally, I wish to extend my appreciation to Richard E. Patterson and congratulate him on his recent retirement where he served as National Headquarters Executive Director.

I look forward to working with Assistant Executive Director, Marc Burgess and his staff as I am sure the support provided to the National Service Department will continue with the same level of generosity as it has in the past. I also wish to thank Washington Headquarters Executive Director David W. Gorman for his guidance, direction and active involvement in the National Service Department.

My thanks to National Legislative Director Joseph A. Violante; National Director of Voluntary Services Michael J. Walsh; National Director of Communications Gary Weaver; National Director of Human Resources Barry Jesinoski; National Director of Foundation and

Workplace Giving Nancy O'Brien; National Membership Director Anthony L. Baskerville, and all of their staffs for the assistance they have provided the National Service Department.

Appreciation is extended to the National Service Department staff members with whom I have the pleasure of working: Assistant National Service Directors Brenda Kecskes, Scott Trimarchi, Chad Moos, and John Maki; and our staff of devoted Service Support Specialists, Emily Hall, Amanda Evans, and Theodora Taylor.

It is very fitting that I take this opportunity to thank Edward R. Reese who for nearly 10 years has worked tirelessly to advance the National Service Programs to levels which we can all be proud of. I would be hard pressed to find anyone more capable of executing the duties of this position with more talent or insight than he has shown us. It is certainly my desire to continue to improve upon contributions he has made which will surely benefit this organization for many years to come.

Our successes are not single-handed. We receive the dedicated and capable assistance and cooperation of the DAV Auxiliary, Department and Chapter Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators. Thank you all for your support.

Last and most important of all, I wish to thank our loyal and dedicated corps of National Service Officers, Transition Service Officers and support staff members who advocate on behalf of America's disabled veterans and their families. The National Service Department will continue to do everything possible to ensure all of our country's disabled veterans and their families receive the rights and benefits they have earned.

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Recapitulation of Service Activities
July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Office: National Totals		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	74,221	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	70,598	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	109,766	
4. PENSION	5,349	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5,372	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	27,179	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2,816	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1,813	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	177	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	32	
12. DEATH PENSION	708	
13. INSURANCE	13	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	950	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	92	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	299,086	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$316,105,510.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,874,476,086.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,190,581,596.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	316,652	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	111,717	
22. INTERVIEWS	184,510	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	272,998	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	65,866	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	43	
26. NEW CLAIMS	254,188	
27. MEMBERSHIP	11,234	

Office: Phoenix, Arizona		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,314	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,131	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,361	
4. PENSION	59	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	37	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	215	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	26	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	5	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,172	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$31,753,563.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$397,693,038.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$429,446,601.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,448	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,991	
22. INTERVIEWS	7,019	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,976	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,372	
27. MEMBERSHIP	195	

Office: Sacramento, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	380	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	320	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	609	
4. PENSION	17	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	13	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	8	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2	
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	1,357	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,408,595.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$20,699,933.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$22,108,528.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,482	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	243	
22. INTERVIEWS	698	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,443	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	12	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	588	
27. MEMBERSHIP	130	

Office: Montgomery, Alabama		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,603	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,758	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,132	
4. PENSION	176	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	268	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	844	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	185	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	18	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,023	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,574,504.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$98,107,969.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$104,682,473.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,217	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,718	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,681	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,777	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,134	
27. MEMBERSHIP	144	

Office: Little Rock, Arkansas		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,279	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,099	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,370	
4. PENSION	112	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	93	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	405	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	26	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	34	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	10	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	24	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,452	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,914,402.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,597,896.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$88,512,298.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,963	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	769	
22. INTERVIEWS	6,405	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,929	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,173	
27. MEMBERSHIP	11	

Office: Oakland, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	864	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,357	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,457	
4. PENSION	108	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	63	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	934	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	28	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	14	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	32	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	6	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	20	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,983	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,540,241.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$63,704,573.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$68,244,814.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,001	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,759	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,727	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,566	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	80	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,311	
27. MEMBERSHIP	293	

Office: Anchorage, Alaska		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	511	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	505	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	416	
4. PENSION	8	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	100	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	28	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,589	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,002,204.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$16,006,000.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$17,008,204.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,137	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	500	
22. INTERVIEWS	794	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,059	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,017	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0	

Office: Los Angeles, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,620	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,519	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,475	
4. PENSION	223	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	190	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	456	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	10	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	54	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	20	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,579	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,520,174.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$81,363,653.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$86,883,827.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,068	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,497	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,124	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,368	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,758	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,612	
27. MEMBERSHIP	168	

Office: San Diego, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,819	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,236	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,310	
4. PENSION	57	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	64	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	708	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	10	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,236	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,723,176.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$92,585,863.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$99,309,039.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,630	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,609	
22. INTERVIEWS	9,969	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,865	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	25,013	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1	
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,869	
27. MEMBERSHIP	89	

Office: Denver, Colorado

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,235
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,779
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,360
4. PENSION	111
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	45
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,591
8. MISCELLANEOUS	67
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	64
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	20
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	3
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	20
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,300
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,974,412.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$125,333,123.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$134,307,535.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	11,457
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,530
22. INTERVIEWS	4,194
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,897
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,938
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	10,739
27. MEMBERSHIP	592

Office: Newington, Connecticut

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	654
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	601
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,356
4. PENSION	28
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	258
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,965
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,594,577.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$42,250,474.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$44,845,051.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,782
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,056
22. INTERVIEWS	2,349
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,479
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	56
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,170
27. MEMBERSHIP	160

Office: Wilmington, Delaware

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	96
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	180
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	148
4. PENSION	8
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	45
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	484
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$377,520.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$5,392,622.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,770,142.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,334
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,048
22. INTERVIEWS	3,272
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,154
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,548
27. MEMBERSHIP	166

Office: Washington, D.C.

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	68
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	205
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	88
4. PENSION	113
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	55
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	118
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	11
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	59
16. TOTAL AWARDS	742
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,690,726.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$12,544,453.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,235,179.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,121
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	870
22. INTERVIEWS	1,970
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,009
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	844
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	13
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,991
27. MEMBERSHIP	51

Office: Board of Veterans Appeals

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1
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	1
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$541.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,492.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,033.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12,206
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	221
22. INTERVIEWS	670
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,082
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	51
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	561
27. MEMBERSHIP	11

Office: DC Nat'l Svc & Legis Hqtrs.

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	0
22. INTERVIEWS	7
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: St. Petersburg, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,502
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	5,919
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	7,563
4. PENSION	380
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	312
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,640
8. MISCELLANEOUS	475
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	139
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	64
13. INSURANCE	10
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	122
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	23,126
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$19,874,950.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$287,565,034.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$307,439,984.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	18,485
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	6,246
22. INTERVIEWS	5,231
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	16,102
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,553
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	14,169
27. MEMBERSHIP	1,021

Office: Orlando, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	240
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	213
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	279
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	12
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	7
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	759
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$561,214.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,846,283.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,407,497.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	840
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	605
22. INTERVIEWS	448
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	801
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,000
27. MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: West Palm Beach, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	61
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	218
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	114
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	403
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$304,819.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,414,633.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$4,719,452.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	474
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	251
22. INTERVIEWS	1,675
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	443
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	630
27. MEMBERSHIP	42

Office: Atlanta, Georgia		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,849	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,287	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,940	
4. PENSION	124	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	51	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	323	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	48	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	31	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	6	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,666	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,254,623.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$103,594,712.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$109,849,335.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,494	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,989	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,901	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,135	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,283	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,596	
27. MEMBERSHIP	15	

Office: Indianapolis, Indiana		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,768	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,172	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,225	
4. PENSION	130	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	80	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	603	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	145	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	39	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	19	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	21	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,203	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,556,192.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$52,606,486.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$56,162,678.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,035	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,526	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,168	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,604	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	77	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,711	
27. MEMBERSHIP	92	

Office: Louisville, Kentucky		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,009	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,875	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,339	
4. PENSION	155	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	51	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	24	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	25	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	49	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	41	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	22	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,592	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,911,062.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$93,327,895.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$99,238,957.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,164	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,004	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,356	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,736	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	475	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,582	
27. MEMBERSHIP	27	

Office: Boise, Idaho		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	563	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	800	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	917	
4. PENSION	35	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	29	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	213	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	22	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	4	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,607	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,998,570.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$24,874,324.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$26,872,894.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,388	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	718	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,386	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,181	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	40	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,563	
27. MEMBERSHIP	44	

Office: Des Moines, Iowa		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	658	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	500	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	826	
4. PENSION	108	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	57	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	346	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	12	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	28	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,571	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,899,392.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,433,655.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$28,333,047.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,579	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	652	
22. INTERVIEWS	528	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,521	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,724	
27. MEMBERSHIP	87	

Office: New Orleans, Louisiana		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	802	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	510	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,310	
4. PENSION	29	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	105	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	128	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	3	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,892	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,435,551.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$64,125,761.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$68,561,312.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,648	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,592	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,131	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,439	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,820	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,017	
27. MEMBERSHIP	53	

Office: Chicago, Illinois		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,011	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,346	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,139	
4. PENSION	139	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	170	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	496	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	21	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	34	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	30	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2	
12. DEATH PENSION	11	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,413	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,573,466.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$67,857,971.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$72,431,437.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,793	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,734	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,999	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,312	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	317	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,117	
27. MEMBERSHIP	273	

Office: Wichita, Kansas		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	481	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	524	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	837	
4. PENSION	40	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	76	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	155	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,153	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,765,015.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$25,594,955.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$27,359,968.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	763	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	669	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,607	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	500	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,811	
27. MEMBERSHIP	41	

Office: Togus, Maine		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	412	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	589	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	872	
4. PENSION	18	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	21	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	244	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	46	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	3	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,226	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,072,987.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$28,404,301.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$30,477,288.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,061	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	649	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,756	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,858	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,352	
27. MEMBERSHIP	150	

Office: Baltimore, Maryland

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	406
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	356
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	404
4. PENSION	11
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	20
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	423
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,628
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,312,337.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$27,968,616.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$29,280,953.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,723
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,022
22. INTERVIEWS	2,543
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,375
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,209
27. MEMBERSHIP	391

Office: Cold Spring, Kentucky

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	46
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	7
22. INTERVIEWS	72
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	37
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	37
27. MEMBERSHIP	10

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,640
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,132
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,870
4. PENSION	46
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	67
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	287
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	17
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,095
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,577,558.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$71,588,958.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$76,166,516.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,877
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,888
22. INTERVIEWS	3,695
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,269
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,529
27. MEMBERSHIP	381

Office: Detroit, Michigan

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,033
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,310
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,619
4. PENSION	222
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	118
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	492
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	52
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	35
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	77
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,974
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,419,152.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$68,821,691.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$73,240,843.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,621
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,704
22. INTERVIEWS	2,244
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,558
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,041
27. MEMBERSHIP	361

Office: St. Paul, Minnesota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,993
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,362
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,328
4. PENSION	107
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	266
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	432
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	91
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	29
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	105
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,725
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,837,384.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$66,008,295.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$70,845,679.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,755
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,582
22. INTERVIEWS	2,262
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,589
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,921
27. MEMBERSHIP	249

Office: Jackson, Mississippi

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	385
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	458
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	603
4. PENSION	186
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	23
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	318
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	20
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,004
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,537,566.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$21,301,320.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$22,838,886.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,541
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	371
22. INTERVIEWS	1,042
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,357
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	642
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	698
27. MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: St. Louis, Missouri

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,020
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,673
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,087
4. PENSION	100
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	300
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,379
8. MISCELLANEOUS	63
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	60
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	24
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	29
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,744
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,499,974.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$96,109,253.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$103,609,227.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,996
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,688
22. INTERVIEWS	1,734
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,520
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	245
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,144
27. MEMBERSHIP	233

Office: Fort Harrison, Montana

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	187
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	240
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	395
4. PENSION	22
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	27
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	76
8. MISCELLANEOUS	25
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	980
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$878,641.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$11,298,886.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$12,177,527.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	710
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	216
22. INTERVIEWS	459
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	580
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	480
27. MEMBERSHIP	46

Office: Lincoln, Nebraska

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	384
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	180
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	552
4. PENSION	5
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	34
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	77
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,268
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,274,274.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$16,959,284.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$18,233,558.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,863
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	701
22. INTERVIEWS	239
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,672
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,648
27. MEMBERSHIP	13

Office: Reno, Nevada		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	666	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	521	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	744	
4. PENSION	57	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	28	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	31	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,077	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,824,828.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$30,350,431.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$32,175,259.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,047	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	504	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,458	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,858	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	144	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	914	
27. MEMBERSHIP	19	

Office: Las Vegas, Nevada		
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	\$0.00	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	260	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	959	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,601	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	240	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,677	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0	

Office: Manchester, New Hampshire		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	458	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	301	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	592	
4. PENSION	5	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	7	
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	1,372	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,305,692.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,670,883.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,976,575.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,051	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	495	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,692	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,972	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,183	
27. MEMBERSHIP	175	

Office: Newark, New Jersey		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	822	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	703	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,239	
4. PENSION	27	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	49	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	384	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	20	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	8	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,265	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,685,297.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$38,728,137.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$41,413,434.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,024	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,175	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,686	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,587	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	20	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,427	
27. MEMBERSHIP	605	

Office: Albuquerque, New Mexico		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	719	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	902	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,448	
4. PENSION	80	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	60	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	32	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	9	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	37	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	8	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,303	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,282,280.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$52,686,292.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$55,968,572.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,864	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,551	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,404	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,681	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,503	
27. MEMBERSHIP	24	

Office: New York, New York		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	784	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,086	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,432	
4. PENSION	44	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	154	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	9	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,560	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,379,438.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$48,669,307.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$52,048,745.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,759	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,101	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,985	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,338	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,730	
27. MEMBERSHIP	162	

Office: Albany, New York		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	14	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	12	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3	
4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3	
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	36	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$23,934.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$790,144.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$814,078.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	13	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	302	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,215	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	496	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0	

Office: Buffalo, New York		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	427	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	483	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	676	
4. PENSION	16	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	29	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	527	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	2	
13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,189	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,935,158.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,235,195.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$28,170,353.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,396	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	498	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,405	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,202	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	111	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,178	
27. MEMBERSHIP	27	

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	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	\$0.00	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	228	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	108	
22. INTERVIEWS	380	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	175	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	287	
27. MEMBERSHIP	8	

Office: Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,422
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,321
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,558
4. PENSION	54
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	34
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	267
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,669
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,355,654.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$77,550,100.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$82,905,754.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,027
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,616
22. INTERVIEWS	2,226
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,371
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,124
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,556
27. MEMBERSHIP	2

Office: Cincinnati, Ohio

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,558
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	20
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	594
22. INTERVIEWS	503
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	13
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,678
27. MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,500
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,098
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,753
4. PENSION	154
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	108
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	218
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	34
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	28
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,935
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,980,622.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$105,821,830.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$112,802,452.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,623
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,122
22. INTERVIEWS	6,647
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,223
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	8
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,816
27. MEMBERSHIP	421

Office: Fargo, North Dakota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	588
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	522
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	750
4. PENSION	46
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	243
8. MISCELLANEOUS	9
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	26
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	22
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	33
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,292
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,758,305.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$22,777,432.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$24,535,737.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,909
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	641
22. INTERVIEWS	731
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,730
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	112
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,945
27. MEMBERSHIP	230

Office: Muskogee, Oklahoma

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,840
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,473
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,506
4. PENSION	64
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	99
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	227
8. MISCELLANEOUS	18
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	32
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	14
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,284
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,428,681.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$76,754,219.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$82,182,900.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	10,005
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,100
22. INTERVIEWS	2,965
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,283
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	288
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,600
27. MEMBERSHIP	13

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	1,347
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	687
22. INTERVIEWS	2,517
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,253
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,573
27. MEMBERSHIP	103

Office: Cleveland, Ohio

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,776
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,217
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,798
4. PENSION	530
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	484
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	887
8. MISCELLANEOUS	314
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	119
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	10
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	10
12. DEATH PENSION	75
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	31
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	12,252
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$11,164,690.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$153,065,154.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$164,229,784.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12,184
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,603
22. INTERVIEWS	2,021
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	11,755
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	749
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	9,351
27. MEMBERSHIP	285

Office: Portland, Oregon

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	616
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	971
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,511
4. PENSION	93
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	86
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	335
8. MISCELLANEOUS	21
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	29
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	14
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	17
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,698
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,645,157.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$48,027,903.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$51,673,060.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,560
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	980
22. INTERVIEWS	1,758
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,298
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,997
27. MEMBERSHIP	35

Office: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	824
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	800
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,708
4. PENSION	87
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	109
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	229
8. MISCELLANEOUS	34
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	20
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,839
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,371,978.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$47,856,930.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$51,228,908.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,339
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,522
22. INTERVIEWS	1,482
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,725
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,244
27. MEMBERSHIP	215

Office: Providence, Rhode Island

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	748
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	489
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,106
4. PENSION	14
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	73
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,466
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,027,676.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$30,770,994.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$32,798,670.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,896
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	881
22. INTERVIEWS	2,943
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,642
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,830
27. MEMBERSHIP	414

Office: Columbia, South Carolina

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,447
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	990
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,534
4. PENSION	50
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	54
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	56
8. MISCELLANEOUS	116
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	20
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,295
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,747,228.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$85,260,137.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$91,007,365.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,571
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,621
22. INTERVIEWS	4,982
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,059
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	166
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,307
27. MEMBERSHIP	138

Office: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	334
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	384
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	809
4. PENSION	48
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	60
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	359
8. MISCELLANEOUS	23
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	8
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,043
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,719,567.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$20,540,887.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$22,260,454.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,047
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	545
22. INTERVIEWS	1,692
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,885
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,595
27. MEMBERSHIP	125

Office: Nashville, Tennessee

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,798
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,349
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,619
4. PENSION	137
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	202
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	797
8. MISCELLANEOUS	16
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	46
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	26
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	18
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,008
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,917,332.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$118,448,143.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$127,365,475.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,737
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,167
22. INTERVIEWS	2,858
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,851
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	490
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,284
27. MEMBERSHIP	290

Office: Waco, Texas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,394
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,960
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	7,123
4. PENSION	213
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	331
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,574
8. MISCELLANEOUS	274
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	107
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	22
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	66
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	19,064
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$15,156,264.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$201,564,446.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$216,720,710.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	24,802
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	7,184
22. INTERVIEWS	3,253
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	22,519
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,186
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	13,047
27. MEMBERSHIP	409

Office: Houston, Texas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,430
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,929
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	5,366
4. PENSION	177
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	176
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	871
8. MISCELLANEOUS	155
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	72
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	13
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	13,202
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$39,172,080.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$791,217,512.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$830,389,592.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	11,467
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,726
22. INTERVIEWS	6,729
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,990
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	20,184
27. MEMBERSHIP	642

Office: San Antonio, Texas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	11
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	5
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	11
16. TOTAL AWARDS	27
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$100,831.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$766,176.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$867,007.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	613
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,771
22. INTERVIEWS	12,950
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	237
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,551
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	9,312
27. MEMBERSHIP	121

Office: Salt Lake City, Utah

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,319
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	883
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,591
4. PENSION	72
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	155
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,029
8. MISCELLANEOUS	108
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	5
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,194
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,367,482.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$306,283,330.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$314,650,812.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,890
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	939
22. INTERVIEWS	2,443
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,521
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	474
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,579
27. MEMBERSHIP	72

Office: White River Junction, Vermont

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	125
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	88
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	191
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	4
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
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	412
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$405,462.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,162,111.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$6,567,573.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,629
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	500
22. INTERVIEWS	732
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,512
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	941
27. MEMBERSHIP	120

Office: Roanoke, Virginia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,361
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,836
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,280
4. PENSION	67
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	60
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	525
8. MISCELLANEOUS	7
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	7
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,166
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,517,926.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$111,847,860.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$119,365,786.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,618
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,649
22. INTERVIEWS	1,655
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,111
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,484
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,673
27. MEMBERSHIP	95

Office: Seattle, Washington

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,323
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,403
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,384
4. PENSION	63
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	60
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,598
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	53
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	10
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	24
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	1
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,937
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,363,235.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$97,854,893.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$105,218,128.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,345
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,743
22. INTERVIEWS	6,078
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,481
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7,442
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,880
27. MEMBERSHIP	5

Office: Huntington, West Virginia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	156
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	291
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	426
4. PENSION	22
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	12
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	45
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	968
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,038,660.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,468,925.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$15,507,603.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,908
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	371
22. INTERVIEWS	799
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,736
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	865
27. MEMBERSHIP	9

Office: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	754
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,019
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,021
4. PENSION	117
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	117
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	440
8. MISCELLANEOUS	38
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	129
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	18
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	55
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,710
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,779,512.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$62,593,919.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$67,373,431.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,913
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	878
22. INTERVIEWS	3,624
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,593
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,137
27. MEMBERSHIP	176

Office: Cheyenne, Wyoming

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	137
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	236
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	271
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	11
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	32
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	710
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$518,626.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,229,311.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,747,937.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,285
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,147
22. INTERVIEWS	2,075
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,019
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	75
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,961
27. MEMBERSHIP	199

Office: San Juan, Puerto Rico

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	312
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	441
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,544
4. PENSION	196
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	134
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	58
8. MISCELLANEOUS	155
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	15
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,861
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,813,019.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$39,404,963.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$42,217,982.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,285
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,529
22. INTERVIEWS	1,527
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,840
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	974
27. MEMBERSHIP	0

Office: Honolulu, Hawaii

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	269
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	531
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	479
4. PENSION	16
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	109
8. MISCELLANEOUS	11
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	13
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,440
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,699,586.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,090,112.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$27,789,698.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,288
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	973
22. INTERVIEWS	2,039
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,096
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	6,180
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,400
27. MEMBERSHIP	556

COMMANDER BARRERA: I would like to call on Past National Commander Brad Barton, Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, for his report.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRADLEY S. BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order for its first business session on July 1st, 2010, by the Committee Advisors, Fred Bristol and Ed Hartman.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Bradley Barton was elected as chairman and Michael Whelihan was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for the adoption by the National Convention. For the purposes of saving time, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 263, change Convention Rule 7A to require Departments and Chapters to provide resolutions to the office of the National Adjutant not later than 14 days prior to the National Convention instead of 10.

Resolution Number 264, revise Convention Rule 9A to clarify the procedure for a proponent of a resolution not favorably considered by a Convention Committee to have the resolution called up for consideration.

Resolution Number 265, eliminate Article VI, Section 6.4, Paragraph 7, in its entirety.

Resolution Number 266, amend Article XIV, Section 14.8, to include National Fundraising Program distributions as an additional method for the National Adjutant to withhold funds from those Departments who are indebted to the National organization.

Resolution Number 267, remove the word "salvage" in Article XV, Section 15.3, Paragraph 10, in order to comply with the recent changes of NEC Regulation 2.

Resolution Number 268, move Article XVI, Section 16.3, Paragraph 2 to Article XVI, Section 16.1, Paragraph 1, and add language which will require the Department Commander to state reasons for the temporary suspension of a member and to include all supporting documentation to the National Commander for consideration and require that any disciplinary action investigation be concluded within 90 days.

Resolution Number 269, renumber Section 16.1, Paragraph 1 to Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 2 to Paragraph 3 in order to accommodate the adoption of Resolution Number 268.

Resolution Number 270, refer to Paragraph 2 and amended Paragraph 3 of Section 16.1. This is a housekeeping requirement due to the adoption of Resolution Number 269.

Resolution Number 271, eliminate Article XVI, Section 16.2 in its entirety.

Resolution Number 272, move Section 16.3 to 16.2 and Section 16.2 to Section 16.3 and Section 16.5 to Section 16.4. This is another housekeeping requirement due to the adoption of Resolution Number 271.

Resolution Number 273, amend what is currently 16.5 to read, "The decision and penalty imposed shall be final unless the penalty determined by the State Executive Committee and adopted by the National Commander is expulsion, in which event it shall be final unless a written notice of appeal to the National Executive Committee stating the grounds therefore is filed by certified, return receipt requested with the National Adjutant within 30 days after mailing notice of the penalty to the member."

Resolution Number 274, add as Article V, Section 5.1, District meetings. Meetings of the National Districts are not required other than for the purposes defined in Section 3.12.

Resolution Number 275, amend Section 8.3, Paragraph 2 to include the words "or control" as it pertains to property of the Department.

Resolution Number 276, amend Section 9.2, Paragraph 2 to include the words "or control" as it pertains to property of the Chapter.

Correction, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee met on July 31st rather than July 1st.
Correction.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and the first reading of the recommended changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Tuesday's Business Session. Thank you so much.

The DAV was recently honored by the announcement that Hewlett Packard was lending their support to our cause. HP has committed to providing technology, equipment and support to our DAV Mobile Service Offices.

Our offices will now be equipped with HP notebooks and printers giving us enhanced capabilities when it comes to remotely processing claims and assessing benefits. This short video highlights this exciting new partnership between our organizations.

(Whereupon, a video of the DAV-Hewlett Packard partnership was viewed.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: As many of you know, HP is fond of saying, "Let's do amazing." We're grateful for their support enabling our service officers to do truly amazing things for our nation's disabled veterans, their families and their survivors.

Our next report from the Committee is from Chairman Jerome Krejci, the Committee on Finance. Thank you, sir.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JEROME G. KREJCI: Comrade Commander, delegates, the National Committee on Finance was called to order on July 31st, 2010, by the Committee Advisors Robert S. DiGirolamo and Marc J.(sic) Burgess.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention committee chairman and a secretary. Jerome Krejci was elected as chairman and Albert Church was elected secretary. The Committee recommended no resolutions for adoption.

The Committee then next reviewed the proposed 2011 budget with the Committee advisors and with the assistance of Comptroller Anita F. Blum. The proposed 2011 budget was referred to the National Convention Committee on Finance by the Board of Directors with the recommendation for adoption.

Following completion of the Committee review, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the National Convention adoption of the proposed 2011 budget. The Committee then expressed its thanks to the Committee advisors Robert S. DiGirolamo and J. Marc Burgess who was aided by Comptroller Anita Blum for their assistance in performing the work of this very important Committee.

Comrade Commander, this completes my report on the Committee of Finance and Dues. On behalf of the Committee I hereby move for the adoption of the report and ask that the Committee be dismissed.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. We have a motion before us. Do I hear a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, District 16, California, so moves, second.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. I apologize. 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 signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

Our next report I will call upon Stan Barton for his report on the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership. Mr. Barton.

MR. STAN BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. BARTON: The report for National Convention Committee Chairman, General Resolutions, Comrade Commander, delegates, the National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on July 31st, 2010, by Committee Advisors Adrian Atizado and Chad Moos.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Stan Barton was elected as chairman and Dan Rioux was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now read the report to you of the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution 30, support legislation to ensure military retirees receive all benefits they are promised.

Resolution 31, seeking the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive from all wars;

Resolution 32, support a strong national defense;

Resolution 33, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States;

Resolution 81, oppose any authorization of use of members of the armed forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent;

Resolution 83, encourage all disabled American veterans to become registered voters and vote;

Resolution 85, support former POW slave labor claims against Japanese firms; Resolution 191, support move to renew prisoner of war and missing in action discussions;

Resolution 291, support for joint POW/MIA accounting command;

Resolution 292, support the construction of a courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims;

Resolution 293, support construction of a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans;

Resolution 308, appreciation to the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Peachtree Street for the success of the 89th Convention;

Resolution 309, appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 89th Convention;

and Resolution 310, appreciation to National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera. In accordance with tradition, I will read the Resolution Number 310, appreciation to Commander Barrera, in its entirety.

"WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera, a native of Del Rio, Texas, displayed great courage and devotion while serving in the United State Marine Corps in the Republic of Vietnam;

"WHEREAS, Commander Barrera incurred serious burns over 40 percent of his body when enemy forces exploded a 500-pound bomb rigged as a landmine beneath the armored personnel carrier in which he was traveling; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Barrera with the aid and support of his family was able to courageously conquer the catastrophic injuries and the months of extensive rehabilitation; and

"WHEREAS, Bobby Barrera, Commander Barrera, notwithstanding his numerous physical and mental obstacles, earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology at Saint Mary's University; and

"WHEREAS, while teaching at Del Rio High School Commander Barrera earned a Master of Education Degree in Guidance and Counseling at Sul Ross State University;

"WHEREAS, Commander Bobby Barrera spent many years teaching and counseling young people as Family Support Center Director at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio until his retirement in 2004; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Barrera is the recipient of many honors and awards including DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Disabled Veteran of the Year for the State of Texas, and the Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with a Disability as well as many others; and

"WHEREAS, after a lifetime of serving others Commander Barrera answered the call of more than one million members of the DAV to serve as National Commander, which he did with distinction, compassion and honor;

"NOW WHEREAS, During his year as National, DAV National Commander legislation of historic proportion and top priority at DAV, DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative, Advanced Appropriations for VA Health Care, Family Caregiver Assistance, and Improvement of and Access to Health Care for Women Veterans was enacted into law;

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31st to August 3rd, 2010, expresses its' members' heartfelt appreciation, profound gratitude to Commander Barrera for his selfless service and dedication to his fellow disabled veterans, their families, and the DAV; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we are(sic) also salute and extend our special appreciation to Commander Barrera's wife, Maricelia, and their family for their ongoing support, sacrifices during their extraordinary year as National Commander.

Commander, Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions. On behalf of the Committee I move for adoption of these resolutions and the Committee to be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

RESOLUTION NO. 030—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT MILITARY RETIREES RECEIVE ALL BENEFITS THEY WERE PROMISED 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to require our Government to provide military retirees with all benefits promised them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 031—LEGISLATIVE

SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, THE VIETNAM WAR, THE PERSIAN GULF WAR, AND OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM 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, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Iraq 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 our missing in action from that war; 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, over 1,700 in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War, and two from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, who have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans was extremely disappointed with the timing of our government's decision to normalize relations with the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), prior to the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs from Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans believes that the SRV can increase its unilateral efforts to account for Americans still missing in action, especially those who were last known alive in captivity; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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 the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to increase its unilateral efforts to account for American POW/MIAs, including locating and making available remains of Americans last known alive in captivity that have not previously been returned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 032—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 down our guard; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the defense of our Nation both at home and abroad.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 033—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 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 081—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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 083—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, providing inadequate 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 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 more strict 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 085—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR
CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS

WHEREAS, during World War II, in the Pacific Theater, over 33,000 American military personnel were captured and interned by the Japanese as prisoners of war (POWs); and

WHEREAS, over 12,500 of those POWs died in captivity and this heavy loss of life gives a good indication of the horrid conditions that existed in the Japanese POW camps; and

WHEREAS, these POWs suffered from a lack of adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, suffered interrogation and torture, endured unthinkable abuse and brutality under the hands of their captors; and

WHEREAS, many of these POWs were transported to mainland Japan, and were forced into slave labor where they were required to work for private Japanese companies under horrible conditions and suffered many types of cruel punishment and human rights abuses; and

WHEREAS, since the end of World War II, neither the Japanese government nor those private Japanese companies that enslaved our fighting men have offered to make restitution for the abuses and injuries suffered, nor have they offered an apology for their actions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has never actively sought to have fair compensation and restitution paid to these former POWs who were deprived of all human dignity during their service to their country; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the California Legislature unanimously passed a statute allowing claims for compensation for these former POWs to go forward in the courts, irrespective of the running of the statute of limitations; and

WHEREAS, since this law was passed, suits have been filed by American veterans captured by the Japanese during World War II and later enslaved by Japanese companies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State opposes the legal actions of the former American POWs to obtain compensation from Japanese companies and has filed papers in court proceedings that would have the effect of stopping the court cases of these former POWs from ever going forward under any court; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice opinion, if adopted, would nullify the action of the California Legislature in seeking to open the courts for American POWs pursuing fair compensation for the harm suffered; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports fair and just compensation for the injuries suffered by all American POWs at the hands of their Japanese captors, and the slave labor they were forced to perform by private Japanese companies during World War II; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Administration to work with all parties involved in this issue to resolve the claims of these former POWs against the private Japanese companies in an expeditious manner.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 191—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT MOVE TO RENEW PRISONER-OF-WAR/MISSING
IN ACTION DISCUSSIONS

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has long been and is now deeply committed to accounting for US personnel previously listed as prisoner, missing and unaccounted for from the Korean War and all of our nation's past wars; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans recognizes the utility and importance of bilateral discussions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), separate from

those held on strategic issues, in an effort to reach agreement for proceeding with POW/MIA accounting cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans also recognizes the lead time required between renewing bilateral discussions and restoring actual operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports renewing direct bilateral humanitarian talks with the DPRK regime for the purpose of restoring the agreements and processes required to account for unreturned Korean War veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 291—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT FOR JOINT POW/MIA ACCOUNTING COMMAND

WHEREAS, members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) have long been deeply committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for U.S. personnel still held captive, missing and unaccounted for from all of our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, personnel and funding for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) have not been increased at a level commensurate with the expanded requirement to obtain answers on Americans unaccounted for from all of our country's wars and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the U.S. government to account as fully as possible for America's missing veterans, including – if confirmed deceased – the recovery of their remains when possible; and

WHEREAS, the DAV deeply appreciates Vietnam's 2009 proposal to expand the pace and scope of POW/MIA accounting cooperation, including use of US Navy vessels for underwater operations; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress recently passed the Defense Authorization Bill mandating that the Department of Defense develop the capability to identify a minimum of 200 remains per year beginning in 2015; thus requiring additional funding and personnel to carry out strategies, programs and operations to resolve this issue and obtain answers for the POW/MIA families and our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, this accounting effort should not be considered complete until all reasonable actions have been taken to achieve the fullest possible accounting; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, remains steadfast in its commitment to the goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all U.S. military and designated civilian personnel missing from our nation's wars; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our government to support personnel increases and full funding for the efforts of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory, including specific authorization to augment assigned personnel when additional assets and resources are necessary; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls upon Congress to immediately appropriate the funds necessary to increase personnel and resources of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory to enable reaching the identification goals set forth in the Defense Authorization Bill.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 292—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COURTHOUSE FOR

THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

WHEREAS, veterans and other persons claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs have benefited substantially and materially from the jurisprudence of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ("Court"); and

WHEREAS, the Court has existed for more than seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, the Courtroom, chambers, and other space is inadequate to meet the present and future needs of the Court and those it serves; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of veterans and their dependents that the Court be accorded the same respect enjoyed by other appellate courts of the United States; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, shall take such actions as may be

necessary or advisable in support of legislation to authorize and fund the construction of a suitable and appropriate courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 293—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF A MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE
THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it has been three decades since the end of the Vietnam War, where large numbers of our youth served in a combat theater and with thousands of 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 now daily face the threat of hostile action in Afghanistan, Iraq, and in the war against terrorism around the world, some of them coming home wounded, awareness of their sacrifices among the American people is not fully known and appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the extent of lack of awareness and appreciation 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, these circumstances 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., 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 commemorative structure in a prominent location in our Nation's Capital would be extremely useful in permanently reminding the American people of the sacrifices made by disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans collaborated with philanthropist Lois Pope to form the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to bring about the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted Public Law 106-348 to authorize the Foundation to undertake fundraising and construct a memorial on Federal Lands near the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS, success of this most worthy project will require the dedicated effort and support of many persons, as well as the continued support of the Disabled American Veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial to honor the sacrifices of those veterans disabled while in military service of their country.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 308 – ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO HYATT REGENCY ATLANTA ON PEACHTREE
STREET FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
WHEREAS, the excellent service and ambience of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Peachtree Street contributed greatly to the success of the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in Atlanta, Georgia; and
WHEREAS, the courteous team members of the hotel staff ensured the comfort and satisfaction of the DAV officers, delegates and guests; and
WHEREAS, the classic setting, friendly environment, numerous amenities helped make the 89th National Convention a truly memorable experience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, expresses its deepest appreciation for the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Peachtree Street and to its entire staff for their friendly, personalized attention which helped make the 89th National Convention a resounding success.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 309 – ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE SUCCESS OF THE
89TH DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 89th DAV National Convention convened in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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 Moses A. McIntosh; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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 Atlanta, Georgia, 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 Convention Chairman Moses A. McIntosh, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 310 – ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER
ROBERTO “BOBBY” BARRERA

WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans National Commander Roberto “Bobby” Barrera, a native of Del Rio, Texas, displayed great courage and devotion while serving in the United States Marine Corps in the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Commander Barrera incurred serious burns over 40 percent of his body when enemy forces exploded a 500-pound bomb rigged as a land mine beneath the armored personnel carrier in which he was traveling; and

WHEREAS, Commander Barrera, with the aid and support of his family, was able to courageously conquer the catastrophic injuries and the months of extensive rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, Commander Barrera, notwithstanding his numerous physical and mental obstacles, earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology at St. Mary’s University; and

WHEREAS, while teaching at Del Rio High School, Commander Barrera earned a Master of Education degree in guidance and counseling at Sul Ross State University; and

WHEREAS, Commander Barrera spent many years teaching and counseling young people as Family Support Center Director at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio until his retirement in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Commander Barrera is the recipient of many honors and awards, including DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Disabled Veteran of the Year for the State of Texas, and Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with a Disability Award, as well as many others; and

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of serving others, Commander Barrera answered the call of the more than one million members of the DAV to serve as National Commander, which he did with distinction, compassion and honor; NOW

WHEREAS, during his year as DAV National Commander, legislation of historic proportion, and a top priority of DAV’s Stand Up for Veterans initiative, advance appropriations

for VA health care, family caregiver assistance, and improvement of and access to health care for women veterans was enacted into law; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Barrera for his selfless service and dedication to his fellow disabled veterans, their families, and the DAV; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also salute and extend our special appreciation to Commander Barrera's wife, Maricelia, and their family for their ongoing support and sacrifices during his extraordinary year as National Commander.

* * *

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mike Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, District 16, California, second.

COMMANDER BARRERA: 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 signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you so much.

Next, I will call upon the Chairman Delphine Metcalf-Foster to report on the Committee on Hospital Voluntary Services.

MS. DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. METCALF-FOSTER: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services was called to order on July 31st, 2010, by the Committee Advisors Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Joy J. Ilem, and Michael Walsh.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Delphine Metcalf-Foster was elected as chairman and Timmy Timmerman was elected as secretary.

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 purpose of the resolution.

Resolution 036, support the provision of comprehensive VA health care service to eligible veterans;

Resolution 037, oppose collection of third-party payments for treatment of service-connected disabilities;

Resolution 089, to ensure timely access to quality VA health care and services;

Resolution 091, to support legislation to include dental care as part of the Veterans Uniform Benefits Program;

Resolution 120, to support legislation granting caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras;

Resolution 123, to support vital veterans' centers and community-based outpatient clinic resources for mental health and readjustment services by directing the VA Secretary to provide scholarships to individuals pursuing education or training in behavioral health care services;

Resolution 141, to protect veterans from employment discrimination when seeking health care for service-connected disabilities;

Resolution 195, support legislation to require the president, vice president and members of Congress to receive health care solely from the VA;

Resolution 197, support equal medical services and benefits for women veterans;

Resolution 198, to support legislation to reduce the amount of co-payments paid by veterans to be equal or less than the better price co-payments of prescription medication offered in the private sector;

Resolution 199, oppose means testing service-connected veterans for VA health care;

Resolution 200, continue to adequately fund VA Vet Center Program and facilities;

Resolution 201, extension of CHAMP-VA benefits to dependent children if enrolled as full-time students upon graduation;

Resolution 204, support top-priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA health care system;

Resolution 206, improve VA purchase care program, including non-VA emergency care, fee-base, contract care and CHAMP-VA;

Resolution 207, support legislation to provide prompt medical screening and monitoring for all members of the armed forces of the United States exposed to depleted uranium;

Resolution 208, support legislation to repeal co-payments for medical care and prescriptions in VA and DoD;

Resolution 209, support enhancement of long-care health care services to service-connected veterans;

Resolution 211, to support enhancement of medical services through modernization of Department of Veteran Affairs health care infrastructure support;

Resolution 212, support state veterans' home by requiring VA to pay a fair share of the cost of caring for veterans;

Resolution 214, support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductible for service-connected disability veterans and increase beneficiary travel reimbursement rates;

Resolution 215, support legislation to establish a comprehensive program for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation and require the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to collaborate to ensure proper screening, diagnosis and treatment for all veterans when possible with traumatic brain injury;

Resolution 217, support program improvement and enhancement resources for VA mental health programs to achieve readjustment of new war veterans and continue effective mental health care for all enrolled veterans needing such services;

Resolution 218, to ensure full funding and resources for poly-trauma units at VA medical centers;

Resolution 219, oppose recommendation that eligible military retired veterans be prohibited from receiving health care both at DoD and VA facilities;

Resolution 221, support sufficient resources for VA health care for veterans living in rural or remote areas;

Resolution 222, improve reimbursement for non-VA emergency health care services for enrolled veterans;

Resolution 223, support sustained, sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans;

Resolution 294, enhance the civilian health and medical program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, CHAMP-VA services;

Resolution 295, Congress and the Administration must assure full implementation of legislation to guarantee sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs health care programs;

Resolution 296, support legislation to improve programs designated to prevent and treat substance use disorders in veterans;

Resolution 297, require a veterans' attending VA physician to provide a medical opinion in support of a claim for VA disability compensation benefits when requested;

Resolution 298, to support Congressional oversight and federal vigilance to provide for research, health care, and improved surveillance of disabling conditions resulting from military toxic and environmental exposures;

Resolution 219(sic) to support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from PTSD, depression, and other mental health challenges – a correction there, 299. I'll read that again.

Resolution 299, support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from PTSD, depression, and other mental health challenges;

Resolution 300, to support separate office and appropriation for VA national rehabilitative special events;

Resolution 301, to encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the George H. Seal Memorial Award Program;

Resolution 302, to encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund;

Resolution 311, extend appreciation to the Atlanta VA medical center, Decatur, Georgia, for the success of the 89th National Convention.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services. On behalf of the Committee I move for 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. 036—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ENROLLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Disabled American Veterans that veterans should be afforded quality and timely health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) because of their honorable service to our Nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the conviction of the Disabled American Veterans that quality health care for veterans is achieved when health care providers are given the freedom and resources to provide the most effective and evidence-based care available; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration plays a critical role in the delivery of health care 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, although the veterans health care system is provided an advance appropriation for medical care, it is still at the discretion of Congress to provide sufficient funding; and

WHEREAS, in the past, because of restricted appropriation levels, VA has been forced at times to restrict, ration and deny access to health care implicitly promised in connection with veterans' military service; and

WHEREAS, the VA health care system must be provided sufficient funding to ensure, at a minimum, the following standards are met:

- Promote and ensure health care quality and value, and protect veterans' safety in the health care system;
- Guarantee access to a full continuum of care, from preventive through hospice services;
- Receive adequate funding through appropriations for care of all enrolled veterans;
- Fairly and equitably distribute resources to treat the greatest number of veterans requiring health care;
- Furnish the gender-specific, quality and quantity of services necessary to meet the needs of a growing population of women veterans;
- Provide all medications, supplies, prosthetic devices and over-the-counter medication necessary for the proper treatment of service-connected disabled veterans;
- Preserve VA's mission and role as a provider of specialized services in areas such as blindness, burns, amputation, spinal cord injury and dysfunction, 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 enrolled veterans;
- Modernize its human resources management system to enable VA to compete for, recruit and retain the types and quality of VA employees needed to provide comprehensive health care services to sick and disabled veterans;
- Maintain a strong and veteran-focused research program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes certainty to clearly defined VA health care services for enrolled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 037—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS FOR
SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) primary mission is to provide high quality medical care to veterans eligible by reason of their service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, VA is authorized to recover or collect the cost of care from a third-party health insurer when insured veterans receive health care from VA for non service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, the collection of payments from a third party for the treatment of veterans' service-connected disabilities would abrogate VA's and the 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes any legislation that would require VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disabilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 089—LEGISLATIVE
ENSURE TIMELY ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE
AND MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, sick and disabled veterans' demands for care at many Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities have overwhelmed VA's current capacity; and

WHEREAS, given VA's limited resources, in some cases, VA is forced to ration care leaving many of its 8.5 million enrolled veterans to wait long periods for primary, specialty, and dental care appointments; and

WHEREAS, VA's "Advance Clinic Access" (ACA) initiative is aimed at reducing waiting times for enrolled sick and disabled veterans in need of, and seeking care; and

WHEREAS, while waiting times continue to be a prevalent and growing problem, ACA shows promise but does not fully address timely access to quality health care for service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA does not currently have a reporting system that accurately measures waiting times and creates auditable data to properly manage its health care capacity and identify additional resources needed to ensure timely access to VA care; and

WHEREAS, VA should identify and immediately correct the underlying problems that contribute to excessively long waiting times for primary, specialty, and dental care for veterans in VA facilities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, short-term solutions, such as staff reassignments, redirection of patients to alternative sites of VA care, and restrictions of individual practitioners' available time with each patient while adding additional appointments to their daily schedules, can provide some immediate relief, but are only temporary solutions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges the VA to request sufficient resources and staff to reduce waiting times so sick and disabled veterans can achieve timely access to all medically necessary services within the VA health care system.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 091—LEGISLATIVE
AMEND TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO PROVIDE DENTAL
CARE 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 who were held prisoner of war, or to those who have sustained dental trauma in performance of military service; and

WHEREAS, section 1710, title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to provide hospital care and medical services to any veteran for a service-connected disability or a veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or greater; and

WHEREAS, a dental condition is a medical condition which can impact all other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, VA does maintain a dental service within the health care system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1712, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 120—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE
SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS OF SEVERELY WOUNDED,
INJURED, AND ILL VETERANS

WHEREAS, severely disabled veterans present great challenges to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for acute, rehabilitative and long term care health needs; and

WHEREAS, immediate family members and dependents historically were involved early in the care and rehabilitation of severely injured veterans, especially when that care was being provided in DoD and VA facilities, but these caregivers received little to no relief; and

WHEREAS, families or other individuals caring for severely wounded and disabled veterans must shoulder a great and lifelong burden as home and institutional caregivers and attendants, often giving up or severely restricting employment, retirement, education and social interactions that are taken for granted in the normal course of life, and suffering severe financial and personal penalties as a consequence of that attendance, in order to care for a severely disabled loved one; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of informal caregiving, the burden of direct care would fall on institutions and other DoD and VA facilities, at significantly higher financial cost and a reduced quality of life for severely injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, the United States government owes its highest obligation to those who are put in harm's way at the call of the Nation, and become severely disabled as a consequence of that service; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 111-163 requires VA to establish two distinct and unequal caregiver assistance programs where eligibility is based primarily on when the veteran was injured rather than the needs of the caregiver; and

WHEREAS, in equity and fairness, caregivers of severely injured veterans should be afforded generous relief, assistance, and care for the duration of the lives of veterans injured in military service to our Nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31 - August 3, 2010, supports full and timely implementation of Public Law 111-163 to provide comprehensive supportive services to caregivers of veterans severely injured, wounded or ill from military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports legislation that would expand eligibility for comprehensive caregiver support services, including but not limited to financial support, health and homemaker services, respite, education and training and other necessary relief, to caregivers of veterans from all eras of military service.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 123—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION OR POLICY CHANGES TO AUTHORIZE
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN
EXCHANGE FOR AGREEMENTS TO SERVE VETERANS IN COMMUNITY
BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND READJUSTMENT COUNSELING VET
CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the nation faces a looming shortage of practitioners in mental health, including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, mental health therapists and other counselors; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the newest generation of war veterans suffering the effects of post traumatic stress disorder and other mental health challenges, combined with the continuing mental health needs of older generations of veterans, may overwhelm VA's capacity to properly treat them with qualified providers so that they can recover from these illnesses; and

WHEREAS, after serving our nation, veterans should not have their health care needs neglected by the VA because VA lacks the capacity to serve them; and

WHEREAS, recent Public Laws have authorized VA to expand the types and numbers of mental health and other services VA must make available to veterans, their caregivers, dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, an existing scholarship program under chapter 76, title 38, United States Code, targeted to physicians, nurses and a variety of other health professions, has been highly successful in recruiting new practitioners to VA careers, and has expanded and improved care to sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA's 768 Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and 300 Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers do not directly participate in the existing scholarship program as an aid to their local recruitment and employment efforts; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation or administrative policy changes in the existing scholarship program to make its benefits available more broadly within both the Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers of the Department so that these facilities will be able to adequately meet

the needs of veterans of all generations who need mental health services and psychological counseling to aid in their recoveries.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 141—LEGISLATIVE

PROTECT VETERANS FROM EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WHEN SEEKING HEALTH CARE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, many of this Nation's young men and women have answered the call to service in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Congress, through the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), provides protection from employment discrimination for persons to perform military duty; and

WHEREAS, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act requires employers to release employees to perform military duty; and

WHEREAS, many of the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines who perform military duty sustained service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, under USERRA, employers are required to make reasonable accommodations regarding these disabilities, however, currently employers are not specifically required by law to allow veterans with service-connected disabilities to be absent from the workplace to receive treatment for these disabilities; and

WHEREAS, necessary medical care can be provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system or a private provider for service-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges Congress to extend protection under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to encompass treatment of service-connected disabilities at Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities or other private health care facilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 195—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE HEALTH CARE EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, even though veterans' health care is funded through an advance appropriation, it is still at the discretion of Congress to provide the level of funding necessary for the veterans' health care system; and

WHEREAS, the President and many members of Congress insist that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system is adequately funded; and

WHEREAS, VA is recognized as the best health care system in the United States, and for providing high quality health care services; and

WHEREAS, by using the VA health care system, the President, Vice President, and members of Congress would be in a better position to understand the resource needs of VA to enable it to provide timely quality health care to our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, similar to the members of the military, the President, Vice President, and most Members of Congress are required to spend a significant amount of time away from their homes, families, and friends while Congress is in session; and

WHEREAS, because of the patriotism, devotion, and sacrifices of our President, Vice President, and Members of Congress, ours is the most free nation on earth, where our citizens enjoy unequalled rights, privileges, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress should therefore be granted the privilege of using the VA health care system for their medical needs; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is a veteran, he or she would be classified into the proper priority group for purpose of receipt of VA medical care; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is not a veteran, he or she would be classified as a non service-connected veteran in either Priority Group 7 or 8, depending on their income; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to require the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress to enroll for VA medical care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system.

RESOLUTION NO. 197—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT EQUAL MEDICAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS
FOR WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, there are over 1.8 million women veterans comprising eight percent of all veterans nationwide; women represent 20 percent of new military recruits, 15 percent of active duty forces, and 17.7 percent of Reserve and 15.1 percent of National Guard forces; and

WHEREAS, since October 2001, approximately 1.9 million US troops have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and women currently represent 14 percent of deployed forces and, although technically they are barred from serving in combat, a growing and unprecedented number of women soldiers are deployed to combat areas where they are exposed to combat; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to the overall declining veteran population, the women veteran population of the U.S. and Puerto Rico is projected to increase to 10 percent by 2020 and to 14.3 percent by 2033; and

WHEREAS, the number of women serving in the United States military has increased during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF), and last year alone, according to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), VA experienced a 20 percent increase in the number of women using VA health care, compared to 17 percent increase over the previous 6 years combined; and

WHEREAS, women veterans report a higher burden of medical illness, worse quality of life outcomes, and earlier psychologic morbidity than do men who are exposed to the same levels of trauma; and

WHEREAS, women constitute the fastest growing segment of new users in the VA health care system with VA providing care to 292,600 women veterans in 2009, an increase of about 16 percent from 2006; and with the number of women veterans enrolled for health care is expected to double in the next 5 years; and

WHEREAS with a majority of the new women veteran users of VA care being between the ages of 20 and 29 and of child-bearing age, these women's needs represent new challenges to the model and delivery of VA health care, which has traditionally focused on men; and

WHEREAS, in November 2008 VA released the Report of the VA Under Secretary for Health Workgroup on Provision of Primary Care to Women Veterans, which identified a number of critical issues related to the delivery of health care in the VA health care system including the systemic fragmentation of primary care delivery for women; too few proficient, knowledgeable providers with expertise in women's health and a number of identified outpatient quality disparities for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, a July 2009 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report confirmed many deficiencies in VA health care still exist for women veterans including the ability to fully ensure privacy and a safe comfortable environment for women veterans at all VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, many women seeking VA health care find certain services difficult to obtain or health care personnel unprepared to understand or deal with their unique health care needs; and

WHEREAS, the OEF/OIF population has been studied and it has been determined that women OEF/OIF veterans are more likely to use VA services than their male counterparts, indicating the need for quality, comprehensive and gender-specific care services for women within the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of women veterans, including those returning from military deployments, are the primary caregivers or sole caregivers of dependent children, which limits their ability to access services in inpatient, intensive outpatient, or residential settings that have traditionally been available to address post-deployment mental health readjustment needs; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of women are serving in combat theaters and seeking VA health care services following military service; therefore, VA must be prepared to anticipate the specialized needs of women veterans who were catastrophically wounded, suffering amputations, blindness, spinal cord injury, post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury, or who were sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, although it is anticipated that many of the medical problems for men and women veterans returning from combat operations will be similar, VA must address the health issues and barriers to care that pose special challenges for women; and

WHEREAS, high numbers of service members report sexual assault during military service—according to VA, during fiscal year (FY) 2009, 21.9 percent of women and 1.1 percent of men screened by the VHA reported MST; and

WHEREAS; an alarming number of women report military sexual trauma and need specialized mental health services from VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks to ensure the provision of health care services, inclusive of gender-specific services, by VA to eligible women veterans are provided to the same degree and extent that services are provided to eligible men veterans, inclusive of counseling and/or psychological services incident to combat exposure or sexual trauma; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge VA to strictly adhere to stated policies regarding privacy and safety issues relating to the treatment of women veterans and to proactively conduct research and health studies as appropriate, review its women's health programs, and seek innovative methods to address their barriers to care, thereby better ensuring women veterans receive the quality treatment and specialized services they so rightly deserve.

* * *

RESOLUTION 198—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT REDUCTION OF CO-PAYMENTS FOR MEDICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has had a long-standing resolution opposing co-payments for medical care and prescription medication for military retirees' and veterans, and

WHEREAS, medication co-payments have continued to be raised periodically by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and are now \$8.00 for a 30 day supply for veterans enrolled in priority groups 2 through 6 and \$9.00 for a 30 day supply for veterans enrolled in priority groups 7 and 8, and

WHEREAS, Congress has not proposed to eliminate co-payments for veterans for medical care and prescription medication, and

WHEREAS, the drug cost prescription benefits offered by many of the large dispensing entities such as Wal-Mart, Walgreen's, and others, is less than the co-payment required by the VA, and

WHEREAS, in some cases private sector fees are as low as \$4.00 per 30-day supply, and \$10.00 per 90 day supply,

WHEREAS, medication co-payments cause an undue financial stress on many sick and disabled veterans and therefore this could provide some amount of relief, and

WHEREAS, although DAV adamantly opposes medication co-payments for military retirees' and veterans—these veterans should not be charged a co-pay at an amount greater than the most favorable private sector medication fee offered; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation that will reduce the amount of medication co-payments paid by military retirees' and veterans to be equal to, or less than, the lower-priced co-payments offered within the private sector.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 199—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE MEANS TESTING SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Public Law 104-262 requires zero percent service-connected disabled veterans to be means tested in order to receive treatment in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility; and

WHEREAS, countless thousands of veterans have relied on the ability to receive care at VA medical facilities for decades and now face the possibility of losing access to VA medical care because of income levels, consequently causing them undue financial hardship, pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS, these zero percent service-connected disabled veterans have been relegated to the lowest eligibility categories for care and, in some cases, below non service-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports the exclusion of service-connected disabled veterans from the requirements of means testing for treatment or service received at VA medical facilities and the inclusion of zero percent service-connected disabled veterans in Priority Group 3.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 200—LEGISLATIVE
ADEQUATELY FUND AND SUSTAIN THE SUCCESSFUL READJUSTMENT
COUNSELING SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND ITS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE “VET CENTER” PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 1979, Congress authorized the establishment of the Readjustment Counseling Service, an independent counseling activity within the then-Veterans Administration’s Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 VA opened the first “Vet Center” to provide readjustment services and psychological counseling to Vietnam combat veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions related to combat exposure and their experiences in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vet Centers, now today numbering nearly 300 locations nationwide, have proven to be a most useful and effective tool to assist veterans suffering from psychological problems primarily associated with combat exposure and the psychological effects on individual veterans engaged in such military activities, as well as their immediate family members; and

WHEREAS, the Vet Center program has been most successful counseling veterans from all prior conflicts needing such readjustment services, including World War II, the Korean War, the War in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and now veterans of combat service in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers lead all VA mental health programs in conducting veteran-to-veteran peer counseling services, wherein veterans who have themselves experienced post-deployment mental health issues related to their military experience are trained to provide counseling to those still suffering ill effects; and

WHEREAS, the Readjustment Counseling Service and its Vet Centers provide a cost-effective and highly beneficial service to veterans of all eras, as well as to their families when counseling family members is beneficial to the recovery of the veteran; and

WHEREAS, Vet Centers, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Casualty Assistance Office, are providing sensitive bereavement counseling services to immediate families of thousands of military service personnel who lost their lives in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, commends the work of the Readjustment Counseling Service and of its Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and encourages the Vet Centers to maintain their level of excellence in caring for combat veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the President, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress of the United States, to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for the Readjustment Counseling Service, to enable its Vet Centers to continue expanding and extending their rehabilitative and readjustment services to veterans of past, present and future military service, and to their family members when necessary to aid in the recovery of veterans suffering the latent effects of combat exposure.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 201—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ENTITLEMENT TO THE CIVILIAN
HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS UNTIL GRADUATION OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS

WHEREAS, children of certain veterans are provided medical care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (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, current law requires that, effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010, an employer-sponsored group health plan that offers dependent coverage must continue such coverage for a beneficiary’s adult child until the child turns 26 years old; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to

extend eligibility for CHAMPVA until an eligible child's graduation from an approved course of full-time education.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 204—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT TOP PRIORITY ACCESS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has issued national directives and policies to affirm its commitment to providing top priority access to hospital care and medical services to veterans with service-connected disabilities, regardless of the percentage disability of service-connected rating, in absence of compelling medical reasons to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, many VA facilities are struggling to fulfill this mandate because of budget pressures, insufficient local resources and saturation of available capacity because of patient workloads; and

WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans continues to receive complaints from service-connected veterans who are being denied priority access to VA health care services, or report their access to care is being delayed; and

WHEREAS, due to inadequate resources, VHA at times has been forced to establish waiting lists and implement other types of health care rationing, absent compelling medical reasons; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports strict enforcement by the VHA, including VHA network and medical center directors, of governing policies providing service-connected veterans priority access to care, unless compelling medical reasons affecting other veterans prevent such priority from being extended to them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 206—LEGISLATIVE
IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PURCHASED CARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, current law authorizes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities to purchase non-VA care for scarce medical specialists only when VA facilities are incapable of providing necessary care to veterans, when VA facilities are geographically inaccessible to veterans, and in certain emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, non-VA purchased care includes non-VA Emergency Care, Fee Basis, Contract Care, and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA); and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 percent of disabled veteran's enrolled in the VA health care system receive some of their care from a non-VA health care provider; and

WHEREAS, veterans who seek reimbursement from VA are paying for part of their care because VA will at times approve only a portion of the costs of private medical services or inpatient hospital days of care; and

WHEREAS, VA's antiquated and cumbersome Information Technology infrastructure used to manage the authorization, claims processing, and reimbursement for services acquired non-VA purchased care program is a disincentive for private providers to care for service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement to private providers through Fee program are based on limited rates and have not kept pace with medical inflation; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans in the Fee program are unable to receive needed treatment from a private provider due to the amount payable and delayed payment by VA; and

WHEREAS, VA does not current assign a Care or Case Manager to assist disabled veterans when they must or are authorized to receive non-VA care; and

WHEREAS, the quality of care from private providers and the veterans continuity of care are not monitored, and the care received does not become part of a veterans electronic health record; and

WHEREAS, VA does not track purchased private care for eligible veterans, related costs, health outcomes, or veteran satisfaction levels; and

WHEREAS, the complex legislative authority, decentralized structure, and the inadequate funding to local VA facilities for non-VA purchased care continue to erode the effectiveness of this necessary health-care benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges Congress and the Administration to conduct strong oversight of the non-VA purchased care program to ensure service-connected disabled veterans are not encumbered in receiving non-VA care at VA's expense; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges VA to establish a non-VA purchased care coordination program that complements the capabilities and capacities of each VA medical facility and includes care and case management, non-VA quality of care and patient safety standards equal to or better than VA, timely claims processing, adequate reimbursement rates, health records management and centralized appointment scheduling.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 207—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE PROMPT MEDICAL SCREENING AND TREATMENT FOR ALL VETERANS EXPOSED TO DEPLETED URANIUM

WHEREAS, the military utilized the extreme density of depleted uranium in projectiles and tank armor during the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia, and in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF); and

WHEREAS, exposure to the heavy metal depleted uranium as a result of friendly-fire incidents, cleanup and salvage operations, and proximity to burning tanks and ammunition containing depleted uranium, poses hazards, including chemical toxicity to humans when internalized through ingestion, inhalation, shrapnel and contaminated wounds; and

WHEREAS, over 1.1 million service members have deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations, and about 1.9 million OIF/OEF service members have deployed, and the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Depleted Uranium Program, established in 1993, has assessed only 3,000 veterans exposed to depleted uranium; and

WHEREAS, during the Gulf War, an estimated 134-164 people experienced "level 1" exposure (the highest of three exposure categories as classified by the Department of Defense) through wounds caused by depleted uranium fragments, inhalation of airborne depleted uranium particles, ingestion of depleted uranium residues, or wound contamination by depleted uranium residues; and

WHEREAS, hundreds or thousands more may have been exposed to lower exposure through inhalation of dust containing depleted uranium particles and residue or ingestion from hand-to-mouth contact or contamination of clothing; and

WHEREAS, questions remain regarding testing process used by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, ten veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom had confirmed depleted uranium detected in their urine, and all had depleted uranium embedded fragments or fragment injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee, mandated by Congress to examine scientific and medical literature on the potential health effects of chemical, biological, and radiological agents, could not determine the likelihood of increased risk of adverse health outcomes among Gulf War veterans due to exposure to the agents examined in its 2000 report, due to the lack of exposure data; and

WHEREAS, the IOM Committee in its 2008 updated scientific and medical literature review regarding exposure to depleted uranium and long-term human health outcomes assigned a high priority to continue monitoring a possible association between exposure and several diseases and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the VA Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses recognized the limited number of research projects to examine the impact of the total exposures and experience of deployment and war on veterans' health; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges VA to provide prompt medical screening and treatment to any veteran that may have been exposed to depleted uranium; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports additional research to examine the health effects of exposure to depleted uranium.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 208—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REPEAL COPAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL
CARE AND PRESCRIPTIONS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (TRICARE)

WHEREAS, through service to their Nation in which they made extraordinary sacrifices and contributions, veterans have earned the right to certain benefits in return; and

WHEREAS, because of the patriotism, devotion, and sacrifices of our veterans, ours is the most free nation on earth where our citizens enjoy unequalled rights, privileges, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, as the beneficiaries of veterans' service and sacrifice, the citizens of our grateful nation want our Government to fully honor our moral obligation to care for veterans and generously provide them benefits and health care entirely without charge; and

WHEREAS, co-payments are a feature of health care systems in which some costs are shared by the insured and the insurer in a contractual relationship between the patient and the for-profit company, or of health care through other Government programs in which the beneficiary has not earned any right to have the costs of health care benefits fully borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, since the seminal RAND Health Insurance Experiment, which gave rise to the use and increase of co-payments, deductibles, and coinsurance rates to reduce health expenditures, research has questioned the adverse effects of co-payments on health outcomes particularly for patients with chronic disabilities; and

WHEREAS, asking veterans to pay for part of the benefits a grateful nation provides for them is fundamentally contrary to the spirit and principles underlying the provision of benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, co-payments were initially imposed upon veterans using the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system under urgent circumstances and as a temporary necessity to contribute to reduction of the Federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, Congress has forgotten or abandoned the traditional benevolent philosophy of providing free benefits to veterans as repayment for the unusual rigors, risks, and personal deprivation they underwent for the good of our country; and

WHEREAS, Congress has made co-payments a permanent feature of some veterans' health care services, and

WHEREAS, based on practices in the private sector, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense in the recent past, moved to dramatically increase co-payments and fees for medical care and prescription medications, as if operating a commercial enterprise; and

WHEREAS, as a continuing cost of national defense and as our Nation's foremost moral obligation, veterans' benefits must remain a first priority of our Government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, calls for legislation to repeal all co-payments for military retirees' and veterans' medical services and prescriptions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 209—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE TO
SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, historically the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) occupied a leadership position in fostering many long-term care programs now routinely available in the private sector, founded the medical specialty of geriatrics in conjunction with affiliated schools of medicine, and led the nation in biomedical research on aging, geropsychiatry and chronic illnesses prevalent in the elderly veteran population; and

WHEREAS, today tens of thousands service-connected veterans depend on the VA to meet their health care needs in post-acute and long-term care settings; and

WHEREAS, there is also a subset of service-connected veterans with chronic and terminal illnesses who need long-term care and will need institutional placements; and

WHEREAS, VA estimates that by 2012, the number of veterans aged 85 or older will rise from 337,000 to approximately 741,000, an increase of 120 percent; and

WHEREAS, as our nation's veteran population ages, VA will face an ever increasing demand for long-term care services of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act, Public Law 104-262, reformed eligibility for VA health care toward a more holistic approach in providing service-

connected disabled veterans a lifetime of care, but did not appreciably alter veterans' eligibility for VA institutional long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Public Law 106-117, significantly enhanced VA's non-institutional long-term care services and required such services be provided to any veteran for a service-connected disability and to any veteran who is service connected 50 percent or greater disabling, yet VA is only required to provide institutional long-term care to any veteran for a service-connected disability and to any veteran who is service connected 70 percent or greater; and

WHEREAS, unresolved long-term care policy issues within Congress, the VA leadership, and the Office of Management and Budget leave VA facilities to determine locally their own mix of institutional and non-institutional approaches in providing long-term care, thereby relegating long-term care to a "second tier" of health care service and expectations within the VA system; and

WHEREAS, the success of non-institutional and home-based long-term care is critically dependent on the ability of veterans' caregivers, whether they be family or friends, to assist in their care; and

WHEREAS, VA long-term care services, especially alternative, non-bed, community- and home-based programs, are not uniformly available in all VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the present state of VA's long-term care program is now lagging behind its rich history as an early leader in caring for aging veterans, and is in danger of falling behind non-VA health care systems

WHEREAS, VA has not optimized its relationship with State veterans homes to ensure veterans in need of institutional and alternative forms of long-term care may avail themselves of State home facilities to consider all options for its provision; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to expand the comprehensive program of long-term care services for service-connected disabled veterans regardless of their disability ratings, and urges VA, in conjunction with key stakeholders, including other federal agencies and the States, to develop a strategic long-term care plan to invigorate and re-engineer VA-operated, purchased, and subsidized long-term care services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 211—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGH
MODERNIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, with over 1,400 sites of care, including comprehensive medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), nursing homes, readjustment counseling "Vet Centers," residential rehabilitation treatment programs, and other facilities for the delivery of health care; and

WHEREAS, the majority of VA's capital infrastructure was designed and built under an earlier concept of health care delivery founded on centralized hospital inpatient episodes of care; and

WHEREAS, VA needs to modernize its health care system and programs to meet veterans' current and future health care needs while providing optimal efficiency and enhanced access to the system of care; and

WHEREAS, the conclusion of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) initiative visualized a need for over \$1 billion annually in VA major medical facility construction, over a period of several years, to make VA health care a modern and accessible system for the care of sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA has internally identified needs for more than \$10 billion in capital facilities improvements and new construction in the post-CARES years; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2009 VA Major and Minor Construction appropriation provides \$1.7 billion, \$754 million above the President's request, to fund construction project recommendations made by the CARES Commission; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2010 VA Major and Minor Construction appropriations act provided \$1.9 billion, \$127 million above the President's request and \$256 million above the 2009 appropriated level; and

WHEREAS, as of October 2009, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced 480,324 injured and ill war veterans who have enrolled in VA health care and who will need a variety of comprehensive VA health care services for decades, alongside the existing enrolled veteran population of over 7 million individuals from earlier service periods and wars; and

WHEREAS, given VA's expected continuing costs for new major medical facility construction, consolidation and modernization, VA is considering plans to revise its construction policy to emphasize primary and specialty outpatient services, with complex and intensive inpatient services to be provided through affiliated arrangements with non-VA institutions and other private partners; and

WHEREAS, VA has adopted "Strategic Capital Investment Planning" (SCIP) as its primary means of projecting capital needs and budgets beginning in fiscal year 2012; and

WHEREAS, the VA's primary mission is to meet the needs of sick and disabled veterans through complex inpatient and rehabilitative hospital care, outpatient primary and specialty care, therapeutic residential care, and long-term care, in government facilities operated by VA for the exclusive benefit of veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges VA to continue its efforts to request adequate funding in future budgets to ensure at minimum that VA fulfills the intent of its CARES initiative while examining other needs beyond those identified within the five-year period of the CARES initiative with the SCIP methodology; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should carefully monitor any intended VA changes in infrastructure that could jeopardize VA's ability to meet veterans' needs for specialized VA medical care and rehabilitative services, or be the cause of diminution of VA's established graduate medical and other health professions education and biomedical research programs, consequential to deployment of any new facilities model of health care delivery; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Disabled American Veterans urges Congress to continue to provide appropriated funding sufficient to fulfill the needs for infrastructure identified through the CARES process, plus any other infrastructure needs VA identifies and justifies through the SCIP program.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 212—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT STATE VETERANS HOMES BY REQUIRING THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PAY A FAIR SHARE OF THE COST OF
CARING FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes were founded for Union soldiers and sailors following the American Civil War, and have ably served veterans for nearly 150 years; and

WHEREAS, under title 38, United States Code, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to make aid payments to States that maintain State Veterans Homes, and to make grants to States for their construction and major improvements; and

WHEREAS, currently there are 137 State Veterans Homes, most as member institutions of the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH), in all States and in Puerto Rico, that provide hospital, skilled nursing, rehabilitation, long-term care, dementia and Alzheimer's care, domiciliary care, respite care, end of life care, and adult day health care, daily to almost 30,000 veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to make per diem payments to the States for veterans residing in State Veterans Homes, and the State Veterans Home program is recognized as the lowest-cost among all institutional nursing care alternatives used by VA; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to pay a per diem payment up to 50 percent of the national average cost of care in State Veterans Homes; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the growing long-term health care needs of elder veterans, the State Veterans Home program will increasingly serve a vital purpose and will continue to be a major partner with VA in meeting the health care needs of aging veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports a VA per diem payment of not more than 50 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a State Veterans Home, as authorized by law; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans fully supports the 2010 strategic objectives of the National Association of State Veterans Homes, specifically—

In accordance with Public Law 109-461, VA pay the full cost, on an equitable basis, for the care of veterans in need of State Home nursing care for a service-connected disability, and for any disability of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more; In accordance with the intent of Congress in passing Public Law 106-117, that existing regulations governing Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) in State Veterans Homes be modified and re-issued in such a manner that States gain better incentives to provide ADHC to eligible veterans in facilities operated by the States; 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 because that program is the most cost-effective institutional nursing care alternative available to VA for sick and disabled veterans with long-term care needs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 214—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REPEAL OF BENEFICIARY TRAVEL PAY DEDUCTIBLE
FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS AND INCREASE
AND SUSTAIN BENEFICIARY TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATES

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under section 111 (g)(1) of title 38, United States Code, to pay a travel allowance to certain service-connected veterans for VA examination, medical treatment, or care; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 110-387 required VA to reduce to \$3.00 and freeze the deductible, but service-connected disabled veterans are still subject to the deduction from the amount otherwise payable for each one-way trip unless the Secretary determines in an individual case that such deductible would cause severe financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, veterans will now receive a flat rate of 41.5 cents per mile for all travel effective November 17, 2008; and

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans eligible for beneficiary travel should not have to help defray the cost of travel, in the form of a deductible, to and from a VA medical facility for medical examination, or health care treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is grossly unfair for the VA Secretary to impose the deductible upon service-connected disabled veterans seeking treatment for a service-connected condition and service-connected veterans rated 30 percent or more when traveling in connection with any disability; and

WHEREAS, adequate travel expense reimbursement is directly tied to access to care for many veterans, and is not a luxury; and

WHEREAS, VA, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Comptroller of the United States, and representatives of veterans service organizations, is required to conduct periodic investigations on the actual cost of travel incurred by veterans traveling to and from a VA facility for a covered purpose; and

WHEREAS, after analyzing and adopting the findings of the IRS report on the mileage rates for a privately owned automobile, GSA determined that the per mile operating costs for the official use of a privately owned vehicle is 55 cents per mile; and

WHEREAS, VA continues to maintain that increasing veterans' beneficiary travel rate to a rate more comparable to the GSA approved rate would result in a reduction of funds available for direct medical care to our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA should not have to choose between providing direct medical care services to sick and disabled veterans or providing adequate beneficiary travel payments so that veterans can gain access to their medical appointments for treatment; and

WHEREAS, when rates do not cover the cost of travel, veterans without resources are likely to delay health care delivery until their needs may be critical resulting in higher healthcare costs and poorer health status; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to repeal the Secretary's authority to impose a deductible for service-connected disabled veterans from the amount payable for beneficiary travel pay for medical examination, treatment, or care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges VA to adopt the IRS mileage reimbursement rate to protect against erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges VA to include a line item in its budget for the cost of increasing veterans' beneficiary travel reimbursement rates

to a more reasonable amount so that it can make the needed adjustment without the reduction in funds for direct medical care to sick and disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 215—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM
FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION AND REQUIRE THE
DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TO COLLABORATE
TO ENSURE PROPER SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT FOR ALL
VETERANS WITH POSSIBLE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) has been called the signature injury of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, blast injuries from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that shake or compress the brain within the skull often cause devastating and permanent damage to brain tissue; and

WHEREAS, veterans with severe TBI and polytrauma will require extensive rehabilitation and life-long personal and clinical support, including neurological, medical and psychiatric services, and physical, psycho-social, occupational, and vocational therapies, and

WHEREAS, VA must ensure programs are adapted to meet the unique needs of the newest generation of combat service personnel and veterans, while VA continues to address the needs of older veterans with severe physical disabilities as well as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other combat-related mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, VA reports that it is tailoring its programs to meet the unique needs of severely injured Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans by assigning case managers to each TBI and polytrauma patient and putting a greater emphasis on understanding the problems of families during the initial care and long-term rehabilitation of these patients; and

WHEREAS, we remain concerned about capacity and whether VA has the resources and staff necessary to provide intensive rehabilitation services, treat the chronic physical, emotional and behavioral problems that would be benefited by long-term therapeutic residential facilities, and to fully support families and caregivers of these seriously brain-injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, TBI can also be caused without any apparent physical injuries when a veteran is in the vicinity of an IED detonation; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from the milder form of TBI may experience a variety of symptoms including headaches, irritability, sleep disorders, memory problems and depression; and

WHEREAS, emerging literature strongly suggests that even mild TBI may have long-term mental health and medical consequences and symptoms are often comorbid with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and post-traumatic visual syndrome that can further confound diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, milder forms of TBI may not be detected immediately and DoD and VA have not developed systemic and proven methodologies to identify, treat, document and monitor individuals who sustain mild-to-moderate TBI, in particular those with the mild version; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 RAND Corporation study recommended “a substantial, coordinated, and strategic research effort,” to close the significant gaps in knowledge that exist in understanding the prevalence, prognosis, effective treatment, and costs of addressing needs of veterans with traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, veterans with TBI and polytrauma benefit from the joint Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, a collaboration that provides clinical care, education and research for active duty personnel and veterans with TBI; and

WHEREAS, more than half of U.S. service members seriously injured in Iraq or Afghanistan and admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center suffer from TBI; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation that would require VA and DoD to coordinate efforts to address mild and moderate TBI and concussive injuries and establish a comprehensive rehabilitation program, including establishment of therapeutic residential facilities, and deployment of standardized protocols utilizing appropriately formed clinical assessment techniques to recognize and treat neurological and behavioral consequences of all levels of TBI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges that any TBI studies or research undertaken by VA and DoD include older veterans of past military conflicts who may have suffered similar injuries that went undetected, undiagnosed, and untreated.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 217—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCED RESOURCES
FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
TO ACHIEVE READJUSTMENT OF NEW WAR VETERANS AND
CONTINUED EFFECTIVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL ENROLLED
VETERANS NEEDING SUCH SERVICES

WHEREAS, current research findings indicate that war veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) are at higher risk for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that veterans of these current wars have sought care for a wide range of medical and psychological conditions, including mental health conditions, such as adjustment disorder, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and the effects of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, as of June 2010, VA reported that of the 537,099 separated OEF/OIF veterans who have sought VA health care since fiscal year 2002, a total of 260,409 unique patients had received a diagnosis of a possible mental health disorder and over 138,732 of the enrolled OEF/OIF veterans had a probable diagnosis of PTSD (not including veterans seen at VA's Vet Centers or those not enrolled in the VA health care system); and

WHEREAS, VA has improved access to mental health services at its 800-plus community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs), but such services still are not readily available at all sites; and

WHEREAS, we remain concerned about the capacity in specialized PTSD programs and the decline in availability of VA substance-use disorder programs of all kinds, including inpatient detoxification and residential treatment beds; and

WHEREAS, although additional funding has been dedicated to enhancing and improving capacity in these programs, VA mental health providers continue to express concerns about sustained resources to support, and consequent rationed access to, these specialized services; and

WHEREAS, VA announced the establishment of 23 new Vet Centers to meet increasing demand for readjustment counseling services; however, we are concerned that VA staffing should also be increased in existing centers to ensure all veterans—including previous generations of war veterans—who need help at VA Vet Centers can gain ready access to readjustment services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and VA share a unique obligation to meet the health care, including mental health care and rehabilitation needs, of veterans who are suffering from readjustment difficulties as a result of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a special concern among recently deployed veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with several reports in the media that veterans who subsequently committed suicide had sought care at VA but had been placed on waiting lists inappropriately; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports program improvement and enhanced resources for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health programs, including its Vet Centers, to achieve readjustment of new war veterans and continued effective mental health care for all enrolled veterans needing such services.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 218—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FULL FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR POLYTRAUMA
UNITS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS

WHEREAS, catastrophically injured veterans returning home from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom are transferred to four polytrauma rehabilitation centers within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) located in Tampa, Richmond, Minneapolis, and Palo Alto, for intensive care and long-term restoration and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs designated a fifth polytrauma rehabilitation center in San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, 17 additional VA medical centers have been designated as polytrauma network sites, located in Boston, Syracuse, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Augusta,

Lexington, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Hines, St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, Tucson, Denver, Seattle, and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the care provided in these five specialized polytrauma centers and 17 polytrauma network sites is extraordinarily expensive and complex, often addressing complications from multiple amputations, traumatic brain injuries, multiple shell fragment wounds, and other catastrophic injuries; and

WHEREAS, these veterans spend long periods at polytrauma centers recovering from their combat injuries; and

WHEREAS, VA's current nursing home capacity is designed to serve elderly veterans, not younger ones, VA must make every effort to create an environment for these veterans that recognizes they have different needs; and

WHEREAS, having the support of their families and friends is an integral part of the veteran's treatment and recovery process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to request and allocate sufficient resources for polytrauma centers and polytrauma network sites to ensure these centers include adequate space and other services for veterans' rehabilitation, social, and recreational needs and dedicated space, including therapeutic residential facilities, for disabled veterans and family members who must often stay for extended periods to assist in veterans' recovery and rehabilitation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 219—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION THAT MILITARY RETIRED VETERANS BE PROHIBITED FROM RECEIVING HEALTH CARE FROM BOTH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, military retired veterans were promised and earned lifetime health care through the Department of Defense (DOD) for completion of the required period of military service; and

WHEREAS, as veterans, they are separately entitled to the same health care provided to eligible veterans generally through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, one of the two health care systems may offer advantages that the other does not offer; and

WHEREAS, a veteran's use of this dual entitlement to receive the best services of both systems does not constitute unnecessary duplicate use of health care services or duplication of costs to the Government; and

WHEREAS, entitlement to care under one system is not itself justification to end separate entitlement to care through the other system; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, veterans have earned special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in VA or DOD health care, especially in the case of service-connected disabled veterans, should never become a bar or obstacle to the receipt of benefits from either of these health care systems; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DOD or the VA health care systems.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 221—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS

WHEREAS, forty-four percent of today's active duty military service members and tomorrow's veteran population list rural communities as their homes of record; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 percent of veterans enrolled for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care are classified by VA as veterans living in rural or highly rural areas; and

WHEREAS, after serving our nation, veterans should not have their health care needs neglected by the VA because they choose to live in rural and remote areas far from major VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109-461 authorized VA to establish the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Rural Health to promulgate policies, best practices and innovations to improve services to veterans who reside in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, both houses of Congress on numerous occasions have attempted with legislation to address unmet health care needs of veterans who make their homes in rural and remote areas; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal years (FY) 2009 and 2010, Congress provided VA \$250 million annually in funding to support enhancements to rural health care; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2009, VA authorized new mobile rural clinics in VISNs 1, 4, 19 and 20, appointed “Rural Health Consultants” in each of VA’s 21 VISNs, and is conducting regularly scheduled meetings of VA’s Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, VA receives no Congressional appropriations dedicated to support establishment of rural community-based outpatient clinics but must manage those additional expenses from within available Medical Services appropriations provided by Congress; and

WHEREAS, VA has established and is operating over 768 community-based outpatient clinics, of which 375 are located in areas considered by VA to be rural or highly rural; and

WHEREAS, VA cannot cost-effectively justify establishing additional remote facilities in areas with sparse veteran populations given current circumstances; and

WHEREAS, historically, VA has had difficulty securing sufficient funding through the Congressional discretionary budget and appropriations process to ensure basic and adequate access for the care of sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted Public Law 111-81, the purpose of which is to secure advance appropriations for the delivery of VA health care services, including services in rural areas; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, fully supports the right of rural veterans to be served by VA, but insists that funding for additional rural care and outreach be sustained and not be the cause of reductions in highly specialized VA medical programs needed for the care of sick and disabled service-connected veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans insists that if Congress intends to continue to provide enhanced VA health care access to rural veterans, Congress must include appropriations for that specific purpose in advance appropriations acts.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 222—LEGISLATIVE
IMPROVE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR
ENROLLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans (VA) provides enrolled veterans a uniform benefits package that emphasizes preventive and primary care, and provides a comprehensive health care benefit plan including hospital, outpatient and long term care; and

WHEREAS, a health care benefits plan is incomplete without a provision for emergency care; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of service-connected and nonservice-connected enrolled veterans rely on VA as their exclusive health care provider; and

WHEREAS, VA medical center recorded telephone greetings universally announce: “If you have a life-threatening emergency, please hang up and dial 911”; and

WHEREAS, city, county and voluntary emergency fire and rescue systems must conform to State first-responder and fire rescue laws, and under such laws, must transport patients to designated facilities equipped with certified emergency room capabilities; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities, with few exceptions, do not qualify under State or Federal laws as “emergency receiving facilities” for critically ill or injured patients under transport by first responders, nor do they offer 24-hour coverage for emergency care, and thus do not generally receive such cases; and

WHEREAS, VA frequently denies emergency service claims from private health care facilities submitted by service-connected veterans on the basis that VA was “available” for the care of that veteran in that circumstance; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, in defining the term “emergency treatment” for purposes of VA reimbursement, provides “that a prudent layperson reasonably expects that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health;” and

WHEREAS, VA, in making its decision on a veteran's qualification for reimbursement after a perceived and claimed emergency, should take into account that in the circumstances of an emergency situation a veteran eligible under title 38, United States Code, for emergency care reimbursement may not have had any choice in receiving care at a non-VA facility due to the circumstances of that situation; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, restricts reimbursement for emergency care to that of VA acting in last resort, in cases in which veterans possess no other coverage, have a liability to the emergency-service provider, and have utilized VA health care resources within a 24-month period of the emergency event; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 110-387 requires VA to reimburse eligible veterans for emergency treatment of a service-connected disability, a nonservice-connected disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability, or any disability of a veteran that is service connected permanent and total; and

WHEREAS, this law was passed to address barriers to emergency care and reimbursement for such care for disabled veterans due to VA's narrow interpretation of the existing authority for emergency care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the provision that requires enrolled veterans to have received care from VA within the 24-month period prior to date of the emergency care; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the VA to provide for a more liberal interpretation of the law for reimbursement of veterans who have received emergency care at non-VA facilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges the Veterans Health Administration to review and reform its policies with respect to evaluating whether a veteran, in seeking intervention in a perceived life- or health-threatening emergency situation, has the power to divert first responders from private emergency receiving facilities to VA facilities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 223—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT SUSTAINED SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, compared to non-veterans, veterans are at higher risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many veterans experience post-deployment readjustment conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorders acquired during or worsened by their military service, or traumatic brain injuries that may make their participation in the workforce difficult or impossible, making them more prone to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics from VA and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), about two-thirds of homeless veterans do not receive the help they need to transition from homelessness to become productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, other federal, state, and local public agencies—notably housing agencies and health departments—need to improve coordination with VA to address the housing, health-care, and supportive services needs of these vulnerable veterans; and

WHEREAS, with greater numbers of women serving in military deployments, along with increased identification of and a greater emphasis on care for victims of sexual assault and trauma, new and more comprehensive services, housing, and child care services are needed; and

WHEREAS, according to VA, in 2009, more than 92,000 homeless veterans were served by VA's specialized homeless programs; and

WHEREAS, in the next 10 years, it is projected that significant increases in services over current levels will be needed to serve aging Vietnam veterans, women veterans, and combat veterans of America's current military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a wide variety of public and private programs are in place to assist veterans in preventing or overcoming chronic homelessness, but these programs are often underfunded; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs launched a campaign to end homelessness among veterans through enhanced collaboration with other federal, state, faith-based, veterans service organization and community partners; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges Congress to sustain sufficient funding to support the VA's initiative to eliminate homelessness among veterans in the

next five years and strengthen the capacity of the VA Homeless Veterans program to include: increasing its mental health and substance-use disorder programs capacity, provide vision and dental care services to homeless veterans as required by law, and improve its outreach efforts to help ensure homeless veterans gain access to VA health and benefits programs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge Congress to continue to authorize and appropriate funds for competitive grants to community-based and public organizations including the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide health and supportive services to homeless veterans placed in permanent housing.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 294—LEGISLATIVE
ENHANCE THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), known as CHAMPVA, is a health benefits program in which the VA shares the cost of certain health services with eligible beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, eligible beneficiaries include: the spouse or child of a veteran who VA rated 100 percent permanently and totally disabled for a service connected disability; the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability, or who, at the time of death, was rated 100 percent permanently and totally disabled; or the surviving spouse or child of a military service member who died on active duty, and the primary caregiver of a veteran seriously injured during military service on or after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, VA medical centers are authorized to provide services to CHAMPVA beneficiaries under the CHAMPVA In House Treatment Initiative (CITI) program at no cost to the beneficiary but are provided at the discretion of the VA Medical Center director and available only on a space-available basis, after the needs of veterans are met; and

WHEREAS, the CHAMPVA beneficiary is responsible for an annual \$50 deductible for medical services rendered and 25 percent of reasonable and customary charges for patient care and pharmaceuticals, up to \$3,000 each year if the local VA medical facility does not participate in the CITI program and the beneficiary must seek care in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, beneficiaries who are chronically ill can incur out-of-pocket medical care costs up to \$3,000 per year and such costs can cause undue financial burden on a severely disabled veteran and family members; and

WHEREAS, numerous health care services such as dental care, institutional and home-based long-term care, and vision are not routinely covered under CHAMPVA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to reduce the catastrophic cap on CHAMPVA services to a more reasonable amount to reduce the out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries who do not live near a VA medical facility that participates in the CHAMPVA CITI health care program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to enhance the CHAMPVA program to provide comprehensive health care coverage.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 295—LEGISLATIVE
CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION MUST ASSURE FULL
IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE SUFFICIENT,
TIMELY AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) believes that sick and disabled veterans, through their extraordinary sacrifices and service, earned the right to health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, VA health care programs provide essential services for more than 5.5 million veterans annually, including more than 2 million service-connected disabled veterans who rely on VA as their primary health care provider; and

WHEREAS, demand for VA health care services has grown dramatically, with enrollment rising from less than 2 million to more than 8 million veterans over the past 15 years, thereby requiring greater VA resources to meet this demand; and

WHEREAS, DAV worked for more than two decades to reform the budget process in order to assure sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, DAV developed and supported new legislation to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care through the technique of advance appropriations, as well as through new transparency and accountability requirements covering VA health care budget requests; and

WHEREAS, spurred by DAV, Congress enacted Public Law (P.L.) 111-81, the “Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act,” a law that requires advance appropriations for certain VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 111-81 requires VA to provide two-year budget estimates for health care programs, including the reasons and bases under those estimates, and also requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on VA’s budget estimates for health care programs, including examination of internal funding estimates forecast by VA’s actuarial model; and

WHEREAS, in order to fully implement the advance appropriations law, VA must provide detailed estimates of its budgetary needs for medical care services each fiscal year for the following two fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, GAO must study and report to Congress and the public each VA budget submission, including an evaluation of VA’s budget estimates compared to the forecasts made by VA’s internal forecasting model; and

WHEREAS, Congress must enact an advance appropriation each year for VA medical services accounts; and

WHEREAS, the level of funding provided under an advance appropriation may from time-to-time need to be adjusted since the advance fiscal year becomes the next fiscal year, both because newer data may change VA’s budget forecasts, as well as to provide funding for newly authorized or expanded health care programs enacted into law after the approval of a particular year’s advance appropriation; and

WHEREAS, DAV as well as the Congressional sponsors of the advance appropriations concept anticipated that full implementation of P.L. 111-81 would require continued oversight from Congress, as well as by the interested veterans service organizations, including DAV; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, calls on Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to take all actions necessary to ensure full implementation of P.L. 111-81, the “Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.”

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 296—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN VETERANS

WHEREAS, the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other addictive substances continues to be a major health problem for many Americans, including many of our nation’s veterans; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders result in significant health and social deterioration and financial costs to veterans, their families and the nation; and

WHEREAS, data from a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national study showed that 40 percent of VA outpatients reported hazardous use of alcohol, and 22 percent reported full alcohol abuse, but only 31 percent reported being counseled about alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders are associated with family instability, decreased worker productivity, and declining health status; and

WHEREAS, combat exposure has placed veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) at higher risk for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as a wide array of other medical and psychological conditions, which may be associated with veterans’ increased use of substances; and

WHEREAS, VA offers few integrated treatment programs that would work to address both the substance use disorder and PTSD, depression, anxiety or other medical or mental health conditions which may cause or exacerbate veterans’ inappropriate use of substances; and

WHEREAS, since 23 percent of recent active duty personnel have acknowledged a significant alcohol problem, it is likely that OEF/OIF veterans will increase demand for specialty substance use disorder treatment services in VA; and

WHEREAS, VA lacks a complete continuum of available services (from detoxification to rehabilitation) to treat substance use disorders in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, over the past three years, VA has increased its mental health clinical staffing by approximately 6,000 to a total of almost 20,000 full-time equivalents, approximately 3,000 of whom are providing specialty substance abuse treatment services to a growing patient caseload; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports program improvement and enhanced resources for VA substance use disorder programs to achieve a full spectrum of evidence-based accessible and available treatment, including effective integrated treatment programs for veterans with co-morbid mental health and substance use disorder conditions, regardless of their place of residence.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 297—LEGISLATIVE

REQUIRE A VETERAN'S ATTENDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS

AFFAIRS (VA) PHYSICIAN TO PROVIDE A MEDICAL OPINION WITH REGARDS TO A CLAIM FOR VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS WHEN REQUESTED

WHEREAS, section 5103A of title 38, United States Code, prescribes that the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) shall assist a veteran by providing a medical examination or obtaining a medical opinion when such an examination or opinion is necessary to make a decision on a claim for disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, section 17.38 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, requires Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care providers, when requested and under certain limited circumstances, to provide descriptive statements and opinions for VA patients with respect to patients' medical condition, employability and degree of disability; and

WHEREAS, VHA Handbook 1605.1 provides that veterans may request statements from VHA health care providers regarding their medical conditions and/or opinions for submission in support of their claims for VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, this Handbook further requires in response to such a request, VHA health care practitioners provide a statement or opinion describing a patient's medical condition, and when the health care provider is the individual's treating physician, and is unable, or deems it inappropriate, to provide an opinion or statement, such physician must refer the request to another health care provider for the opinion or statement; and

WHEREAS, VHA Directive 2008-071 reversed and vacated its previous policy that required VA health care practitioners to provide veterans a medical opinion with respect to a current medical condition and possible relationship to a veteran's military service; and

WHEREAS, this Directive only requires a statement that includes observation of current medical status and suggests any request from a veteran for a medical statement in support of a claim for VA benefits be referred to the Veterans Benefits Administration; and

WHEREAS, VA strives to be the provider of choice for all of its enrolled veterans by offering a comprehensive medical benefits package for which a significant number of service-connected disabled veterans who seek treatment at VA medical facilities, rely solely on VA for all their health care needs; and

WHEREAS, through education, training, and experience, a VA physician who provides medical care to veteran patients has special insight of the veteran's experience and the diseases and disabilities common to military service; and

WHEREAS, the unwillingness of certain VA physicians to provide statements or opinions for veteran patients is inconsistent with the goal of the VHA to provide comprehensive care and places a serious burden on veterans who depend on VHA for their care and who may not be able to afford a private medical opinion; and

WHEREAS, due to conflicting written policy, there is currently no standard Department-wide interpretation and implementation of a VA policy for a VHA practitioner to provide a medical opinion with regard to a claim for VA disability compensation benefits when requested; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges VA to develop and implement a consistent policy requiring VHA health care practitioners to provide medical statements or opinions to veterans when requested in conjunction with their claim for VA benefits and to ensure full compliance of such policy.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 298—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT AND FEDERAL VIGILANCE
TO PROVIDE FOR RESEARCH, HEALTH CARE AND IMPROVED
SURVEILLANCE OF DISABLING CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM
MILITARY TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS EXPOSURES

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the World Wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to environmental hazards and man-made toxins, including mustard gas, herbicides, pesticides, cold and other adverse weather conditions, chemical and biological agents, “burn pits,” nuclear weaponry and systems, and other combat and military occupational exposures; and

WHEREAS, returning from war, some veterans subsequently suffer disabling conditions and symptoms of illnesses that may be difficult to medically diagnose, and not be immediately identified as consequential to such dangerous exposures; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the National Institutes of Health, the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal departments and agencies, have focused on associations linking toxic and environmental exposures with subsequent health status of veterans (and in the case of Vietnam veterans, some of their children); and

WHEREAS, sustained funding for such research is necessary to ensure veterans receive high quality health care services and adequate compensatory benefits to which they are entitled due to diseases or injuries incurred from hazardous military exposures; and

WHEREAS, in studies mandated by Congress in public law, the National Academy of Sciences continues to review and evaluate scientific literature to determine whether associations exist that connect a variety of military exposures and certain physical disorders within populations of veterans; and

WHEREAS, effective evidence-based medicine to treat individual patients with acute or chronic diseases must rely on scientifically valid biomedical research and peer-reviewed literature; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges Congress to actively oversee its established mechanism of delegation to the National Academy of Sciences and VA to determine validations of, and develop equitable compensation policy for, environmentally exposed veterans, respectively; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges Congress to provide adequate funding for research to identify all disabling conditions and effective treatment for such disabilities that may have been caused by exposure to environmental hazards and man-made toxins while serving in the armed forces of the United States; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges greater collaboration between DoD and VA to share necessary deployment, health and exposure data from military operations and deployments, in order to timely and adequately address the subsequent health concerns of disabled veterans, whatever the causes of those disabilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans intends to closely monitor programs of care within the Veterans Health Administration to ensure veterans disabled by exposure to environmental hazards and man-made toxins receive effective high quality health care, that the biomedical research and development programs of the Department are fully addressing their needs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 299—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT
AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS
OF VETERANS SUFFERING FROM POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER,
DEPRESSION, AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

WHEREAS, veterans exposed to combat and other hardship deployments are known to be at risk for development of post-deployment mental health conditions such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and other serious mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, left untreated or inadequately treated, a veteran suffering the chronic effects of PTSD, depression or other mental illnesses, may suffer marriage and relationship breakdown, under-employment or loss of employment, financial hardship, social alienation, and even homelessness, or involvement with the justice system; and

WHEREAS, a combat-exposed veteran who is not appropriately counseled for the psychological effects of PTSD or depression stands at greater risk of emotional and mental

decompensation, whose consequences often fall directly on family members and dependents of such veteran; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) embraces recovery from mental illness as its guiding principle in all VA mental health programs, including the involvement of veterans' loved ones as a part of recovery; and

WHEREAS, involvement of family members and dependents is often vital to a veteran's eventual recovery from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, subsection 1712A(b)2 authorizes the VA Readjustment Counseling Service, through its Vet Center program, to provide psychological counseling and other necessary mental health services to family members of war veterans under care in such Vet Centers, irrespective of service connected disability status; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted section 301 of Public Law 110-387 for the express purpose of authorizing marriage and family counseling in VA facilities to address the needs of veterans' families, including spouses and other dependent family members of veterans who are experiencing mental health challenges with attendant marital or family difficulties; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted sections 101-103 of Public Law 111-163 for the purpose of authorizing a wide array of support, care and counseling services for personal caregivers of severely injured or ill veterans from all eras of military service; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1782 authorizes a program of counseling, training, and mental health services, including psychological support, for immediate family members of disabled veterans who need care for service connected disabilities; who have service connected disabilities rated at 50 percent or more disabling; who were discharged or retired from the armed forces for injuries or illnesses incurred in line of duty; who are World War I or Mexican Border Period veterans; who were awarded the Purple Heart; who are former prisoners of war; who were exposed to radiation or toxic substances; or, who are unable to defray the expenses of their care; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1781, authorizes a program of health care, including certain mental health services, for immediate family members and dependents of a veteran who is totally and permanently disabled from service connected disabilities, or who died from disabilities incurred during military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish new and effective programs to ensure that veterans who are enrolled in VA health care not only receive adequate care for their wounds and illnesses, including mental health-related illnesses, and but that when appropriate their family members—whether family caregivers, spouses or other family dependents, receive necessary counseling, including psychological counseling, training and other mental health services authorized by law to aid in the recovery of veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 300—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REHABILITATIVE SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and several Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations cosponsor national rehabilitative special event programs for veterans receiving health care from VA medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently has a program within the Office of Public Affairs tasked with oversight of the national rehabilitative special events; and

WHEREAS, these rehabilitative programs, which include the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games, National Creative Arts Festival, and the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic focus on rehabilitation of many severely disabled veterans and, as such, these events should be the responsibility of the Veterans Health Administration, not the Office of Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, while these programs showcase the preventive and therapeutic values of sports, fitness, and recreation, which are key factors in VA's extensive rehabilitation programs, they are also extremely beneficial to veterans, helping many to overcome or mitigate the physical and emotional impact of severe disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to create an office within the Veterans Health Administration to oversee these rehabilitative special events

and to provide a separate appropriation in the VA budget for the national rehabilitative special events so VA can continue to contribute its share of the funding; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that responsibility for rehabilitative special event programs should be transferred from the Office of Public Affairs to the Veterans Health Administration.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 301—ADMINISTRATIVE
ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES
FOR THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARD PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) created the George H. Seal Memorial Award Program as a means to recruit, retain and recognize volunteers who serve disabled veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and the local community; and

WHEREAS, the George H. Seal Memorial Award annually recognizes the remarkable efforts of an outstanding member of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary (DAVA) who willingly donate their time and energy to disabled veterans in VA Voluntary Service Programs; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of each calendar year, the DAV solicits every VA Voluntary Service Program Manager to nominate one deserving member of the DAV and DAVA from their facility in order to be considered for the George H. Seal Memorial Award with little response; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service Program Manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving member of the DAV and DAVA to be considered for this prestigious award in appreciation of their dedication and service to America's veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 302—ADMINISTRATIVE
ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT
CANDIDATES FOR THE JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) created the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program (JBMYSPP) as a means to recruit young volunteers and to recognize the efforts of America's young volunteers who serve disabled veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and the local community; and

WHEREAS, the JBMYSPP will award a total of \$75,000 in 2011 to 8 deserving youth volunteers in the form of a first place \$20,000 scholarship; a second place \$15,000 scholarship; a \$10,000 third place scholarship, two \$7,500 fourth place scholarships and three \$5,000 scholarships; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of each calendar year, the DAV solicits every VA Voluntary Service Program Manager to nominate one deserving youth volunteer from their facility in order to be considered for one of the scholarships, but with little response; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving youth volunteer to be considered for one of the scholarships in appreciation of their dedication to serving America's veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 311 – ADMINISTRATIVE
EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, DECATUR, GEORGIA, FOR THE SUCCESS
OF THE 89TH DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended to the delegates and guests of the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary was laudable; 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 the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, staffed and maintained a compassionate

and high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Atlanta Hyatt Regency on Peachtree Street; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 89th National Convention were extended in a highly compassionate, professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Atlanta VA Medical Center, Decatur, Georgia, for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 89th National Convention and for contributing to the success of this Convention.

* * *

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. You have heard the motion. May I now have a second?

MR. STEINBAUGH: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. STEINBAUGH: Michael Steinbaugh, Chapter 7, District 16, second.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9 now the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you.

At this time I will call upon Chairman Ken Kuehl for his report on the Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights.

MR. KEN KUEHL: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights was called to order on July 31st, 2010, by Committee Advisors Joe Violante and Brenda Kecskes.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Ken Kuehl was elected chairman and Bill Novak was elected secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you on resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and purpose of these resolutions.

Resolution 11, to provide a ten-year protection for service-connected disability evaluation;

Resolution 12, oppose offsetting payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefit by VA compensation;

Resolution 13, oppose any recommendations by any commissions to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans;

Resolution 14, oppose the subjecting compensation to means testing;

Resolution 15, disability compensation increase;

Resolution 16, oppose any change that would redefine service-connected disability or restrict conditions or circumstances under which any may be established;

Resolution 18, oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits;

Resolution 19, supporting legislation to provide presumptive service-connection to atomic veterans recognized for radiogenic diseases;

Resolution 20, increase the grant for autos or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans and provide for automatic annual adjustments based on increase in the cost-of-living;

Resolution 21, authorize automobile adaptive equipment eligibility to any veteran who has a service-connected disability that inhibits the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle;

Resolution 22, compensate Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from illness circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;

Resolution 23, supporting legislation to provide for a waiver of premiums for supplemental service disabled veterans insurance;

Resolution 24, opposition of the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims;

Resolution 26, to provide an open period to apply for service-connected disabled veterans' insurance;

Resolution 27, to provide an increase in the specially-adapted housing grant and provide for annual COLAs;

Resolution 28, mortgage protection life insurance for 100-percent service-connected veterans;

Resolution 29, increase the face value of service-disabled veterans insurance;

Resolution 51, opposing the permanent rounding-down of COLAs in veterans' benefits;

Resolution 58, expand POW presumptions;

Resolution 59, support open-ended presumptive periods for undiagnosed illnesses for Gulf War veterans;

Resolution 60, support legislation to repeal prohibition against service-connection for smoking-related illnesses;

Resolution 61, supporting a change in regulatory requirements for a temporary rating, for a temporary total rating under Section 4.30 of Title 38, C.F.R.;

Resolution 62, support presumption of exposure to stressors for veterans who served in a war zone and who suffer from PTSD;

Resolution 64, support resolution to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld on tax on disability severance pay;

Resolution 65, reduce the ten-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation;

Resolution 66, redefine the service in Vietnam to include service in offshore waters;

Resolution 67, provide a temporary total rating for a period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

Resolution 69, opposing lump-sum payments for service-connected disabilities;

Resolution 71, exempt disability compensation in determination of eligibility for government programs;

Resolution 73, support reform in Veterans Benefits Administration disability claims process;

Resolution 74, support repeal of funding fees for VA home loans;

Resolution 77, support an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs Burial Allowance for service-connected veterans and provide for automatic annual adjustments;

Resolution 78, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled;

Resolution 79, extend the space available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans;

Resolution 80, extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents;

Resolution 156, support adequate funding for all VA programs;

Resolution 170, support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans' disability compensation;

Resolution 174, support legislation to remove prohibitions against concurrent receipt of military medical retired pay and veterans' disability compensation;

Resolution 177, support increase of burial and plot allowances for veterans who die of nonservice-connected disabilities;

Resolution 179, remove two-year limit for reimbursement of burial funeral expenses;

Resolution 180, reduce premiums for service-connected, for service-disabled veterans insurance to be more consistent with life expectancy;

Resolution 182, eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S.C.;

Resolution 235, provide a comprehensive rating for certain hearing-impaired veterans;

Resolution 277, oppose complete revamping of the 1945 rating schedule;

Resolution 278, support legislation to provide for service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxics and environmental exposures;

Resolution 279, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of SBP and DIC;

Resolution 280, support legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of Title 38, U.S. Code 1114(r)(1) to veterans with anatomic loss or loss of the use of toxic extremities;

Resolution 281, support the interest payments for the Department of Veterans Affairs retroactive awards of one year or more;

Resolution 282, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address the quality of life;

Resolution 283, support legislation to link disabled veterans disability compensation increases to the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 or the current cost-of-living allowance tied to the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater;

Resolution 284, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans Appeals;

Resolution 285, support legislation to require the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims to decide each appellant's assignment of error;

Resolution 286, support legislation to revise the appeal period for Department of Veterans Affairs decisions;

Resolution 287, support legislation to allow equitable tolling of the appeal period for claims before the VA and Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims decisions;

Resolution 288, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for benefits, counseling and claims services before the VA;

Resolution 289, amend the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations Program under Title 38, U.S.C., Section 177, Subsection A and E;

Resolution 290, support legislation that would exempt the benefits paid to war-time service-connection disabled veterans from the pay-go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

RESOLUTION NO. 011—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 012—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, consideration has been 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 with the earned payments of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 013—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY ANY COMMISSION TO REDUCE OR
ELIMINATE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, American citizens owe their freedoms and way of life to disabled veterans who made extraordinary personal sacrifices and who suffer lifelong disabilities as a consequence; and

WHEREAS, those who serve in our Armed Forces stand ready to endure any hardships and expose themselves to any hazards on behalf of their country and our citizens, and

WHEREAS, our Government did not hesitate in asking them to give life or limb if necessary, and

WHEREAS, our elected officials surely should not renege on our reciprocal obligation when our disabled veterans ask for so comparatively little in return; and

WHEREAS, we, as a Nation, have no more important indebtedness nor greater moral obligation than the indebtedness and obligation we have to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, some elected officials nonetheless prefer to denigrate the suffering of disabled veterans, conveniently ignore this debt, and shirk this national responsibility; and

WHEREAS, any shameful effort on the part of legislators to find ways to avoid compensating disabled veterans, especially in time of war, is unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, our Government continues to establish commissions to review veterans benefits and entitlements in an effort to balance the budget; and

WHEREAS, honorable and great nations of conscience do not abandon their wounded warriors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, remind our elected officials of our undebatable responsibility to fairly and fully compensate veterans for all the effects of disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as provided in the equitable standards of current law and regulations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans vigorously opposes any recommendations made for the purpose of reducing, adding limitations on, or eliminating benefits for service-connected disabled veterans or their families.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 014—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 or diseases 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 dependency and indemnity compensation, there are efforts to reduce or eliminate them 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 as 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 015—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 disabilities in civil occupations; and

WHEREAS, compensation increases should be based primarily 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 earning of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 016—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, various proposals have been made 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine or restrict service connection.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 018—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE REDUCTION, TAXATION, OR ELIMINATION OF
VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families for their service to the Nation; 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 recur with regularity and serious intent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation, or elimination of veterans' benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 019—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE PRESUMPTION
OF 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, including "clean-up" operations at test sites; 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 ensuring that all atomic veterans are compensated for their radiogenic diseases; and

WHEREAS, by the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all veterans involved in “clean-up” operations following the detonation of nuclear devices should be considered atomic veterans for all benefits and services provided by VA.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 020—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 service members 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 \$11,000 represents only about 39 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 021—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 022—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 thus far failed to identify the source or sources of these ailments; and

WHEREAS, the scientific/medical community's inability to identify the source(s) and pathological nature of 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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 or related exposure to certain chemical, biological, and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strongly urge that these Persian Gulf War veterans continue to 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. 023—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 024—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMITS FOR FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS

WHEREAS, veterans suffer lifelong impairments from disabilities incurred in connection with military service; and

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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 026—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR SERVICE-DISABLED
VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance within two years 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 2-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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 027—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE 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 specially adapted housing grant to veterans who have incurred service-connected disabilities consisting of loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, total blindness together with loss or loss of use of one lower extremity, or loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with either the loss or loss of use of an upper extremity or other organic disease that requires use of a wheelchair or the use of braces, crutches, or canes; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this grant is to enable such severely disabled veterans to construct, purchase, or remodel homes with structural features to accommodate special needs; and

WHEREAS, the current \$60,000 maximum amount authorized for this grant, although it can be used up to three times for the aggregate \$60,000 maximum, is insufficient to allow such veterans to make all necessary adaptations and modifications; and

WHEREAS, although this grant will be adjusted annually beginning October 1, 2009 based on a cost-of-construction index; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation which would provide a realistic increase in the grant authorized by section 2101(a) of title 38, United States Code.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 028—LEGISLATIVE
EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE
TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY
AND TOTALLY DISABLED

WHEREAS, Veterans' 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 029—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 051—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 targets veterans for convenient cost savings for the Government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes permanent rounding down of cost-of-living adjustments for veterans' benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 058—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 physical and psychological maladies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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 the Disabled American Veterans urges passage of legislation that would expand eligibility for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to surviving spouses of certain former POWs, who died prior to September 30, 1999, and who were rated totally disabled at the time of death for a service-connected disability for a period of not less than one year.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 059—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT OPEN-ENDED PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD FOR UNDIAGNOSED
ILLNESSES FOR GULF WAR VETERANS

WHEREAS, thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the numerous symptoms experienced by sick Gulf War veterans are not well understood and the causes of such symptoms remain elusive and answers could likely remain evasive for some time; and

WHEREAS, there currently is little significant research on long-term health effects of many of the agents Gulf War veterans were potentially exposed to during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, additional research into the long-term health effects of exposures is needed, a fact confirmed in a September 2000 report by the Institute of Medicine on the health effects of exposures during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, the presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses was extended until September 30, 2011; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges that legislation be enacted to extend the presumptive period for service connection for ill-defined and undiagnosed illnesses indefinitely.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 060—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to repeal the prohibition of service connection for smoking-related illnesses.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 061—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS UNDER
SECTION 4.30 OF TITLE 38, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TO
PROVIDE FOR A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING FOR INCAPACITATION
OF MORE THAN 21 DAYS

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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 062—ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT PRESUMPTION OF EXPOSURE TO STRESSORS FOR VETERANS
WHO SERVED IN A WAR ZONE AND WHO SUFFER FROM POSTTRAUMATIC
STRESS DISORDER

WHEREAS, exposure to an extreme traumatic stressor, such as those particularly common to military combat, may cause a specific anxiety disorder with characteristic symptoms and re-experiencing of the traumatic event, classified under diagnostic nomenclature as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, onset of symptoms of PTSD may be delayed for months or years after exposure to the stressor with initial diagnosis of the illness post-service, in which case the Department of Veterans Affairs rule governing service connection requires that service causation be demonstrated through evidence of exposure to the responsible stressor during service; and

WHEREAS, the event in which a veteran was exposed to a traumatic stressor may not have been documented at the time, may not have been witnessed by others, or may not be substantiated because witnesses are unavailable in times remote from the event; and

WHEREAS, adducing proof of exposure may therefore very well be impossible for many veterans exposed to stressors under circumstances in which such stressors had become virtually a routine occurrence of everyday life in a war zone; and

WHEREAS, through presumptions of fact, Congress and VA have waived usual requirements of proof under such circumstances because equitable treatment of veterans suffering from disabilities caused by military service outweighs such requirements; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges adoption of a presumption of exposure to a traumatic stressor during service for purposes of service connection in the case of a veteran who served in a war zone and suffers from PTSD.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 064—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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 065—LEGISLATIVE
REDUCE THE TEN-YEAR RULE FOR DEPENDENCY AND
INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, Section 1318 (b) (1) provides Dependent & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of certain veterans noted totally disabled for ten or some years; and

WHEREAS, the financial status of the surviving spouse is compromised due to the care required by the totally disabled veteran and provided by the surviving spouse; and

WHEREAS, the surviving spouse, acting as care-giver for the veteran, most in many case limit or give up her career, or put his or her career on hold; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the surviving spouse should have this additional burden placed on her for 10 years or more before he or she can qualify for DIC when this veterans passes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, support legislation to reduce this ten-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 066—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THAT SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC
OF VIETNAM FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS BASED ON EXPOSURE TO
HERBICIDES INCLUDES SERVICE IN THE WATERS OFFSHORE

WHEREAS, over the decade from 1961 to 1971, our military forces sprayed approximately 21 million gallons of herbicide agents in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, these herbicide agents, the most common of which was designated “Agent Orange,” contained the contaminant dioxin, one of the most toxic substances known to humankind; and

WHEREAS, the dispersion and deposition of, and human exposure to, dioxins were not limited to areas directly sprayed, inasmuch as it is acknowledged that the chemical was carried away from the areas of application by canals, rivers, and streams, and that airborne particulates were carried by wind drift; and

WHEREAS, Congress has therefore provided that, for purposes of establishing or presuming service connection for a disability or death as related to herbicide exposure, a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, “served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to [a] herbicide agent . . . unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent” during that service; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has arbitrarily interpreted “served in the Republic of Vietnam” to mean only service on land areas of Vietnam and not waters offshore within its national boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of territorial seas or waters from the term “Republic of Vietnam” is contrary to the plain and unqualified language of the law and illogical insofar as its premise is that herbicides could be carried away from the area of application across any expanse of land but not equal or lesser expanses of water; and

WHEREAS, various illnesses have been linked to and are presumed due to exposure to these herbicide agents; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served on ships no more distant from the spraying of these herbicides than many who served on land are arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits of the presumption of exposure and thereby the presumption of service connection for their herbicide-related disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase “served in the Republic of Vietnam” includes service in the waters offshore.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 067—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 on the job without his or her 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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

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, various entities have 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 071—LEGISLATIVE

SEEK LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FROM COUNTABLE INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY TO BENEFITS AND SERVICES UNDER OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, disabled veterans deserve special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, compensation for the effects of service-connected disabilities is counted as income in determinations of eligibility for other government benefits and programs, such as low-income housing through the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the value of compensation is negated and its purposes are defeated when a veteran's receipt of compensation is used to reduce or deny entitlement to government benefits or services available to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, when a veteran's compensation is offset against other entitlements, it is in effect deducted from the programs generally available to other citizens, and the veteran really receives nothing additional for his or her disability and is thus not compensated; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for purposes of entitlement to benefits or services under other government programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 073—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REFORM IN THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION'S
DISABILITY CLAIMS PROCESS

WHEREAS, Congress has created a system for the administration of veterans' benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, veterans currently have to wait for extended periods for rating decisions to be made on those claims; and

WHEREAS, some "Duty to Assist" requirements, while protecting veterans rights, may needlessly increase the length of time it takes to process claims and unnecessarily increase the number of hours required to process claims adding to the increasing claims backlog and delays; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently authorizes an appeal election decision period of up to one year before the appeal is adjudicated, yet 92 percent of veterans submit their appeal election letters within the first six months of that one-year time frame; and

WHEREAS, currently, remands from the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) due to errors in processing claims are sent back to the Appeals Management Center (AMC), which has a poor record of proper development and also returning them to the Board in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, changes to the current ineffective claims processing system would provide for a greater level of accountability of the performance of rating specialists by allowing them to correct and learn from their own errors; and

WHEREAS, the current process awards quantity of work rather than both quantity and quality due to the current work credit system; and

WHEREAS, veterans who currently have cases coming up for appeal with the Board must opt out of the VA Regional Offices (VAROs) jurisdiction if they want any new evidence to be considered by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the current process mandates that Supplemental Statements of the Case (SSOCs) be crafted each time new evidence is submitted to the VARO until jurisdiction is waived by the veteran; and

WHEREAS, an electronic accessible, searchable database and claims management system capable of converting all claims-related paperwork into secure, official electronic documentation shortly after receipt instead of weeks is essential to both the safeguarding of official records and a necessity in this digital era, and will help to move the claims process into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, with an electronic, searchable database and claims management system, certain revisions to VA's current practices and/or laws/regulations must be undertaken such as: revisions in the duty to assist provisions; the length of the appeals period; the ability of the Veterans Benefits Administration to have new evidence considered by the Board unless the veteran requests waiver of VARO jurisdiction; the elimination of the AMC; and full spectrum claims management accountability standards up and down the adjudication process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation that fulfills the above criteria, significantly reducing the backlog and ensures that all claims are decided correctly the first time.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 074—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REPEAL OF FUNDING FEES FOR DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS HOME LOANS

WHEREAS, in 1990, Congress imposed funding fees upon Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) guaranteed home loans under budget reconciliation provisions as a temporary deficit reduction measure; and

WHEREAS, such funding fees have now become a regular feature of all VA home loans, except for disabled veterans and un-remarried surviving spouses; and

WHEREAS, during the first session of the 108th Congress, funding fees were increased, and will continue so for the next seven years as a way to generate additional revenue to cover the costs of improvements and cost-of-living adjustments in other veterans' programs; and

WHEREAS, benefits provided to veterans by a grateful nation in return for their contributions and sacrifices through service in the armed forces should be provided by the government without a cost to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, increased funding fees have reduced the advantage of using the VA Home Loan Guaranty program; and

WHEREAS, funding fee increases are placing additional burdens upon veterans purchasing homes when the intent of the program is to reduce that burden by minimizing initial costs of buying a home; and

WHEREAS, such fees particularly impact on our young, active duty military families who may be purchasing their first home; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges Congress to refrain from further increasing the VA Home Loan funding fees and to repeal these fees as soon as possible.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 077—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS
AND PROVIDE FOR AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides service-connected veterans a \$2,000 burial allowance; and

WHEREAS, the amount of this burial allowance has been seriously eroded by inflation because it has not been regularly adjusted for increases in the cost of living; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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. 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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
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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks the enactment of legislation that 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. 080—LEGISLATIVE
EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES TO SERVICE-
CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 156—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 this country; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION 170—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST
CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS'
DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR ALL LONGEVITY RETIRED VETERANS

WHEREAS, current law provides that service connected veterans rated less than 50% 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 disabilities due to military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans at the National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 174—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST
CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY MEDICAL RETIRED PAY AND
VETERANS DISABILITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, current law provides that veterans who were retired from the armed forces on the basis of medical retirement and not longevity may not receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to full military medical retired pay; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans must therefore surrender medical retired pay in an amount equal to the disability compensation they receive; and

WHEREAS, this offset is extremely unfair to those veterans who were medically retired and, because of their disabilities, were not able to find careers in the civilian workforce, especially those found to be totally disabled immediately following military service; and

WHEREAS, those veterans totally disabled before they could complete a military career based on longevity earned their medical retired pay by virtue of their sacrifice to the nation; and

WHEREAS, concurrent receipt of VA compensation replaces the loss of earning potential they might have had in the civilian workforce; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military medical retired pay and VA disability compensation for those veterans found to be totally disabled on the day following discharge and have remained so through their lives.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 177—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT AN INCREASED BURIAL AND PLOT ALLOWANCE FOR
VETERANS WHO DIE OF NONSERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

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 (\$300) have remained constant for many years despite the increased cost of burials; 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; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to increase both the VA burial and plot allowance to a level reflecting the inflationary impact of the intervening years; 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. 179—LEGISLATIVE
REMOVE TWO-YEAR TIME LIMIT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OR DIRECT
PAYMENT OF BURIAL AND FUNERAL EXPENSES

WHEREAS, claims for reimbursement or direct payment of burial and funeral expenses must be received by VA within two years of internment or cremation of the deceased for non service-connected deaths, per title 38, USC, 3.1601(a); and

WHEREAS, this time limit only applies to nonservice-connected deaths; and

WHEREAS, this variance creates a more restrictive standard for those whose deaths do not involve a service connected cause; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes the two-year time limit currently in law and seek legislation to remove this unfair time limit.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 180—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE PREMIUMS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED
VETERANS' INSURANCE CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT LIFE EXPECTANCY

WHEREAS, the United States Government provides life insurance to service members because the increased hazards of military service make them an unacceptable risk for the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, coverage for service members may be continued after service under policies issued or programs overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the extra-hazard costs of insuring veterans in poorer health by reason of service-connected disabilities should be borne by the Government; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (SDVI) program in 1951 by Public Law 82-23 to provide life insurance to service-connected disabled veterans at standard rates; and

WHEREAS, under Public Law 82-23, SDVI premiums are based on rates a healthy individual would have been charged when the program was established in 1951, in accordance with 1941 mortality tables as prescribed by section 1922 of title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, because life expectancy has improved since the inception of the SDVI program, premiums based on the higher mortality rates of 1941 no longer fulfill congressional intent to provide life insurance to service-connected disabled veterans at standard rates; and

WHEREAS, because service-connected disabled veterans are paying premiums higher than today's standard rates, they are, in effect, subsidizing their own service-connected disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to amend section 1922 of title 38, United States Code, to provide that SDVI premiums will be based on current mortality tables.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 182—LEGISLATIVE
ELIMINATE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES AND
SURVIVING SPOUSES FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER CHAPTER 35,
TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

WHEREAS, dependents and survivors eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits under Chapter 35, title 38, United States Code, have ten years in which to apply for and complete a program of education; and

WHEREAS, this ten-year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or ten 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks the enactment of legislation which would eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under Chapter 35, title 38, United States Code.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 235—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
VETERANS WITH HEARING AIDS

WHEREAS, a significantly high number of veterans with hearing impairments have a zero percent or non-compensable rating for high frequency hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, most veterans who have such a rating with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) experience significant difficulties with such hearing loss in ordinary daily living; and

WHEREAS, the Rating Schedule provides a compensable rating of 10 percent for other minor disabilities such as a partial loss of one finger, mild skin conditions, tender scars and, in some cases, for the residuals of an episiotomy scar; and

WHEREAS, the VA should recognize those veterans who are impacted by high frequency hearing loss; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports granting veterans with high frequency hearing loss a compensable rating (10 percent) when it has been medically determined that the veteran requires and has been issued a hearing amplification device.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 277—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE A COMPLETE REVAMPING OF THE 1945 RATING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities, adopted and used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has served America's disabled veterans quite adequately; and

WHEREAS, the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities incorporates a policy of "average impairment" and that policy has treated all veterans with like disabilities equally and fairly in spite of age, education or work experience; and

WHEREAS, the current 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities does actually encourage disabled veterans to seek vocational rehabilitation training in order to become a more productive wage earner without penalty for doing so; and

WHEREAS, the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities has been modified and upgraded many times when advances in medical science dictates a change in a particular disability rating might be necessary, or additions to the Schedule have been incorporated to cover injuries, affirmatives and illnesses unique to some theatre of operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, goes on record as adopting a policy that would strongly oppose any wholesale changes to the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities by any group, organization, committee, consortium or act of Congress.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 278—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISABLING CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the World Wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to toxic and environmental exposures such as mustard gas, herbicides, cold weather, chemical, biological agents and other combat operation exposures; and

WHEREAS, veterans may not know for years or decades about the toxic or environmental conditions they were exposed to during military service; and

WHEREAS, returning from war, veterans subsequently suffer from disabling conditions that are not immediately identified as a result of such exposures; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) has not always been willing to publicly share information regarding exposures during military service with other government departments or agencies or with the individuals involved; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the National Institutes of Health, DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal agencies have focused on relationships between toxic and environmental exposures and health outcomes of veterans and pending claims; and

WHEREAS, such research is necessary to ensure veterans receive high quality health services and benefits they are entitled due to diseases or injuries resulting from deployment exposures; and

WHEREAS, in studies mandated by Congress, the National Academy of Sciences continues to review and evaluate scientific literature to determine whether a link exists between exposure and certain physical disorders; and

WHEREAS, VA and DoD must collaborate and share necessary deployment, health, and exposure data to better address the health conditions experienced by disabled veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, vigorously supports the VA's expeditious handling of veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for all conditions associated with the veteran's service and related exposure to toxic and environmental hazards.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 279—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST
CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN PAYMENTS
AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments are payments of an insurance annuity and the retired military member pays premiums for this coverage; and

WHEREAS, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is paid to the surviving spouse of a service member, retiree or veteran who dies of a service-connected condition; and

WHEREAS, these two programs are unrelated to each other; and

WHEREAS, under current law SBP payments are reduced, by the amount of DIC received; and

WHEREAS, this offset is extremely unfair to the approximately 61,000 spouses whose service member faithfully paid premiums in anticipation of a fair annuity based on premium payment; and

WHEREAS, there should not be a statute of limitation to apply for SBP as the current six-year statute of limitation has severe and adverse consequences on survivors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, support legislation to repeal the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments and DIC Compensation Payments; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the six-year statute of limitation should be waived if the offset between DIC and SBP is removed.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 280—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AWARD SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 38 UNITED STATES CODE § 1114(r)(1) TO
VETERANS WITH ANATOMICAL LOSS OR LOSS OF USE OF THREE EXTREMITIES

WHEREAS, veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use, or a combination of anatomical loss and loss of use, of three extremities are significantly impaired in their ability to perform personal functions; and

WHEREAS, veterans with loss or loss of use of three extremities require the assistance of others for the ability to dress and undress themselves, or to keep themselves ordinarily clean and presentable, or to perform frequent adjustment of special prosthetic or orthopedic appliances, or to attend to the wants of nature, or to protect themselves from hazards or dangers incident to their daily environment; and

WHEREAS, these factors are considered basic criteria for determining the need for regular aid and attendance by the Department of Veterans Affairs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to amend Section 1114(r)(1) of Title 38 U.S.C. to provide special monthly compensation to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 281—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS RETROACTIVE AWARDS OF ONE YEAR OR MORE

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claimants are often denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits due to prolonged bureaucratic delay in the VA adjudication process and/or through clear and unmistakable error on the part of VA Rating Board authorities; and

WHEREAS, under current law and regulation, VA claimants who incur indebtednesses to the United States government, in addition to the principal amount of such indebtednesses, are assessed and must pay interest charges; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Congress enacted the Prompt Payment Act, Public Law 97-177, to require federal agencies to pay their bills to outside vendors on a timely basis or pay interest penalties to the outside vendors when payments are made late; and

WHEREAS, VA claimants who are denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits do not receive interest payments from the government and therefore incur a loss of investment

income, which could have been received had they received their earned benefits in a timely fashion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 282—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A REALISTIC INCREASE IN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION RATES TO
ADDRESS LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (the Commission) was established by Public Law 108-136, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 to address several measures, one of which was loss of quality of life; and

WHEREAS, current law requires that the VA Rating Schedule compensate service-disabled veterans for average impairment of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded early in its deliberations that VA disability compensation should recompense veterans not only for average impairments of earning capacity, but also for their inability to participate in usual life activities and for the impact of their disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine reached the same conclusion; moreover, it made extensive recommendations on steps to develop and implement a methodology to evaluate the impact of disabilities on veterans' quality of life and to provide appropriate compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded that the VA Rating Schedule should be revised to include compensation for the impact of service-connected disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, for some veterans, quality of life is addressed in a limited fashion by special monthly compensation for loss of limbs or loss of use of limbs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission urged Congress to consider increases in some special monthly compensation awards to address the profound impact of certain disabilities on quality of life and to assess whether other ancillary benefits might be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, while a recommended systematic methodology is being developed for evaluating and compensating for the impact of disability on quality of life, the Commission recommended that an immediate interim increase of up to 25 percent of compensation be enacted; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in Department of Veterans Affairs compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 283—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO LINK DISABLED VETERANS DISABILITY
COMPENSATION INCREASES TO THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAY
COMPARABILITY ACT OF 1990 OR THE CURRENT COST OF LIVING
ALLOWANCE TIED TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER

WHEREAS, increases in disability compensation to disabled veterans have traditionally been as a result of cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases each year; and

WHEREAS, the calculations regarding COLAs are the domain of the Social Security Administration, using a formula that has been directly linked to the Consumer Price Index since 1975, prescribed by law when calculating any COLA increase; and

WHEREAS, in general, a COLA is equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of one year to the third quarter of the next, and if there is no increase, there is no COLA; and

WHEREAS, the formula that derives the level of increase is tied to the U.S. economy on a very broad basis; stagnant economic activity does not mean disabled veterans' cost of living is flat; in fact, as they age and suffer from associated illnesses of aging, their costs increase; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair that disabled veterans are denied necessary increases in disability payments due to a formula that actually has little to do with the costs they bear; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans disability compensation has not kept pace with the rest of the economy, even in years when there were COLA payments, disability benefits lagged; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA) of 1990, was enacted to achieve some measure of pay comparability between federal government workers and non-federal workers doing similar jobs with increases based on the Employment Cost Index minus 0.5 percent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation linking disabled veterans disability compensation increases to FEPCA, or the current Cost of Living Allowance tied to the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 284—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans' benefits may appeal erroneous decisions of the various and geographically dispersed benefit offices and medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, inaccuracy and lack of uniformity are pervasive among the claims decisions of the many VA field offices; and

WHEREAS, one board, the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) situated adjacent to VA's Central Office and policymaking center in Washington, D.C., hears all appeals; and

WHEREAS, appellants, Board members, and taxpayers derive numerous benefits from an appellate board housed in one centralized location, some of the more obvious of which are: availability of the collective expertise of the entire board professional interaction and association among Board members and staff shared and uniform training common and shared goals and responsibilities economies of scale from pooled resources and the most efficient workload distribution, with the flexibility and capacity to readjust the workload as necessary between members and support staff a positive environment and employee incentives for developing creative solutions and innovations to meet and overcome the challenges inherent in a system of mass adjudication of claims more efficient and effective centralized case management and storage more effective centralized board administration and hands-on employee oversight; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Board after repeated failed experiments with various configurations of regional appellate panels that were plagued by persistent inefficiencies and problems and were proven impractical and poorly suited to properly dispose of veterans' appeals; and

WHEREAS, indications are that consideration is being given within certain quarters of VA to dismember the Board and scatter its decision makers among the VA field offices or among various regions of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, such regional reorganization of the Board would be extremely unwise, wholly unwarranted, and not in the best interests of veterans or taxpayers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 285—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE EACH OF APPELLANT'S ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR, DIRECTLY ORDER THE AWARD OF BENEFITS WHERE APPROPRIATE TO REMEDY ERRORS FOUND, AND ACCEPT APPELLANT'S REJECTION OF CONFESSIONS OF ERROR BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988 (VJRA) and created the United States Court of Veterans' Appeals (currently the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) (the Court); and

WHEREAS, the VJRA granted the Court the authority to decide all relevant questions of law and to hold unlawful and set aside or reverse any finding of material fact adverse to the claimant, which is clearly erroneous; and

WHEREAS, due to long delays in claims processing at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), it can take veterans years to get their appeals before the Court; and

WHEREAS, in many appeals, the Court will ignore the appellants' legal arguments and remand an appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) based on the General Counsel's

confession of error that the Board failed to provide adequate reasons or bases for its decision to deny the benefit; and

WHEREAS, a remand for reasons or bases allows the VA to reopen the evidentiary record and obtain other evidence to support the continuation of the denial; and

WHEREAS, a veteran must appeal to the Court a second time and, in some cases, a third or fourth time to obtain a decision on the merits of his or her appeal; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation that would require the Court to decide each assignment of error made by an appellant in an appeal to the Court and to reverse any such errors found; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Court should have the authority to modify or remand any Board decision found to contain any error or errors, that the authority to modify should include the power to order an award of benefits in appropriate cases, and that an appellant should be expressly permitted to waive confessions of error made by the appellee.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 286—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REVISE 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, current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) statistics show that more than 40 percent of appeals are filed within one month of the adverse decision and 92 percent are filed within 180 days of such decisions; and

WHEREAS, many VA regional offices will wait until after the one-year appeal period has expired before actively working the claim regardless of when the appeal is received; and

WHEREAS, current law does not provide for equitable tolling of the appeal period if a veteran is physically or mentally incapacitated and unable to file the appeal within the allotted time period; and

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has a proposal, the 21st Century Claims Process, which would improve the timeliness of VA decisions with the implementation of a searchable electronic database for claims; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to revise the appeal period to 180 days, with an automatic extension of 180 days at the request of the veteran and to provide for equitable tolling of the appeals period due to a veteran's physical or mental incapacity, with the implementation of a searchable electronic database for claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 287—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR EQUITABLE TOLLING OF
THE APPEAL PERIOD FOR CLAIMS BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Congress has created a benevolent system for the administration of veterans' benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, this benevolent benefit system is both ex parte and nonadversarial before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, many veterans are unrepresented in their claims before VA or, if represented, still submit documents directly to VA; and

WHEREAS, the law previously provided for equitable tolling of the appeal if a veteran is physically or mentally incapacitated and unable to file the appeal within the allotted time period, although this provision was seldom found in the veteran's favor; and

WHEREAS, in many circumstances, the law also provided for equitable tolling of an appeal should a veteran incorrectly send request to appeal to the VA Regional Office (VARO) or to the Board of Veterans' Appeals instead of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and

WHEREAS, a broadening of the definition of equitable tolling, or the addition of a good cause provision, to more generously grant same when a veteran is unable to file within the appropriate filing period due to illness or injury, or incorrectly files with the wrong office; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports legislation to broaden the definition of equitable tolling, or the addition of a good cause provision to ensure that all veterans are not prevented from timely filing appeals for adverse decisions due to physical or mental incapacities, sending the request for appeal to the wrong office or other good cause reasons.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 288—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CAP ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR BENEFITS
COUNSELING AND CLAIMS SERVICES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, our nation established veterans' programs to repay or reward veterans for their extraordinary service and sacrifices on behalf of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit in which special benefits are provided to especially deserving beneficiaries, our citizens intended these benefits to be dispensed through an open, helpful, and informal system in which the government is duty bound to receive every claimant as entitled and provide every reasonable assistance in developing and shepherding the claim through the entire administrative process while affording consideration of all legal avenues toward granting every benefit that can be supported in law; and

WHEREAS, the programs are also designed in a manner that ensures veterans and their families will receive the full measure of aid from disability compensation and other monetary payments without taxation and with protections that ensure they are not diverted into the pockets of others who have no entitlement to them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has set the rates of these modest benefits to be minimally adequate for their intended purposes, such as assisting disabled veterans and their families in purchasing the necessities of life or obtaining services necessary to ameliorate the effects of disability, and the amounts provided do not contemplate or allow for any reduction or diminishment in buying power such as will occur when a portion is diverted to attorneys; and

WHEREAS, acquiescence in any general situation in which obtaining veterans' benefits required hiring an attorney and surrendering portion of disability compensation or other benefits obtained to the attorney fundamentally contradicts and undermines the spirit of the benefit programs created solely to aid and meet the special needs of disabled veterans and their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, it is inappropriate for Congress to disavow the government's obligation to ensure veterans receive the benefits due them by passing them off to the legal profession where their plight might well depend on or be determined by their potential for producing attorney fees; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Congress passed legislation, Public Law 109-461, which allowed attorneys to charge a veteran a fee for counseling and claims service following the filing of a Notice of Disagreement; and

WHEREAS, the initial intent of veterans benefits recognized that no disabled veteran should have to pay an attorney significant fees to obtain the benefits that a grateful nation provides and the veteran is rightfully due; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks legislation to provide for a reasonable cap on the amount of fees an attorney can charge veterans for benefits counseling and claims services before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 289—LEGISLATIVE
AMEND THE HOME IMPROVEMENT AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS
PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 177,
SUBSECTION A AND B

WHEREAS, under the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) program, veterans with service-connected disabilities or veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities; and

WHEREAS, a HISA grant is available to veterans who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of his/her disability; and

WHEREAS, a veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either a Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant or a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant; and

WHEREAS, the HISA improvement benefits, up to \$4,100, may be provided to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, the HISA improvement benefits, up to \$1,200, may be provided to nonservice-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, calls for a reasonable increase to the HISA improvement benefits for veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 290—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 not a “welfare benefit;” NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, 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.

* * *

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 6.

COMMANDER BARRERA: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. JOHN R. HOEFT: Mic 6.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 6.

MR. HOEFT: John Hoeft, Commander, Department of Wisconsin, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read?

MR. WILLIAM BROWN: Comrade Commander, Mic 3.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 3.

MR. BROWN: Comrade Commander, DAV James T. Hall Chapter 9, William Brown, requests Resolution Number 137 be read and considered before the membership of the National Convention and recommend that the word in the “be it resolved” clause that states “DAV supports” be changed to “DAV does not oppose” for consideration as an amendment so that this can be adopted by this Convention.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Please repeat that information.

MR. KUEHNLE: Can we get that one more time, Resolution 137?

MR. BROWN: Yes, Resolution 137.

MR. KUEHNLE: Yes.

MR. BROWN: Deals with the maximum annual pension rate, the deductible for the VA pension that is set currently at 5 percent for out-of-pocket medical expenses before any exceeded

medical expenses can be considered towards secondary income adjustment of the VA pension. But the wording in the resolution in the “whereas” clause or “be it resolved” clause has –

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 3, if you can hold on, we can get the resolution retrieved, please.

MR. BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE: Okay, Resolution 137, Resolution to remove the annual 5 percent deductible on un-reimbursed medical expenses and adjustment of VA pension under Title 38, United States Code:

“WHEREAS, recent medical health care legislation signed into law mandates all adults to purchase medical health care insurance by 2014; and

“WHEREAS, only un-reimbursed medical expenses that exceed 5 percent of the maximum annual pension rate are counted towards adjustments of VA pension when income other than VA and Social Security Insurance Benefits are recorded in the eligibility verification report by the veteran and;

“WHEREAS, medical expenses chartered to the veteran are rising faster than the VA pension which is based on the CPI index;

“NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Disabled American Veterans support amending applicable sections of Title 38, United States Code, dealing with VA pensions by removing the annual 5 percent deductible set at the maximum annual pension rate so as to count all out-of-pocket un-reimbursed medical expenses towards adjustment of VA pension to benefit veterans on VA pension.”

Yes, the reason this resolution was rejected is it's outside of the mission of the Disabled American Veterans.

Our first resolution which was adopted by the NEC earlier in the Convention indicates that all resolutions supported by the DAV involve service-connected disability and that we would not oppose any resolution or any legislation that would support nonservice-connected veterans, their families or survivors unless there is an impact on service-connected benefits.

So, therefore, we cannot support this and we would not oppose it provided that the costs of that didn't come from service-connected programs.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 3, would you make comments as to why.

MR. BROWN: Yes. I was requesting and I'd like to make a motion in the “be it resolved” clause to change that one word from “DAV supports” to “DAV does not oppose” for consideration and adoption by the National Convention delegates.

COMMANDER BARRERA: But that motion was rejected so that issue becomes moot at this point because the entire motion was rejected.

MR. BROWN: Okay, a final comment, just for the record. I am a service-connected disabled veteran. My initial award was only 10 percent for tendonitis. And I couldn't live on that. DAV Jim Roos gets credit down here at the Houston VA Regional Office for suggesting to me to apply for the DAV, apply for the VA pension as the greater benefit under Title 38.

At his suggestion I followed up on it and I was awarded the VA pension so I have to thank him for his help on that. So it does apply to service-connected disabled veterans if they request, apply for the VA pension to be granted as the greater benefit under Title 38. It does have that.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Again, I understand and I appreciate your comments but the resolution has been rejected, sir. Thank you for your comments.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Okay, again, all those in favor of the motion indicate by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you.

At this point I will ask Chairman Terry Schow to present his report on the Committee of Employment. Mr. Schow.

MR. TERRY D. SCHOW: Thank you, Commander. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on July 31st, 2010, by the Committee Advisors Harold Hicks and John Wilson.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Terry Schow was elected as chairman and Doug Wells was elected as secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Number 99, support for limited dual entitlement to voc-rehab and employment under Chapter 31 and Post-9-11 Educational Assistance under Chapter 33 in order to ensure that disabled veterans are not forced to choose the lesser of two benefits;

Number 100, support licensure and certification of active-duty service personnel;
Number 101, provide adequate staffing, funding and permanency for veterans' employment training and/or training including VETS, NVTI, SBA, DVOP, LVR, and homeless programs;
Number 127, employment services for disabled military personnel on terminal leave;
Number 228, implement and enforce service-disabled veteran small business, SBA-8A, program;

Number 229, provide vocational rehabilitation and counseling staff, service staff with state-of-the-art equipment;

Number 230, increased funding for transition assistance program, TAP, and disabled assistance program, DTAP;

Number 231, support outreach and employment of women veterans;

Number 234, oppose using DVOP, LVR to work with or process public assistance programs/reinforce mandate to assist veterans;

Number 303, drop the 12-year rule to request VA voc rehab benefits under Chapter 3 leaving – I believe that should be Chapter 31, under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended;

Number 304, support transition assistance program and disabled assistance program for National Guard and Reserve;

Number 305, support veterans preference in public employment;

Number 306, support centralization of all veterans' employment and business programs with the VA;

Number 307, increase staffing levels of the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Service.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Employment. On behalf of the Committee 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. 099—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FOR LIMITED DUAL ENTITLEMENT TO VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT CHAPTER 31, AND THE POST-9/11
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER CHAPTER 33 IN ORDER TO
ENSURE THAT DISABLED VETERANS ARE NOT FORCED TO CHOOSE
THE LESSER OF TWO BENEFITS

WHEREAS, our nation established veterans' programs to repay or reward veterans for their extraordinary service and sacrifices on behalf of their fellow citizens, especially those veterans disabled as a result of military service; and

WHEREAS, these programs include the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program for service-connected disabled veterans with employment handicaps as well as the post-9/11 GI Bill under title 38, United States Code, chapter 33 (GI Bill); and

WHEREAS, the GI Bill currently provides a more financially lucrative subsistence allowance than does the current VR&E Chapter 31 program; and

WHEREAS, such a disparity will ultimately force service-connected disabled veterans with employment handicaps to either utilize a program less financially supportive to them and their families than their non-disabled counterparts, or opt out of vocational rehabilitation for the more financially beneficial post 9/11 GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, our nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation and welfare of its service-connected disabled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports limited dual entitlement to assistance under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program under Chapter 31 and the post-9/11 educational assistance program under chapter 33.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 100—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION OF ACTIVE
DUTY SERVICE PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel; and

WHEREAS, DoD establishes, measures, and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, there are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that can easily translate to a civilian occupation; and

WHEREAS, there are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a license or certification; and

WHEREAS, in the Armed Forces, these occupational standards meet or exceed the civilian license or certification criteria; and

WHEREAS, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not licensed or certified to perform a comparable job in the civilian workforce; and

WHEREAS, this situation creates an artificial barrier to employment upon separation from military service; and

WHEREAS, a January 14, 1999 study by the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers' and Veterans' Transition Assistance identified several military professions in which civilian credentialing is required for employment in the private sector; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports efforts to eliminate employment barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DoD take appropriate steps to ensure that service members be trained, tested, evaluated, and issued any licensure or certification that may be required in the civilian workforce; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges Congress to enact legislation making the Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill available to pay for all necessary civilian license and certification examination requirements, including necessary preparatory courses; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports efforts to increase the civilian labor market's acceptance of the occupational training provided by the military.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 101—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING INCLUDING NATIONAL VETERANS TRAINING INSTITUTE, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM, LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM, 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, National Veterans Training Institute and the Small Business Administration, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program, Local Veterans Employment Representative program, Homeless, and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 127—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR DISABLED MILITARY PERSONNEL ON "TERMINAL LEAVE"

WHEREAS, many disabled military personnel are relieved from active duty prior to the end of their enlistment period by being placed on "terminal leave," and they do not receive their discharge papers (DD 214) until the official end of their enlistment period; and

WHEREAS, they are not considered veterans by State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs)/State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) because they have not received their final discharge papers; and

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is difficult for many disabled veterans, who must overcome many obstacles to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, such disabled veterans require all available employment services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, urges Congress to mandate that disabled military personnel placed on “terminal leave” prior to the end of their official enlistment period, be considered veterans by the SESAs/SWAs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 228—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-
OWNED BUSINESSES WITHIN THE SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION 8(A) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Congress enacted a law that provided for the federal government disabled veteran set-aside programs; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States signed Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, making it the responsibility of the federal agencies including the Small Business Administration (SBA) to set aside goals up to 3% of government contracts for disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, such contracts are only awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses when the requirement is not currently being performed by a minority owned business (8a participant); and

WHEREAS, many government agencies are actively seeking to use this set-aside program for disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans who own businesses ought to receive treatment equal to those who own minority businesses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks revision of the program to have Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses added to the SBA's 8(a) program or a separate set aside program be established so that disabled veterans have a program of equal status with those of firms covered by the 8(a) program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation requiring the federal government make set-aside mandatory rather than goals and it should have to make up any shortfalls in the subsequent fiscal year.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 229—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND COUNSELING SERVICE
STAFF WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the current Director, Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service has no authority over the approximately 700 employees throughout the VA Regional Office structure; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are responsible to the VA Regional Office Director; and

WHEREAS, these individuals rely on the VA 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 greater program accessibility; and

WHEREAS, it was reported following review of how the vocational rehabilitation program does business that some VR&E offices do not have this type of equipment; 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 Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks change that would assure Regional Office Directors are held accountable and all VR&E staff at the VA 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. 230—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 Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) were created with the goal of furnishing separating service members with vocational guidance to aid them in obtaining meaningful civilian careers; and

WHEREAS, continuation of the TAP and DTAP programs is essential to easing some of the problems associated with transition; and

WHEREAS, the level of funding and staffing is inadequate to support the routine discharges per year from all branches of the Armed Forces; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funding for TAP/DTAP.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 231—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT OUTREACH AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, many women who have served in the military are not aware of services available to them through State Employment Security Agencies/State Workforce Agencies and are therefore less likely to obtain employment and training assistance than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade there has been a definite increase in the number of women in need of employment and training services; and

WHEREAS, because of the reduction in federal programs and the reduction of jobs for women in the private sector, the number of unemployed women veterans continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, workforce trends indicate only job-ready and highly skilled women veterans are able to find career employment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, goes on record urging that (a) Congress enact legislation to establish and fund special programs and outreach to women veterans in need of employment assistance from the nation's basic labor exchange system and training assistance through programs operated under the Workforce Investment Act, and (b) that additional training be provided to service providers to address the delivery of services to and the under-representation of women veterans in career employment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 234—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE USING DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM
SPECIALISTS AND LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES
TO WORK WITH OR PROCESS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service administers programs to assist veterans with their employment and training needs; and

WHEREAS, many state employment agencies are utilizing Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) to work on public assistance related programs, including food stamps; and

WHEREAS, this diverts the DVOP/LVER program personnel from their prime mission, which is to assist veterans with their employment and training needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, opposes utilizing DVOP Specialists/LVERs to work with or process public assistance programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 303—LEGISLATIVE
DROP THE 12-YEAR RULE TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS UNDER CHAPTER 31,
LEAVING THE DATE TO APPLY FOR THAT BENEFIT OPEN-ENDED

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to one single purpose: building better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, not all disabled veterans are aware of their possible entitlements to VA Vocational Rehabilitation programs at the time they are awarded for service connection for disabilities; and

WHEREAS, not all awards of service connection are rated high enough to be awarded Chapter 31 benefits; and

WHEREAS, not all disabled veterans are under the impression that they need vocational rehabilitation until later, often after the current 12-year rule excludes them from the benefit they need and would otherwise have been entitled to; and

WHEREAS, the VA puts no time limit on when a veteran may claim his or her disability, the VA also does not put a time limit on requesting another service-connected benefit; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks legislation to eliminate the 12-year limitation to apply for VA vocational rehabilitation, leaving a veteran's dates of entitlement open ended.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 304—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND DISABLED

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

WHEREAS, Public Law 101-510, codified in sections 1141-1150 of title 10, United States Code, authorized comprehensive transition assistance benefits and services for separating service members and their spouses, and required that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) be established and maintained; and

WHEREAS, TAP and DTAP workshops are available for active duty service members prior to separating from active duty; and

WHEREAS many of the forces engaged in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom are members of the National Guard and Reserve component; and

WHEREAS, members of the National Guard and Reserve are not typically afforded the opportunity to attend a TAP and DTAP workshop prior to separation from active duty; and

WHEREAS, members of the National Guard and Reserve must take time away from their civilian jobs and travel to an active duty site at their own expense to attend TAP and DTAP workshops on a space-available basis; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that such programs of assistance for National Guard and Reserve members be provided at no expense to them; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, seeks legislation that will provide every National Guard and Reserve member who is activated for 12 months or longer a period of active duty of five days, within 90 days of separation, in order to attend TAP and DTAP workshops.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 305—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans strongly supports federal, state, and local veterans' preference laws; and

WHEREAS, attempts are being made to weaken, dilute and circumvent existing veterans' preference; and

WHEREAS, the federal hiring process is slow and cumbersome; and

WHEREAS, the total number of federal employees hired under veterans' preference categories has shown only incremental increases over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM's) Veterans Employment Special Hiring Authorities are monitored by the Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Program (DVAAP) plans, which only require each agency include a signed statement certifying that the agency has an up-to-date DVAAP plan, which OPM simply monitors without analyzing to ascertain which agencies excel at hiring veterans generally and disabled veterans specifically or hold accountable those agencies that underperform; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies generally and OPM specifically have not taken a proactive position on identifying patterns and practices to determine systemic discrimination involving a pattern or practice, policy, or class case where the alleged discrimination has a broad impact on an industry, profession, company or geographic area and possible employment discrimination violations; and

WHEREAS, reform of the federal hiring processes requires promoting innovative and coordinated approaches to recruiting and hiring veterans generally, and disabled veterans

specifically, by improving the hiring process and integrating other components of the online hiring system that would improve overall veterans' hiring; and

WHEREAS, providing greater assistance to veterans generally and disabled veterans particularly in finding employment in the federal workforce by assuring broader utilization of veterans' preference hiring and helping veterans identify and apply for federal job opportunities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment; enforcement provisions and increased accountability for agencies' veterans' hiring compliance; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports appropriate recognition and enforcement of such patterns and practices to determine systemic discrimination involving a pattern or practice, policy, or class case; improvement of the hiring process; broader utilization of veterans and disabled veterans hiring preference; and substantive improvement of recruitment and hiring of veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 306—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CENTRALIZATION OF ALL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, management of veterans' employment and business programs is dispersed across several federal agencies with no single agency having overall responsibility; and

WHEREAS, as veterans' programs have become more complex over the years, the dispersed nature of these programs has resulted in a decreased ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) senior management to monitor the delivery of each program; and

WHEREAS, establishing a fourth administration within VA dedicated to creating economic opportunities for veterans would increase the visibility and accountability of all employment-related programs; and

WHEREAS, moving from dispersed programs to a centralized management structure through the creation of a new, separate administration within the VA would provided greater ownership and program accountability and increase the focus on helping veterans acquire meaningful careers; and

WHEREAS, providing veterans with an array of career and entrepreneurial opportunities not only helps fulfill our nation's covenant with them, it bolsters our entire economy; and

WHEREAS, in order to anticipate veterans' long-term needs, not only for health care and disability compensation, but also for employment requires a new approach; and

WHEREAS, this new centralized veterans employment and business administration should be administered through a new position of Under Secretary for said organization; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010 recommends that Congress centralize all veterans' employment and business programs from other federal agencies to a new administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs and that it should be appropriately funded and administered by an Under Secretary for said organization.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 307—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE STAFFING LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service is charged with preparing service-disabled veterans for suitable employment or providing independent living services to those veterans with disabilities severe enough to render them unemployable; and

WHEREAS, transition of disabled veterans to meaningful employment relies heavily on VA's ability to provide vocational rehabilitation and employment services in a timely and effective manner, but the demands and expectations being placed on the VR&E Service are exceeding the organization's current capacity to effectively deliver a full continuum of comprehensive programs; and

WHEREAS, the service has been experiencing a shortage of staff nationwide because of insufficient funding, which, as a result, has caused delays in providing VR&E services to disabled veterans, thus reducing veterans' opportunities to achieve successful timely rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, to increase emphasis on employment, the service has begun an initiative titled "Coming Home to Work," an early outreach effort to provide VR&E services to eligible service members pending medical separation from active duty at military treatment facilities which will require additional staff to maintain efforts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, even though the focus of the VR&E program has drastically changed to career development and employment, it is not clear, despite VR&E's addition of over 80 employment coordinators, whether VA is able to meet the current and future demand for employment services; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the current 60 days of employment as the standard for a veteran to be considered fully employed is insufficient given that employers typically require longer probationary employment timeframes; and

WHEREAS, many veterans may not be receiving suitable vocational rehabilitation and employment services in a timely manner due to inconsistent case management with lack of accountability for poor decision making; delays in processing initial applications due to staff shortages and large caseloads; declaring veterans rehabilitated before suitable employment is retained for at least six months; and inconsistent tracking by the electronic case management information system and a failure to follow up with veterans and employers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2010, supports a strengthening of VA's VR&E program to meet the demands of disabled veterans by providing increased staffing and funding, a more timely and effective transition into the workforce and providing placement follow-up with employers for at least six months; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports VR&E Service transitioning to a results-based criteria to evaluate and improve employee performance with a higher emphasis placed on academic training, employment services and independent living to achieve the goal of rehabilitation of severely disabled veterans.

* * *

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Chairman Schow. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. KEITH A. ROBINSON: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. ROBINSON: Keith Robinson, delegate, Chapter 15, Rochester, New York, seconds that report.

COMMANDER BARRERA: 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 signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At this point I will ask Adjutant Wilson to make any announcements he might have.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The Nominating Committee will meet this afternoon at one o'clock in the Inman Room at the Atlanta Conference Level. There will be a special joint session tomorrow morning and because of that Monday afternoon will be devoted to various seminars and workshops.

Be sure to check your schedules and attend as many of the seminars as possible. As you know, they're great learning tools that could be useful when you return home.

Our next business session will begin Tuesday morning at 9:30. We will start off with committee reports, including the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

We will also introduce the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats followed by reports from the Charitable Service Trust and the National Service Foundation. Tuesday's session will conclude with the nomination and election of officers in the afternoon session.

In December of 2008, Gary Sinise was awarded the United States of America Presidential Citizens Medal for his work with the USO and Operation Iraqi Children. The Presidential Citizens Medal was established in 1969 as one of the highest honors a president can confer on a civilian and second only to the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Beginning tonight at 8:00 p.m. you can enjoy the fantastic musical concert with Gary Sinise and his Lieutenant Dan Band. Gary, who will forever be remembered as Lieutenant Dan Taylor in the 1994 film classic "Forrest Gump," is a long-time friend of DAV and a tireless supporter of veterans and our brave men and women in uniform. The doors for the show will open at 7:30 p.m.

We are honored to be hosting the President of the United States Monday morning. President Obama is scheduled to speak at approximately 11:30 a.m. The doors will open at 9:00 o'clock on Monday morning. And you will have access to restrooms once you enter the ballroom.

Delegates and members and registered guests who wish to attend the session will be asked to wear credentials that they were given at registration. We ask for your patience and foresight on Monday morning as all will be required to go through metal detectors to enter the ballroom.

If at all possible we ask that our members severely restrict what they bring into the room. Bags, purses, fanny packs and other items will cause additional security screening and slow the lines down entering the room. We ask that our members and guests carry only medically-necessary items to make the entry as smooth as possible.

We also ask that all attending remember our responsibility to honor the Office of the President of the United States and show the level of respect befitting our great cause.

As a reminder, we are giving away a DAV jacket to five delegates attending the Convention. Remember, to receive your jacket you must be present. If your name is called and you are in the hall please see Tony Baskerville up here on the stage as soon as we adjourn to receive your jacket.

Here we go. Oh, there you are: James Scott, David May, Charles Richmond, Floyd Watson, and Robert Sullivan. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Art. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Chaplain Edwards to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: God our helper in time of trouble, God our comfort in time of unrest, God our peace in the midst of turmoil, God our father, we thank You for the men and women here gathered, for our commitment to one single purpose, building better lives for all of our disabled American veterans and their families.

Thank You, our God, for this nation where truth and beauty prevails in spite of trouble, unrest and turmoil. God bless America. And let us as Americans be always thankful for God's blessings. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Convention stands in recess until 10:30 Monday morning. Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 o'clock, a.m. on Sunday, August 1, 2010.)

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SPECIAL JOINT SESSION

August 2, 2010

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A Special Joint Session of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Monday morning, August 2, 2010, and was called to order at 11:16 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

COMMANDER ROBERTO "BOBBY" BARRERA: The Convention will please come to order. I'd like to remind everyone to please turn off your cell phones. Please rise. Please join me in the salute to the pledge to the flag. Hand salute.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: I will ask Chaplain Edwards for prayer, please.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Let us pray. Father in heaven, we thank You on behalf of those gathered here, for the ability and nobility to remember You in this special business session. Be near all of us, our God, to guide us in our decisions, to comfort us within our failures and to keep us humble within our successes.

We pray this morning for our president, the leader of this great nation. We pray and we thank You, God, for this Administration who realize that the cost of war does not end with the war. We pray for all of the members of Congress. We pray that this time we share will draw us closer together as individuals.

Be with us as we meet our commitments, serving this outstanding organization, the Disabled American Veterans. And may we be filled with pride because of the Chapters, Departments in which we serve, the country, the home of the brave, the land, the freedom we defended, the Creator, the God in whom we serve. It is within God that we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: All honored guests and especially my fellow disabled veterans, your families and your survivors. It is indeed a privilege and a great honor to have been asked to introduce this morning's most distinguished speaker at our 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary.

Abraham Lincoln called upon us all to render honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause, honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves as best he can that same cause.

The current President of the United States is a living example of putting those words into action. His leadership and steadfast commitment to the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country's cause is a matter of public record.

President Obama is a strong supporter of the United States military and of our nation's veterans and their families. He believes in providing the resources and the support that the VA needs to honor a moral, America's moral obligation to our veterans.

While serving in the United States Senate as well as during his presidential campaign he stressed his strong support for advanced appropriations for veterans' health care. And I was honored to be there at the White House when he signed that landmark bill into law.

I am pleased to note that the president also signed important legislation that provides much needed supportive services and assistance to family caregivers of severely-disabled veterans.

And also, I might add, his two budget submissions treat veterans very well and continue a tradition of quality, compassionate health care and something which is vitally important to me and certainly to you as disabled veterans.

Most importantly, he has proven himself willing to listen to our point of view on vital veterans' issues. But, more than that, he actually has taken our views to heart. He used them to inform his decisions in developing policy decisions on those very issues. So with that it is my honor to introduce our special guest.

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

(Whereupon, the President of the United States Barack H. Obama entered to "Hail to the Chief" and received a Standing Ovation.)

PRESIDENT BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Everyone, please have a seat. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you.

(Whereupon, several people in the audience shouted "Happy Birthday.")

PRESIDENT OBAMA: It is – thank you. It is a great honor and it is true, I will be 49 this week. I have a lot more grey hair than I did last year. (Laughter) It is an extraordinary honor to be here.

Thank you, Commander Barrera, for your kind introduction and for your lifetime of service from the Marines in Vietnam but also as a tireless advocate for your fellow disabled veterans. We are grateful to you. Thank you for everything that you've done. (Applause)

I want to thank your great leadership team for welcoming me today: Chairman Ray Dempsey, (Applause) absolutely; incoming Commander Wally Tyson; (Applause) National Adjutant Art Wilson; (Applause) Judy Hezlep of the DAV Auxiliary; (Applause) and your outstanding Executive Director in Washington, Dave Gorman. (Applause)

And I am pleased to be joined by a decorated Vietnam veteran, wounded warrior and a lifetime member of the DAV, my outstanding Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki. (Standing Ovation)

Disabled American Veterans, I valued your advice and counsel when I was a senator and when I cosponsored the Post-9-11 GI Bill. You were one of the first veterans' organizations that I called upon when I began my presidential campaign. (Applause)

And as president it's been my pleasure to welcome you to the White House to make sure America is serving our veterans as well as you've served us, (Applause) and, most recently, to sign advanced appropriations into law so that veterans' health care will never again be held hostage to the budget battles and the political games in Washington. (Applause)

Now, there is another visit I won't forget. I was in the Oval Office expecting a visit from the DAV and in comes Bobby carrying a baseball bat. (Laughter) Now, it's not every day that somebody gets past the Secret Service carrying a baseball bat. (Laughter)

You may have heard about this. It turns out it was a genuine Louisville Slugger, a "thank you for going to bat for our veterans on advanced appropriations". So I'm grateful for that symbol of our partnership. And I'm proud of the progress we've achieved together.

But as one of your outstanding DAV members from Illinois just reminded me, it was a promise I made during the campaign. It was a promise made and it was a promise kept. And I intend to keep on keeping my promises to the veterans of America. (Applause)

In the life of our nation not every generation has been summoned to defend our country in its hour of need. But every generation to answer that call has done so with honor and with courage. Among you are members of that generation that saved the world from fascism.

I was honored to stand with our World War II vets at Normandy last year for the anniversary of D-Day. And this year as we mark – (Applause) This year as we mark the 65th Anniversary of our victory in that war we once again salute our veterans of the Second World War. (Applause)

Others among you faced a brutal foe on a cold Korean peninsula. This year as we mark the 60th Anniversary of that conflict I will be proud to travel to the Republic of Korea in November to pay tribute to our veterans of the Korean War. (Applause)

Many of you served in the jungles of Vietnam. You also served with honor, exemplary dedication and courage, but were often shunned when you came home. That was a national disgrace. And it must never happen again. (Applause)

And that's why we're making sure our veterans from today's wars are shown the respect and the dignity they deserve. (Applause) And whether you served in the Gulf to free a captive Kuwait or fought in the streets of Mogadishu or stopped an ethnic slaughter in the Balkans, you, too, are a part of an unbroken line of service stretching across two centuries.

For you coming home was the beginning of another battle, the battle to recover. You fought to stand again and to walk again and to work again. You fought for each other and for the benefits and treatment you had earned.

You became leaders in our communities and our companies and our country, including a former Vietnam vet and senator Max Cleland who reminded us that America's disabled veterans are strong at the broken places. (Applause)

Today, your legacy of service is carried on by a new generation of Americans. Some stepped forward in a time of peace, not foreseeing years of combat. Others stepped forward in this time of war, knowing they could be sent into harm's way.

For the past nine years in Afghanistan and Iraq they have borne the burdens of war. They, and their families, have faced the greatest test in the history of our all-volunteer force, serving tour after tour, year after year.

Through their extraordinary service they have written their own chapter in the American story. And by any measure they have earned their place among the greatest of generations.

Now, one of those chapters is nearing an end. As a candidate for president I pledged to bring the war in Iraq to a responsible end. (Applause) Shortly after taking office I announced our new strategy for Iraq and for a transition to full Iraqi responsibility.

And I made it clear that by August 31st, 2010, America's combat mission in Iraq would end. And that is exactly what we are doing, as promised and on schedule. (Applause) Already we have closed or turned over to Iraq hundreds of bases.

We're moving out millions of pieces of equipment in one of the largest logistics operations that we've seen in decades. By the end of this month we'll have brought more than 90,000 of our troops home from Iraq since I took office; more than 90,000 have come home. (Applause)

Today, even as terrorists try to derail Iraq's progress, because of the sacrifices of our troops and their Iraqi partners violence in Iraq continues to be near the lowest it's been in years.

And next month we will change our military mission from combat to supporting and training Iraqi security forces. In fact, in many parts of the country Iraqis have already taken the lead for security.

As agreed to with the Iraqi government, we will maintain a transitional force until we remove all our troops from Iraq by the end of next year. And during this period our forces will have a focused mission supporting and training Iraqi forces, partnering with Iraqis in counter-terrorism missions, and protecting our civilian and military efforts.

Now these are dangerous tasks. There are still those with bombs and bullets who will try to stop Iraq's progress and the hard truth is we have not seen the end of American sacrifice in Iraq.

But make not mistake, our commitment in Iraq is changing from a military effort led by our troops to a civilian effort led by our diplomats. And as we mark the end of America's combat mission in Iraq, a grateful America must pay tribute to all who served there. (Applause)

Remember, our nation has had vigorous debates about the Iraq war. There are patriots who supported going to war and patriots who opposed it. But there has never been any daylight between us when it comes to supporting the more than one million Americans in uniform who have served in Iraq, far more than any conflict since Vietnam.

These men and women from across our country have done more than meet the challenges of this young century, through their extraordinary courage and confidence and commitment these troops and veterans have proven themselves as a new generation of American leaders.

And while our country has sometimes been divided, they have fought together as one. While other individuals and institutions have shirked responsibility, they have welcomed responsibility. While it was easy to be daunted by overwhelming challenges, the generation that has served in Iraq has overcome every test before them.

They took to the skies and sped across deserts in the initial charge into Baghdad. And today we're joined by an infantryman who was there as a part of the 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Nicholas Bernardi is here. (Applause)

When invasion gave way to insurgency, our troops persevered block by block, city by city from Baghdad to Fallujah. As a driver in a transportation company this soldier endured constant attacks but never wavered in his mission and we thank Sergeant Dan Knabe. Thank you, Dan. (Applause)

When terrorists and militias plunged Iraq into sectarian war, our troops adapted and adjusted, restoring order and effectively defeating Al Qaeda in Iraq on the battlefield. And among those who served in those pivotal days was a scout with the First Calvary Division, Specialist Matt Sydal, Matt. (Applause)

For each of these men and women there are countless others and we honor them all: our young enlisted troops and non-commissioned officers who are the backbone of our military, the National Guardsmen and Reservists who served at unprecedented deployments, more women tested by combat than any war in American history, (Applause) including a Marine here today, Sergeant Patricia Ruiz, Patricia. (Applause)

I teased Patricia. I said she looks like she's still in high school. But she's a Marine. And we salute the families back home. They, too, have sacrificed in this war. (Applause)

That's why my wife, Michele, and the vice president's wife, Doctor Jill Biden, have made it their mission to make sure America takes care of our remarkable military families, including our veterans. (Applause)

Now, this summer tens of thousands of our troops in Iraq are coming home. Last week Vice President Biden was at Fort Drum to help welcome back members of the legendary Tenth Mountain Division. Families are being reunited at bases across the country from Fort Bragg in North Carolina to Fort Riley in Kansas to Fort Lewis in Washington.

And in this season of homecomings every American can show their gratitude to our patriots who served in Iraq. As we do we are humbled by the profound sacrifice that has been rendered. Each of the veterans I have mentioned carried with them the wounds of this war.

And as a nation we will honor forever all who gave their lives, that last true measure of devotion, in service in Iraq: soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coast guardsmen, active, guard, reserve.

Even as we end the war in Iraq, even as we welcome home so many of our troops, others are still deployed in Afghanistan. So I want to remind everyone, it was Afghanistan where Al Qaeda plotted and trained to murder 3,000 innocent people on 9-11.

It is Afghanistan and the tribal regions of Pakistan where terrorists have launched other attacks against us and our allies. And if Afghanistan were to be engulfed by an even wider insurgency, Al Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates would have even more space to plan their next attack. And as President of the United States I refuse to let that happen. (Applause) The effort in Afghanistan has been long and been difficult.

And that's why after years in which the situation had deteriorated I announced a new strategy last December, a military effort to break the Taliban's momentum and train Afghan forces so that they can take the lead for their security, and a civilian effort to promote good governance and development that improves the lives of the Afghan people, and deeper cooperation with Pakistan to root out terrorists on both sides of the border.

We will continue to face huge challenges in Afghanistan. But it's important that the American people know that we are making progress and we are focused on goals that are clear and achievable.

On the military front nearly all the additional forces that I ordered to Afghanistan are now in place. Along with our Afghan and international partners we are going on the offensive against the Taliban, targeting their leaders, challenging them in regions where they had free reign, and training Afghan national security forces. (Applause)

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our troops risking their lives for our safety in Afghanistan. And on the civilian front we're insisting on greater accountability. And the Afghan government has taken concrete steps to foster development and combat corruption, and to put forward a reintegration plan that allows Afghans to lay down their arms.

In Pakistan we've seen the government begin to take the fight to violent extremists within its borders. And major blows have been struck against Al Qaeda and its leadership. Because in this region and beyond we will tolerate no safe haven for Al Qaeda and their extremist allies.

We will disrupt, we will dismantle and we will ultimately defeat Al Qaeda. (Applause) And we will give our troops the resources and the equipment to get the job done and to keep our country safe. (Applause)

At the same time, every American who has ever worn the uniform must also know this, your country is going to take care of you when you come home. (Applause) Our nation's commitment to our veterans, to you and your families, is a sacred trust.

And to me and my administration upholding that trust is a moral obligation. It's not just politics. That's why I've charged Secretary Shinseki with building a 21st Century VA. (Applause) And that includes one of the largest percentage increases to the VA budget in the past 30 years. (Applause)

We are going to cut this deficit that we've got and I've proposed a freeze on discretionary domestic spending. But what I have not frozen is the spending we need to keep our military strong, our country safe and our veterans secure. (Applause) So we're going to keep on making historic commitments to our veterans. (Applause)

For about 200,000 Vietnam vets who may have been exposed to Agent Orange and who now suffer from three chronic diseases, we're making it easier for you to get the health care and benefits you need. (Applause) For our Gulf War veterans, we've declared that nine infectious diseases are now presumed to be related to your service in Desert Storm. (Applause)

For our disabled veterans, we've eliminated co-pays for those of you who are catastrophically disabled. (Applause) We've kept our promise on concurrent receipt by proposing legislation that would allow severely-disabled retirees to receive your military retire pay and your VA disability benefits. It's the right thing to do. (Applause)

We've dramatically increased funding for veterans' health care across the board and that includes improving care for rural veterans and women veterans. (Applause) For those half-million vets who have lost their eligibility, our Priority 8 veterans, we're restoring your access to VA health care. (Applause)

And since the rumors continue to fly, even though they are wrong, let me say it as clearly as I can. The historic health care reform legislation that I signed into law does not – I repeat, does not – change your veterans’ benefits. The VA – (Applause) – the VA health care benefits that you know and trust are safe and that includes prosthetics for our disabled veterans. (Applause)

Thanks to advanced appropriations the delays for funding of veterans’ medical care are over. And just as those delays were unacceptable, so, too, are long delays in the claims process. (Applause) So Secretary Shinseki is working overtime to create a single, lifetime electronic record that our troops and veterans can keep for life.

And, today, today I can announce that for the first time ever veterans will be able to go to the VA website, click a simple blue button, and download or print your personal health records so you have them when you need them and can share them with your doctors outside the VA. That’s happening this fall. (Applause)

We’re hiring thousands of new claims processors to break the backlog once and for all. And to make sure the backlog doesn’t come back we’re reforming the claims process itself with new information technologies and a paperless system.

(Whereupon, someone called “Amen” from the audience.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA: We got an “Amen” over here. As a result of innovation(sic) competition that I announced last summer, our dedicated VA employees suggested more than 10,000 new ways to cut through the red tape and the bureaucracy. And we’re already putting dozens of these innovative ideas into action.

Additionally, we’re enabling more veterans to check the status of their claims online and from their cell phone. As a next step we’re opening this competition to entrepreneurs and academics so the best minds in America can help us develop the technologies to serve our vets, including those of you with multiple traumatic injuries.

And we’re going to keep at this until we meet our commitment to cut those backlogs, slash those wait times, and deliver your benefits sooner. This is a priority and we are going to get it done. (Applause)

We’re making progress in ending homelessness among our veterans. Now, today, on any given night there are about 20,000 fewer veterans on the streets than there were when we took office. But we’re not going to be satisfied until every veteran who has fought for America has a home in America. (Applause) We will not stop.

Finally, we’re keeping faith with our newest veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. We’re offering more of the support and counseling they need to transition back to civilian life. That includes funding the Post-9-11 GI Bill which is already helping more than 300,000 veterans and family members pursue their dream of a college education. (Applause)

And for veterans trying to find work in a very tough economy we’re helping with job training and placement. And I’ve directed the federal government to make it a priority to hire more veterans, including disabled veterans. (Applause)

And every business in America needs to know our vets have the training, they’ve got the skills, they have the dedication, they are ready to work and our country is stronger when we tap the incredible talents of our veterans. (Applause)

For those coming home injured, we’re continuing to direct unprecedented support to our wounded warriors in uniform, more treatment centers, more case managers, delivering the absolute best care available.

For those who can, we want to help them get back to where they want to be – with their units. And that includes service members with a disability who still have so much to offer our military.

We’re directing unprecedented resources to treating the signature wounds of today’s wars: traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. And I recently – I recently signed into law the Caregivers and Veterans’ Omnibus Health Services Act.

That’s a long name but let me tell you what it does. It not only improves treatment for traumatic brain injury and PTSD, it gives new support to many of the caregivers who put their own lives on hold to care for their loved one. (Applause)

And as so many of you know, PTSD is a pain like no other, the nightmares that keep coming back, the rage that strikes suddenly, the hopelessness that’s led too many of our troops and veterans to take their own lives.

So today I want to say in very personal terms to anyone who is struggling, don’t suffer in silence. It’s not a sign of weakness to reach out for support; it’s a sign of strength. Your country needs you. We are here for you. We are here to help you stand tall. Don’t give up. Reach out. (Applause)

We're making major investments in awareness, outreach, and suicide prevention, hiring more mental health professionals, improving care and treatment. For those of you suffering from PTSD we're making it a whole lot easier to qualify for VA benefits. From now on if a VA doctor confirms a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, that is enough, no matter what war you served in. (Applause)

These are the commitments my administration has made. These are the promises we've worked to keep. This is the sacred trust we have pledged to uphold to you and all who serve.

I want to make special mention of a truly inspiring American, Staff Sergeant Cory Remsburg. He was at Bethesda during one of my periodic visits to see our wounded warriors. And as I walked into his room I saw a picture on the wall and it was a picture of the two of us together.

See, I had met Corey before, back at the D-Day Anniversary in Normandy. Good looking young man. A proud Army Ranger. He had joined in a re-enactment of that historic paratroop jump. Then soon after Corey served on his tenth deployment since 9-11. That's right, his tenth deployment.

That's when an IED nearly took his life. The traumatic brain injury was severe. Corey was in a coma for months. It seemed possible that he would never wake up. But then something happened. His doctors still can't explain it. His parents call it "a miracle." Corey opened one of his eyes.

Then a few weeks later he moved a leg. Then he moved an arm. And there at Bethesda we were meeting again. Corey still couldn't speak but he looked me in the eye. He lifted his arm and he shook my hand firmly. And when I asked how he was feeling, he held up his hand, pulled his fingers together, and gave a "thumb's up." (Applause)

Today Corey is at a VA hospital in Florida. And with the support (Applause) with the support of his family and VA staff he is working hard every day to regain his strength. He has got to learn to speak all over again. He's grateful for the visits he's received from friends and supporters, including the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

And Corey's only 27 years old. And he knows he's got a long and very hard road ahead. But he pushes on. And he's determined to get back to his fellow Rangers. And when someone at the hospital said, "Corey, you're going to walk out of here someday" he said, "No, I'm going to run out of here." (Applause)

So to Staff Sergeant Cory Remsburg, to the Disabled American Veterans, I want to say to all of you, you are the very essence of America, the values that sustain us as a people and the virtues our nation needs most right now and the resilience that in the face of great loss so many of you experience. I know you, like Corey, know what it means to "pick yourselves up" and keep pushing on.

And that sense of purpose that tells us to carry on, not just when it's easy but when it's hard, even when the odds seem overwhelming, that's what we're about, the confidence that our destiny is never written for us, it's written by us, the faith, that fundamental American faith that there are always brighter days ahead, that we will not simply endure but we will emerge from our tests and trials and tribulations stronger than before.

That is your story. That is America's story and I'm proud to stand with you as we write the next proud chapter in the life of the country we love. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause)

(Whereupon, President Obama left the stage to shake hands with members before leaving the Convention.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Please take your seats. Please take your seats so that we may conclude the session. I will now ask Adjutant Art for some comments and some announcements, please.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I don't have any.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Having no announcements I will ask Chaplain Edwards for a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Our God, we thank You for the opportunities and challenges of life that help us to develop character, courage, and conviction. We realize that our efforts are insufficient without Your help, our achievements are incomplete without Your blessings, for You bless all of us with wisdom and understanding that we might accomplish the mission which is ours, building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

Now may the strength of God sustain us, may the power of God preserve us, may the hand of God protect us and may the shield of God defend us. And may God bless all of the men and

women who are members of our great organization, the Disabled American Veterans. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of “Amen.”)

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Convention stands in recess until 9:30 Tuesday morning. Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 12:08 o’clock, p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2010.)

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THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

August 3, 2010

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The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 89th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday morning, August 3, 2010, and was called to order at 9:31 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Convention will come to order. Again, I would like to remind everyone to please turn off your cell phones. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Two. At this time I will ask Chaplain Edwards for prayer, please.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Almighty and everlasting God, who has brought us to the beginning of this day, be with us as we strive to accomplish the tasks before us today. Bless our minds with wisdom and understanding. Bless our hearts with love and patience. And bless our whole beings with strength and endurance.

We especially pray this morning that Your guidance will be with us to the end that we may, each of us, firmly uphold the great principles of the Disabled American Veterans: service, quality, integrity, leadership. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: I would like to remind you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the chair. Only those delegates at the telephone(sic) will be recognized. Upon being so recognized the delegate must state his or her name, your Chapter number, the state you represent and the mic that you are speaking from.

I would like to call on the Credentials Committee for a report, Chairman Donald Day, please.

MR. DAY: Comrade Commander, the Credentials Committee met this morning in the Dunwoody at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel. Roll call showed 1,227 delegates and 31 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at 4:00 p.m. on 8/2/2010.

At the present time we have 471 Chapters, 44 Departments, 27 National Officers, 9 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,227 delegates and 31 alternates, and a total vote of 8,582. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Don. This is also a reminder that registration for the Convention closes at 10:00 a.m. this morning. Now I would now like to call upon the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman for his final report, Brad.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Comrade 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. In the interest of time, again, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 263, change Convention Rule 7A to require Departments and Chapters to provide resolutions to the office of the National Adjutant not later than 14 days prior to the National Convention instead of 10;

Resolution Number 264, revise Convention Rule 9A to clarify the procedure for a proponent of a resolution not favorably considered by a Convention Committee to have the resolution called up for consideration;

Resolution Number 265, eliminate Article VI, Section 6.4, Paragraph 7, in its entirety;

Resolution Number 266, amend Article XIV, Section 14.8, to include National Fundraising Program distributions as an additional method for the National Adjutant to withhold funds from the Departments who are indebted to the National organization;

Resolution Number 267, remove the word "salvage" in Article XV, Section 15.3, Paragraph 10, in order to comply with recent changes of NEC Regulation 2;

Resolution Number 268, move Article XVI, Section 16.3, Paragraph 2 to Article XVI, Section 16.1, Paragraph 1, and add language which will require the Department Commander to state reasons for temporary suspension of a member and include all supporting documentation to the National Commander for consideration and require that any disciplinary action investigation be concluded within 90 days;

Resolution Number 269, renumber Section 16.1, Paragraph 1 to Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 2 to Paragraph 3 in order to accommodate the adoption of Number 268;

Resolution Number 270, refer to Paragraph 2 and amended Paragraph 3 of Section 16.1. This is a housekeeping requirement due to the adoption of Resolution Number 269; Resolution 271, eliminate Article XVI, Section 16.2 in its entirety;

Resolution Number 272, move Section 16.3 to 16.2 and Section 16.4 to Section 16.3 and Section 16.5 to Section 16.4. This is another housekeeping requirement due to the adoption of Resolution Number 271;

Resolution Number 273, amend what is currently 16.5 to read, "The decision and penalty imposed shall be final unless the penalty determined by the State Executive Committee and approved by the National Commander is expulsion, in which event it shall be final unless a written notice of appeal to the National Executive Committee stating the grounds therefore is filed by certified, return receipt requested with the National Adjutant within 30 days after mailing notice of the penalty to the member";

Resolution Number 274, add as Article V, Section 5.2, District meetings. Meetings of the National Districts are not required other than for the purposes defined in Section 3.12;

Resolution Number 275, amend Section 8.3, Paragraph 2 to include the words "or control" as it pertains to property of the Department;

Resolution Number 276, amend Section 9.2, Paragraph 2 to include the words "or control" as it pertains to the property of the Chapter;

Commander, this completes the second reading of the resolutions proposed by the Committee for adoption, on behalf of the Committee I move that the Committee recommendation be accepted, that the resolutions be adopted, and the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Brad. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. ROLLY D. LEE SENIOR: Comrade Commander, Mic 6.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 6.

MR. LEE: Rolly Lee, Department of Michigan, District 10, home of the up-and-coming Detroit Lions, seconds that motion. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: 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 signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Brad.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Ladies and gentlemen, we are living in a time of war. As we go about our daily lives blessed with the freedom and the opportunities that we have, we must remember the brave men and women who are defending that very freedom in foreign and hostile lands. Join me as we watch this moving video tribute called "Until Then."

(Whereupon, the video Until Then was viewed.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Please join me in a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Until then, our comrades. At this point I'd like to invite the Segs4Vets up for a presentation.

COLONEL AL KISLER: I don't think that was cricket making me follow this. This is going to be tough. I've got that thing in my throat. Still up here. It's going to take me a minute to gather my thoughts. But, anyway, I want to thank Commander Barrera, Adjutant Wilson, National Officers, and members for allowing Segs4Vets to be a part of your 2010 Convention.

I'm a volunteer for a grassroots, non-profit organization called Segs4Vets. During the past five years we have provided 475 Segways to veterans, disabled Americans, coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

We're an all-volunteer organization. We have no paid employees. Our pay comes from watching a disabled veteran step up on that Segway for the first time, get his mobility back, and then the tears come.

We're funded 100 percent by donations. We do not get any government money or have asked for any. It's from Americans such as yourself who provide us with those funds. You give us a buck, the buck goes for a Segway. We do not take anything off the top.

This past March we were doing a presentation, we had a presentation in San Diego. At that time Justin Bond, who I will introduce to you shortly, brought Past Commander Steese to San Diego and at that time we got our first real introduction to disabled veterans, to the DAV.

George, I guess, didn't think he did a good enough job in San Diego so he brought Commander Barrera down to San Antonio in April and we got the full blunt of the DAV. And I'm telling you, we were impressed.

Not only that, we were fortunate to have two American patriots from the DAV represent the DAV at our presentation in front of the Alamo and I thank you for coming to that presentation. But I did not really understand what the DAV was or what it did until I came to this Convention.

I come to the Convention, I had the opportunity to talk to many members, officers, and I found out what you did for the homeless, what you did to get benefits back for the veterans, and also what you've done to influence Congress for benefits for the veterans out in the future and that's important.

As you know, as medical technology moves to the right people are going to be living out 50-60-70 years so we've got veterans that we need to support out to 2060, 2070 and even 2080 that are fighting in this war. So what we do today and what we put in place today is what's going to support those guys.

Our predecessors put a program together for us and for us to benefit and you folks, and because of you, have made that program better. But we're going to have to leave a footprint on the ground that's better than that, than what was left for us, so these guys will have something. And let's hope that they don't have to do the same damn thing.

Our goal as Segs4Vets is to get, to get the two-wheeled device recognized by the VA as a mobility device that can be used by disabled veterans. We're having a problem with that issue and DAV is supporting us in getting that done and I want to thank you, Commander, for that support.

In closing, before I introduce Justin Bond, I want to tell you, I want to thank you and all your members at home – and please take the message home – for your support of Segs4Vets. Without you guys we couldn't get it done. Justin. Thanks for your time. (Applause)

MR. JUSTIN BOND: Good morning fellow DAV veterans.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. BOND: I'm a proud member now. Commander Steese found me and brought me into a meeting and they had pizza there and I was hooked. (Laughter) So he also made me promise that I was going to be here and I was going to help out in the organization and I did.

I found this Colonel Al and wasn't sure if he was disabled so I took him out back and beat him up a little bit and now he's disabled. So we got him in here. He signed up at the Convention and he's a Life Member, too.

I was presented with this Segway about a year ago and I thought it was a toy. I was like, all right, I got a cool toy, this is pretty neat. And one day it wasn't there for me; I didn't charge the battery.

And my family was walking in Yosemite and they were going up all the hills and stuff and I just couldn't go and I couldn't do it on my leg and I couldn't do it in my wheelchair and crutches can't go up big hills like that and so I sat in the car. And at that point I realized what it meant to me.

And as I was sitting in the car I realized, man, in the Segway I'm sitting up, I'm standing up and I'm not sitting down in a wheelchair. And so it's better for my system and there was just so many benefits. And then my – and then I started realizing how good it was for my family.

I could go around. I could go shopping with them. I could take the kids to the zoo. I could take – I could go to museums and parks. And I could get around without walking. The Army gave me – the VA gave me a leg. I could do a half-a-mile to a mile and that's about it.

When I got this Segway I could go all day long. And if I plug it in at lunch I could go all night. And then when I get home I still have energy for my kids and my family. It is life-changing.

As Colonel Al here was talking, we're fighting for you guys. I saw how much it changed my life and so I came on the organization volunteering full-time now and traveling around because I feel so bad for what has happened to the Vietnam vets in the past and they didn't get those "thank you's" for the longest time. And I can see that so many of you can use this Segway.

And so full-time now I'm going and I'll be working with whoever I have to, to make this happen to where the VA picks it up or we can get enough funding to get them out to all of you. And I've promised a few of you that already. And so, anyway, today it is my honor to stand up here in front of you and David Riley – he doesn't know this is happening.

(Whereupon, DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year David Riley joined Justin Bond at the podium.)

MR. BOND: On behalf of Segs4Vets it is my honor to be able to present you with a brand new Segway. This is a special case. (Standing Ovation) David did not know this was happening. He thought he was going to get trained on one. I told him in the next year we're going to try and get you one.

But he did the full training course. He learned how to take it apart and everything. And yesterday he toured the Coca-Cola Factory on it and went around town and he's a trainer already on it. He can start training you guys, now. (Laughter)

And it's life-changing. He goes, "Justin, I'm not in pain." We went like four or five miles. He goes, "I'm not in any pain. I don't need my pain medicine and I can travel around." And it's amazing. (Applause)

Now, this is a special case. Our protocol – what's set up with Segs4Vets with the board, it has to stay with OIF/OEF. We're trying to get that changed. But as it is, it's not. We have awarded a Vietnam vet and now to Dave Riley on a special case.

And we had to go get board approval and go get extra funding to do it from the side. But – and we are working for you guys. Believe me, I'm working hard for you guys so that this can happen for everybody. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Wow. Thank you so much. And thanks, David. Pete Wheeler is the Georgia Commissioner for Veterans Affairs and a legendary leader known in this state and throughout the country for his commitment to the best interest of his constituents and of our community of veterans nationwide.

Commissioner Wheeler served as an infantryman in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946 before joining the Georgia Army National Guard. In 1978 he retired as a brigadier general. He is an attorney and a graduate of the University of Georgia.

He has served on the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, as chair of the National World War II Memorial Advisory, and is a member of the United States Veterans Advisory Commission. Having served the State of Georgia under 11 governors, Commissioner Wheeler has earned numerous awards at the state and national levels by veterans' service and by other organizations.

He is definitely a long-time friend of the DAV and a life member of Chapter 1 here in Atlanta. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to a great man and one of Georgia's all-time leaders of veterans' issues, Commissioner Pete Wheeler. (Standing Ovation)

COMMISSIONER PETE WHEELER: Thank you very much, National Commander Barrera. My fellow DAV veterans, it's always an honor for me to have the opportunity to be among men and women who love that flag over there and all it stands for and all it represents and who appreciate the opportunity of living in the greatest country in the world, the United States of America. (Applause)

I first want to congratulate you on the selection of Barry Owenby to build that beautiful monument for the Disabled American Veterans that you're building now in Washington, D.C. He did a wonderful job for us at the World War II Memorial, as you know if you've been there. And if you haven't been there, go by and visit it.

We have a secret on the back that people didn't know – we don't know how it got there but everybody is happy he's there. "Kilroy" is engraved on the back of the World War II Memorial and nobody knows how he got there but everybody is happy he is there. (Applause)

I think, I think Barry Owenby probably knows or he won't admit it but he knows. And he was here earlier in the Convention and he will do a great job for you in building the, our monument there for disabled American veterans.

I've been honored to be a member of this organization which I'm extremely proud of since 1946. And I'm proud to be a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause) I salute you on all that you do and have done and will do for the veterans that we have now and the ones that we will have defending our great country.

You do a great job and it's an honor and a pleasure to work with you on a daily basis. And working together we can do anything we want to do if we stick together and work for the veterans of this nation. (Applause)

I want to present to the National Commander a commission in the Georgia military, making him a colonel in the Georgia Army. And the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy militia, the governor of the state of Georgia, Governor Sonny Perdue and I'd like to present this commission to him at this time. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commissioner Wheeler presented Commander Barrera with an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Certificate.)

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: Not through yet. We have a constitutional board. It's written into the Constitution of Georgia. We have a State Board of Veterans Service.

And the board, State Board of Veterans Service and the Department of Veterans Service would like to present to the National Commander a Certificate of Appreciation for all that he has

done and the Disabled American Veterans organization have done to help the veterans of this state and nation. (Applause) Commander.

(Whereupon, Commissioner Wheeler presented Commander Barrera with a Certificate of Appreciation.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, sir.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: It has been an honor to have you here in Georgia this week. We hope you will come back and visit many times. And I talked to the Auxiliary this morning and told them the secret formula of Coca-Cola.

That is the product that we are so proud of here in Atlanta, one of the many products. It's made out of holy water. (Laughter) And I asked them if they knew how to make holy water and they didn't. You boil the hell out of it. (Applause)

This is the largest state land-wise east of the Mississippi River and we always invite you here and we are proud of the fact that we have this great organization in Georgia, the Disabled American Veterans. And I am extremely proud to be a Life Member.

And come back and visit with us many times. And remember our great products here in Georgia when you are toasting anybody. It's better for you. Thank you very much. God bless you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. Of course, now you know I'm going to expect you to salute me every time you walk down the hallways. (Laughter) Thank you, Commissioner Wheeler for that honor, both honors. Fantastic.

At this point I ask you to join me in welcoming Imperial Golden Rodent Vernon Christian and Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Albert Sorrentino and the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats. (Boos)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats entered the room and advanced to the podium.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER ALBERT SORRENTINO: Good morning. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning" and "Boo.")

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Is there any rats in the house? (Booing and meowing) They must have had babies. (Laughter) We are so pleased to join you at your Convention, National Convention, the 86th National Convention.

(Response of "89th.")

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: I just fired my secretary. (Laughter) No, it's my fault, thank you. I'm only reading what she gave me.

UNIDENTIFIED TRENCH RAT: Our 86th.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Eighty-sixth, okay. I know. Like I said, thank you for having us. It's a pleasure for us to be with you to share this great, great Convention. I noticed something that happened in the last couple of days that really impressed us, that we've been looking forward for this in a long time, that we initiated women veterans in our organization. (Applause) And this is truly a start of our future.

At this time I would like to thank our National Commander Bobby Barrera and our National Adjutant Art Wilson for the support they have given us in the last year and many years before that.

If it wasn't for National DAV at a time of need, we wouldn't be on this podium today and they surely deserve a big hand from us. (Applause) We have changed for the better for our future. We have changed for other changes to come so we could grow with the DAV that means so much to us.

In the last year or so we've seen so many of our veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, the Middle East, hurt, confused, hoping, praying and I noticed veterans of all colors and creeds, from all states in our Union, helping, reaching out, letting them know they have a home, they have friends, they have family to come home to.

Because of your dedication and your devotion, what you have done for our veterans, the dedication that National has shown, the dedication that our NSOs through all the states have picked up and devoted their time and effort to make sure our veterans today and the veterans before them are well treated. Thank you. (Applause)

I have a resolution here.

"God has seen it in his infinite wisdom to call to the Great Beyond Frank Cummings; and

"WHEREAS, he did by his act and diligence as an Imperial Officer, helped lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service to the Disabled American Veterans;

“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at this 89th Rendezvous in Atlanta, Georgia, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of a hundred dollars as to a memorial to him to be placed in the trust account to the National Service Foundation of the Disabled American Veterans, the income of which, small, shall be used from time to time to maintain a nationwide rehabilitation activity of the Disabled American Veterans and their dependents;

May we always pray for our veterans, not only the ones that have fallen. May they always rest in peace in our hearts. I also have, National Commander, Bobby.

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera joined Mr. Sorrentino at the podium.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Bobby, from the National organization to the Columbia Trust Fund we are giving this year to you \$2,000. (Applause)

(Whereupon, on behalf of the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats Mr. Sorrentino presented Commander Barrera with a check.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so very much.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: And this year, for the first time, we are giving, Bobby, to the DAV Disabled for LIFE Memorial Fund that means a lot to all of us that are here, we are donating another \$2,000. (Applause)

(Whereupon, on behalf of the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats Mr. Sorrentino presented Commander Barrera with a check.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Before we hear from our new incoming Golden Rodent I would like to give a roll call of our newly-elected officers. Imperial Golden Rodent Jerry Ogle; (Boos) Imperial Silver Rodent Franklin Brown; (Boos) Imperial Blue Rodent Tim Hedgecock; (Boos)

Imperial Turquoise Rodent Dennis Thompson; (Boos) Imperial Bubonic Plague Mike O'Brien; (Boos) sounds like you're sleeping out there; Imperial Black Plaque Bob Bent; (Boos) hey, you're getting better; Imperial Iron Claw Bruce Novak; (Boos)

IMPERIAL IRON CLAW BRUCE NOVAK: Semper Fi. (Boo)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: You have to forgive him. (Laughter) Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer, myself, Albert Sorrentino; (Boo) how come I got the biggest? (Laughter) Imperial Bench Rat Bill Brzezinski; (Boo) ha-ha, beat you, Bill; Imperial Curer Rat, Fred Powers; (Boo) they like you, Fred;

Imperial Hole-y Rat, Herb Lewis; (Boo) Imperial Historic Rat Eric Jackson; (Boo) Imperial Nightingale – it's Gilbert Foster, he's very sick; he couldn't join us; Imperial Rendezvous Rat Michael Cox; he's in Louisiana; Imperial Executive Rat 2 Richard Robinson; (Boo)

Imperial Executive Rat 4 Donald Williams; (Boo) Imperial Executive Rat 5 Tim – my mind went blank – Birtle; (Boo) Imperial Executive Rat 6 Everington Howell; (Boo) Imperial Rat 7 David Tannenbaum; (Boo) Imperial Executive Rat 8 George Jones; he's excused, very sick;

Imperial Rodent 9 Charles Pettigrew; (Boo) Imperial Executive Rat 10 Jerry Cool; (Boo) Imperial Executive Rat 12 Bob Arens; (Boo) Imperial Executive Rat 13 Raymond Drake; (Boo) 14, Thomas Telando; (Boo) 15, Larry Miller; (Boo) 16, Robert Green; (Boo)

18, Bill Anton; (Boo) okay; 19, Dale Magden; (Boo) 21, Brian Barton; (Boo) Imperial Rodents Terry Flick; (Boo) that's Imperial 85; Imperial 84, Pete Buell; (Boo) 83, Albert Sorrentino; (Boo) 82, Joel Devenish; (Boo) 81, Michael Stokes; (Boo) 79, Bernie Wack-o-wack, Walkowiak; (Boo)

77, William Brzezinski; (Boo) you know the next guy; 76, Larry Polzin; (Boo) they like you, Larry; 75, Jimmy Foster, excused, very sick; 67, George Zozack, excused, very sick; Paul Pederson, very sick, excused; Douglas Jones, 57, excused; and 54, Coleman Hewitt, very sick also, excused.

At this time we will hear from our incoming Imperial Golden Rodent Jerry Ogle. (Applause)

INCOMING IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT JERRY OGLE: Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

INCOMING IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT OGLE: Isn't this a great Convention?

(Response of “Yes.”)

INCOMING IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT OGLE: Yes. National Commander, National Officers and staff, comrades all, the National Order of Trench Rats, we thank you for the opportunity to speak at this Convention.

The National Order of Trench Rats is not a new organization. We have finished our 86th year as chartered but 89 years in existence. (Applause) The National Order of Trench Rats was founded for the purpose of providing a closer bond by which ex-servicemen may be drawn

together for the future benefits of the disabled men and to provide funds and philanthropic order of the Disabled American Veterans and to aid and assist in its aims and purposes in every way possible.

The National Order of Trench Rats has had a reputation of being the playboys of the DAV. Now, I can assure you we are not playboys any more. We are now playboys and playgirls. (Applause) All right.

At this last National Convention the NOTR membership voted to welcome the disabled American women veterans to join our ranks. They have added a touch of class to our ranks and we are proud to have them and they are proud to be called "rats." (Applause)

Now the eligibility to be a rat is that you must be a member of the DAV who has been an active member of the DAV for two years and who by his or her personal work, aid, help, sacrifice, and the service, and service has to the Disabled American Veterans dependents and survivors.

If you are interested in joining the rats, ask a rat. Find out what it's all about. If you meet these qualification and they will invite you in if you do qualify. Or you can go on our Website which is NOTR. You can Google it. Just type in NOTR or National Order of Trench Rats and it will come up and you will find lots of information there.

The National Order of Trench Rats is a fun organization with funny titles, fezzes, and robes. But most of all we promote camaraderie, never forgetting we are disabled American veterans, that our loyalty and service and mission is to the veterans, wives and their families. We encourage you to join our ranks.

Commander Barrera, I, again, thank you for the opportunity to address this great organization. I can assure you that the National Order of Trench Rats stands ready to continue the support to the officers, the staff, of the Chapters, State Departments, and National. (Applause) And in closing, I leave you with our motto, Semper Idem, Semper Fidelis. (Applause)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Okay, before we go I would like to introduce our present Imperial Golden Rodent, Vernon Christian. (Boo)

IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT VERNON CHRISTIAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: His boss, Anita Christian. (Whereupon, Anita Christian was recognized with a round of applause.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Our secretary Eileen Delosh.

(Whereupon, Eileen Delosh was recognized with a round of applause.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: And my assistant in Palm Bay, Bernadette Sorrentino.

(Whereupon, Bernadette Sorrentino was recognized with a round of applause.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Thank you. (Applause) Thank you all. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the "Staying Alive" played as the National Order of Trench Rats withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: This year's Convention marks 15 years since Dick Marbes finished his –

ADJUTANT WILSON: Bang the gavel.

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera struck the gavel on the lectern to bring the Convention back to order.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: This year's Convention marks 15 years since Dick Marbes finished his first term as National Commander. And while for many that achievement marks a culmination of many years of service, it seems today like it was only a beginning for Past National Commander Marbes.

As an Air Force veteran, Dick lost his right leg in military service and was medically retired in 1958. Two decades after his injury his continued service in the DAV earned him recognition as the Department of Wisconsin's Disabled Veteran of the Year.

In 1991, he was named by his state's governor to represent all veterans on Wisconsin's State Board of Veterans Affairs. He continues to serve our community in his home state as a driver and as coordinator with the DAV Transportation Network program.

This May Dick was recognized by the VA for 12,500 hours of voluntary service and given the Outstanding Service Award. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to Dick Marbes, Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust. Dick. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN RICHARD E. MARBES: Was that good or bad? Commander Barrera, on behalf of the entire board of the Charitable Service Trust I thank you for those very, very kind

words of introduction. And I extend our gratitude to National Adjutant Art Wilson, our National Officers, and delegates and guests.

As chairperson, let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They include Vice Chairman Art Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum of Florida; and our Directors: National Commander Bobby Barrera, Gene Murphy of South Dakota, Dennis Nixon from Texas; and Jerry Steelman of Minnesota.

With the support of these Board members I am pleased to present our annual report for the year ended December 31, 2009, a year trial as the number of service-connected disabled veterans climbed well beyond three million.

As the DAV stands up to that trial in its 90th Anniversary year it is the privilege of the Charitable Service Trust to stand at the side of this great organization as it builds better lives for our disabled veterans and their families.

From the start that mission has guided the DAV Charitable Service Trust. It is not easy as the media respond to consumers who don't want to pay much attention to combat in Afghanistan or troops who face hostility in Iraq and Korea. Yet this remains a time of war and the trust faces an extraordinary challenge.

We must reach out to hundreds of thousands who come home bleeding, broken and psychologically wounded from service in today's armed forces and, at the same time, we must still bring innovative programs to those disabled in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf as well as such focused conflicts as Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Panama, and Grenada.

Yet if we have a duty to our comrades we face a hard truth as our troops return from war to a lukewarm welcome from the country they served. We've been in Afghanistan for nine years now, in Iraq for seven. People aren't paying attention as they once did and they're forgetting about the veterans.

Ninety years of DAV history has shown us how quickly the American people forget their heroes after the guns go silent. But this is the first time we've seen this trend kick in while our troops are still in the field. This cannot bode well for young disabled veterans who will still be fighting individual battles with the impact of war for decades to come.

As we celebrate the DAV's 90th birthday we must look back at our years of experience to see the threat that extends beyond our youngest brothers and sisters in arms. All of our benefits and programs could be swept away in this stream of apathy. That's why I thank you, my fellow members of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary.

You set the standard for service to our brothers and sisters on the national level, in our states, and in our community. I also thank the wonderful Americans who support our cause through gifts to the DAV Charitable Service Trust. Through the trust these generous friends bolster our services in so many ways.

Founded in 1986, the Trust is relatively young compared to the DAV but we share our parent organization's rich, 90-year heritage. In fact, we see ourselves as a natural extension of the DAV's vital work, moving into new and uncharted territory.

The Trust has never been able to replace every dollar slashed from veterans' programs over the years but we create great partnerships across America. We generate astonishing service for disabled veterans and their families. With your support we will continue to forge ahead to help our nation meet its obligations to its disabled defenders.

Massive casualties have come out of Iraq and Afghanistan since 9-11. The number of post-Vietnam disabled shot past 1.1 million during the past decade. These young men and women now make up over one-third of all service-connected veterans.

Serving these and all disabled veterans with outlays of \$4 million in 2009, the DAV Charitable Service Trust established a marvel of efficiency with the funds the American people entrusted to it.

We spent only 6 percent of our income on administration and fundraising during 2009. So fully – excuse me – 94 percent was spent on veterans and their families, a notable achievement for any non-profit organization. (Applause) But let's face it, my friends, the need is immense.

In 2009 Pentagon officials estimated that up to 360,000 veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq have endured traumatic brain injuries caused by roadside explosions, sniper attacks, and suicide bombings. Very few brain injuries result in purple hearts. They're almost never counted as "wounded in action." And the American people are denied the true picture of the human cost of war.

One of these heroes now has trouble remembering names and must use a global positioning system to find his way through his hometown right here in Georgia. This combat-injured marine embodies the lives of brain-wounded veterans from crippling migraines to vision troubles, from sleep disorders to memory lapses, and so much more.

The challenges of these and all disabled veterans must be addressed head-on. For one thing, we know that brain injuries and mental health issues are leading reasons why veterans make up a quarter of the homeless people in America.

And that's why you'll see so many programs for homeless veterans listed among the grants made by the Trust – support for shelters, rehab, stand downs, medical care and so much more for veterans who have no friends but you and me, nowhere to call a home of their own.

About 400,000 veterans experienced homelessness in 2009. With home foreclosures it's getting worse and the veterans are getting younger. The VA says 45 percent suffer mental disabilities. Women now make up 4 percent of homeless veterans.

And as you look at the programs we support, please notice how many enlist successful veterans as volunteers to help their less fortunate brothers and sisters. And that's critical because so often homeless veterans will put faith in a fellow veteran when they will trust no one else.

Dozens of the programs the Trust supports are down-to-earth projects that absolutely must get done. In other cases we bring new and novel approaches to mental health. We also frequently cooperate with the VA, teamwork that pays off for homeless veterans.

No issue is more important to troops returning to civilian life today than finding a good job. But employment among our youngest veterans exceeded 20 percent during 2009. And disabled veterans always suffer more than those without disabilities.

In response, the Trust brought services directly to unemployed disabled veterans through several programs, including some specifically aimed at women and homeless veterans. Programs of outreach to disabled veterans and their families not only receive significant support from individual supporters of the Trust in 2009, grants from corporations and foundations played a very significant role.

A Harley Davidson Foundation grant sent DAV Mobile Service Offices across the country to serve veterans and their families in towns and rural communities distant from our offices.

The Ford Motor Company continued its superb, long-term support of the DAV's National Transportation Network with a very significant contribution of vans to the DAV Charitable Service Trust. There was also a very special Ford Foundation grant to support the rehabilitation, rehabilitative programs through the Winter Sports Clinic.

And all along the way, often with a variety of partners, we continue to address the devastating impact of war-provoked mental illness on multiple fronts in our efforts to build a safe haven for our veterans' futures.

Providing solid rehabilitation opportunities remains an extremely high priority. In 2009 programs touched the lives of veterans who live with blindness, amputations and any number of other disabilities.

And, finally, because spouses and families often suffer the impact of war along with the veteran, the Trust has assisted where the government cannot completely fill the bill.

As I list all of these achievements, let me stress that none of us can rest on our laurels in this time of war and economic crisis. I hope I've conveyed the risk of war weariness among the American people. So we have to carry our own message and we have to seek out our own friends through every means possible, including the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

And let me stress that point as I thank our hardworking National Service Officers, Transitional Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators. When you return to your offices, remember that you work side-by-side with the government employees and military people who form the Trust's most important audience.

Help them understand how they can change the lives of our sick and wounded troops as well as all of our disabled veterans by pledging to the DAV Charitable Service Trust during the upcoming Combined Federal Campaign. Carry that message all year long at your workplace giving campaigns like the United Way, as well.

And let me add there is so much more Chapters, Departments and individual members can do as well. Just spread the word about responding to the needy and disabled veterans through the CFC and United Way.

And I would like to acknowledge the administrator of the Trust, Nancy O'Brien and her very, very capable staff at the National Headquarters for the work that they do in our day-to-day operations to make the trust perform as exceptionally well as it does.

And let me thank you once again. As the DAV celebrates its 90th birthday, I'm deeply grateful for your support of the Trust and its work. And I thank you in the name of every veteran whose life we touched last year.

Commander Barrera, this concludes my report. God bless each and every one of you. (Applause)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and
Independent Auditors' Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Charitable Service Trust:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust") as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Trust's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits 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 consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, 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 Trust at December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Deloitte : Touche LLP

March 31, 2010

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,052,792	\$ 960,662
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	34,867	57,104
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE — Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$528,501 in 2009 and \$474,419 in 2008	410,812	442,651
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	16,117	20,102
INVESTMENTS — Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of \$6,941,576 and \$6,224,432 for 2009 and 2008, respectively (Note 4)	<u>15,021,154</u>	<u>12,465,573</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 16,535,742</u>	<u>\$ 13,946,092</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable — DAV	\$ 238,259	\$ 215,379
Accounts payable — other	278	63
Annuity payment liability (Note 4)	<u>4,463,431</u>	<u>4,418,578</u>
Total liabilities	4,701,968	4,634,020
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS (Note 4)	<u>11,833,774</u>	<u>9,312,072</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 16,535,742</u>	<u>\$ 13,946,092</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	Unrestricted	
	2009	2008
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:		
Contributions — net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$545,839 in 2009 and \$455,546 in 2008	\$ 4,185,437	\$ 5,791,669
Contributions of charitable gift annuities	276,704	971,465
Bequests	752,944	945,567
Interest and dividend income — net	213,773	355,929
Loss on sale of investment securities	(238,885)	(217,870)
Total support and revenue	<u>5,189,973</u>	<u>7,846,760</u>
EXPENSES:		
Program services	3,786,152	5,488,605
Management and general	67,445	61,498
Fundraising	<u>197,318</u>	<u>181,566</u>
Total expenses	<u>4,050,915</u>	<u>5,731,669</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	1,139,058	2,115,091
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	<u>1,382,644</u>	<u>(2,048,932)</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	2,521,702	66,159
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>9,312,072</u>	<u>9,245,913</u>
NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 11,833,774</u>	<u>\$ 9,312,072</u>

See notes to financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	2009	2008
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 2,521,702	\$ 66,159
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments	(1,382,644)	2,048,932
Loss on sale of investment securities	238,885	217,870
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	22,237	4,140
Campaigns' pledges receivable	31,839	(68,863)
Prepaid expenses and other	3,985	(3,858)
Accounts payable	23,095	12,811
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,459,099</u>	<u>2,277,191</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(6,642,987)	(14,279,375)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>5,231,165</u>	<u>10,491,924</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,411,822)</u>	<u>(3,787,451)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from contributions restricted for investment subject to annuity agreement	809,296	1,266,719
Payments to annuitants	<u>(764,443)</u>	<u>(705,403)</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>44,853</u>	<u>561,316</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	92,130	(948,944)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>960,662</u>	<u>1,909,606</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 1,052,792</u>	<u>\$ 960,662</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

1. ORGANIZATION

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the “Trust”) is a not-for-profit service organization, formed under the laws of the District of Columbia for the purpose of receiving and disbursing funds for the betterment and improvement of the nation’s disabled veterans and their families.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements — The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year classifications.

Income Recognition — The Trust is a member of Independent Charities of America (ICA) and Military, Veterans and Patriotic Service Organizations of America (MVPSOA). ICA and MVPSOA are charitable agency federations, certified by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC), as well as state and corporate workplace giving campaigns. The Trust recognizes contribution revenue as an increase in unrestricted net assets when notification of the campaign designations is received and also recognizes an allowance for uncollectible pledges. Pledge receivables that are outstanding for more than one year are written off in their entirety. Pledges receivable of \$410,812 are expected to be received in 2010. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MVPSOA during 2009 and 2008, the Trust was assessed a portion of MVPSOA’s annual operating budget based on the relative amount of total pledges made to the Trust compared with the sum of all member agency pledges. Pledges designated to MVPSOA (versus a member agency) and other revenue, such as interest income, are shared among all member agencies in this same proportion. Therefore, if MVPSOA’s revenue exceeds expenses, the member agencies share the excess income. This excess income is distributed in the following year. The Trust recognizes such distribution as an increase in unrestricted net assets when received. The Trust received \$174,442 and \$146,206 in 2009 and 2008, respectively, for excess income recognized by MVPSOA in 2008 and 2007.

Contributions and Bequests — Contributions and bequests received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. The Trust recognizes contributions and bequests with donor-imposed restrictions that are met in the same period as unrestricted contributions and bequests. The Trust received noncash contributions of \$18,575 in 2009 and \$241,879 in 2008.

Income Taxes — As a not-for-profit service organization, the Trust has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions made to the Trust are tax deductible by the contributor.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* — an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109. This guidance was codified into Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, effective July 1, 2009. ASC Topic 740 clarifies the

accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. The Trust applied ASC Topic 740, beginning January 1, 2009, and noted no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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.

Cash and Cash Equivalents — The Trust considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents and are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Trust's checking accounts were \$1,326 and \$10,063 in 2009 and 2008, respectively. The Trust maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Trust has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Investments in Securities — Investments include investment of contributions, charitable gift annuity agreements (see Note 4). Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Trust'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. The Trust's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents within its trust accounts reserved for charitable gift annuities as investments.

The cost and market value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2009 and 2008, are summarized below:

			Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
2009	Cost	Market	
Cash	\$ 5,294	\$ 5,294	\$ -
Money market investments	4,537,004	4,537,004	-
Other short-term investments — variable rate notes	296,100	296,100	-
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	4,206,182	4,251,637	45,455
Common stock	3,908,598	4,008,767	100,169
Mutual funds	<u>1,837,904</u>	<u>1,922,352</u>	<u>84,448</u>
Total	<u>\$ 14,791,082</u>	<u>\$ 15,021,154</u>	<u>\$ 230,072</u>
2008			
Cash	\$ 4,670	\$ 4,670	\$ -
Money market investments	3,414,364	3,414,364	-
Other short-term investments — variable rate notes	501,700	501,700	-
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	4,197,383	4,347,712	150,329
Common stock	3,912,959	3,012,501	(900,458)
Mutual funds	<u>1,587,069</u>	<u>1,184,626</u>	<u>(402,443)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 13,618,145</u>	<u>\$ 12,465,573</u>	<u>\$ (1,152,572)</u>

The following are the major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively. Fair value is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1) and quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or quoted prices in markets that are not active for identical or similar instruments, and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets (Level 2). The Trust does not have any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3).

2009	Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value		
	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 5,294	\$ -	\$ 5,294
Money market investments	4,537,004		4,537,004
Other short-term investments — variable rate notes		296,100	296,100
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	3,028,276	1,223,361	4,251,637
Common stock	4,008,767		4,008,767
Mutual funds	1,922,352		1,922,352
Total assets	<u>\$ 13,501,693</u>	<u>\$ 1,519,461</u>	<u>\$ 15,021,154</u>
2008			
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 4,670	\$ -	\$ 4,670
Money market investments	3,414,364		3,414,364
Other short-term investments — variable rate notes		501,700	501,700
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	1,948,682	2,399,030	4,347,712
Common stock	3,012,501		3,012,501
Mutual funds	1,184,626		1,184,626
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,564,843</u>	<u>\$ 2,900,730</u>	<u>\$ 12,465,573</u>

Interest and dividend income is composed of interest and dividend income of \$260,696 and \$395,736, net of fees paid to trustees of \$46,923 and \$39,807, in 2009 and 2008, respectively.

3. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV personnel assist the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fund raising, and grants programs. For these personnel services, the Trust reimbursed DAV \$231,254 and \$208,737 in 2009 and 2008, respectively. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Trust owed the DAV \$238,259 and \$215,379, respectively. The DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities and equipment at no charge.

In 2009 and 2008, the Trust granted \$650,000 and \$700,000, respectively, to the DAV National Service Foundation, Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

In 2008, the Board of Directors distributed to the DAV National Service Foundation final funds received of \$425,317 from a bequest totaling \$34,962,120 to be available whenever needed for services to disabled veterans and their families.

In 2009, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	\$ 38,000
Mobile Service Office Program	1,000,000
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	25,000
National Transportation Network	200,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	163,980

In 2008, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	\$ 47,500
Mobile Service Office Program	250,000
Advocacy for care and treatment of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan	1,000,000
Transition Service Program	750,000
Disaster Relief efforts	500,000
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	25,000
National Transportation Network	200,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families in Alaska and Washington	50,257

In performing the duties of their positions, the DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of Directors of the Trust.

4. ANNUITY PAYMENT LIABILITY

The Trust enters into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. In the statements of activities, contributions of charitable gift annuities of \$276,704 and \$971,465 for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, is net of \$283,718 and \$152,264, respectively, of changes in assumptions related to such split interest agreements. The Trust recognizes an annuity payment liability as the present value of the future cash flows expected to be paid to the donors and their beneficiaries using a discount rate of 5% and 6%, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

There are various state statutes and regulations that govern not-for-profit entities that enter into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. As required by various state statutes and regulations, the Trust segregates the deposit of charitable gift annuity proceeds and reserves a portion for fulfillment of future annuity obligations. The required minimum balance of the reserve account is maintained and invested in accordance with the most stringent state statutes, the fair market value of which is \$5,214,998 and \$4,704,705 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California statute to maintain a segregated reserve for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California. The fair market value for this reserve account is \$1,726,578 and \$1,519,727 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The minimum required balance of the segregated account for California donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California statutes and regulations. The Trust also maintains the minimum amount of unrestricted net assets as required by any state for the acceptance of charitable gift annuities, which is \$1,000,000. The total unrestricted net assets that are subject to state statutes or regulations (calculated as the reserve funds (investments) less the annuity payment liability) amounted to \$2,478,145 and \$1,805,854 at December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Trust evaluated subsequent events through March 31, 2010, which is the date the financial statements were available for issuance.

* * * * *

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Dick.

MS. HOLLY C. HOPPE: Mic 3. Mic 3.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 3.

MS. HOPPE: Thank you. Holly Hoppe, immediate Past Commander, State of Wisconsin, a proud member of Dick Marbes' home chapter, I make a motion we accept his report.

COMMANDER BARRERA: May I have a second? May I have a second?

MR. LINDEN: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

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

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. We have a motion. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: The National Service Officer is a unique individual, but within this group of outstanding individuals there are a few that rise to the top. One of those individuals is Gary Burns. A combat-disabled Vietnam veteran who served with the 101st Airborne, Gary has given much of his life to assisting veterans.

After being wounded he was befriended by the late NSO John McPherson who gave him the opportunity to serve disabled veterans as a National Service Officer beginning on January 5th, 1970. His career as an NSO spanned 30 honorable years before his retirement in 2000. Gary served as Department Commander in Maine and is currently the Department of Maine Treasurer.

He has been a member of the National Service Foundation Board since 1996 and was elected president in 2001. Through his guidance and foresight he has helped build better lives for disabled veterans and their families for decades. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to present to you Mr. Gary Burns. (Applause)

PRESIDENT GARY BURNS: Thank you, National Commander Bobby Barrera, for your very kind introduction. Our National Adjutant Art Wilson, National Officers and delegates, as President of the DAV National Service Foundation it is honestly and sincerely a great pleasure to celebrate the 90th birthday of the Disabled American Veterans with my fellow members, with you, with my fellow members of the Foundation 2009-2010 Board of Directors.

The Vice President of the National Service Foundation is National Adjutant Arthur Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Joyner; and our Directors, please: National Commander Bobby Barrera; Sal Tornatore, my friend from the State of New York; Alan Bowers, another Red Sox fan from Massachusetts; Daniel Contreras, and Ray Dempsey from the State of Illinois Ex Officio Member and the Chair of the DAV's Board of Directors.

And I would be remiss, although it's not written here, if I didn't mention the nuts and bolts as far as what I do with this, the Foundation, who keeps me well-informed, Nancy O'Brien who this year is sitting down front. Thank you, Nancy.

Let me begin with the facts as they shape the mission and the future of the DAV National Service Foundation. First, the number of service-connected disabled veterans in America is rapidly rising, climbing from 2.1 million when America was attacked on 9-11-2001, to more than 3 million today.

Second, the number of disabled veterans who served after the Vietnam war now stands at 1.1 million, well over one-third of all service-connected disabled veterans.

Third, nearly four out of every ten veterans from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have filed claims with the VA. Take all that together and as our organization observes its 90th year of service to veterans and their families it's clear that the need for DAV's service is not going away. Instead, that need is rapidly growing.

It's expanding so fast you and I will have a tough time keeping pace during the last decade of the DAV's first century. There will be no end in sight for the mission of our Foundation as we move into the second century. Facing such urgent need we're deeply grateful for the \$1.7 million in donations and bequests the Foundation received in 2009.

In an excellent rebound from the financial troubles of the previous year, prudent investment allowed the Foundation's assets to swell beyond \$74.5 million -- \$74.5 million. You know, that would bail out the State of Maine's budget, for goodness sakes.

I'm pleased to report, also, the great efficiency within the Foundation. Our fundraising and administrative costs account for only 7 percent of our income, a fine achievement for any charity.

Such successes are crucial because the Foundation has a dual mission. Even as we help the DAV meet the immediate needs of all disabled veterans in a time of war and immense challenge, we must prepare for the future of those younger disabled veterans I just told you about.

Because no one can predict the future, the Foundation must look outward with a vision that includes both the short- and the long-term. And we must be good stewards of all the funds you entrust to this institution.

Last year the Foundation continued to support the DAV National Service Program in areas that impact all of our lives when we have claims before the VA. Appropriations included office furniture and equipment, replacement copiers and reference manuals for our National Service Offices; as well as support to expand veterans' representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims.

The Foundation also supported the development and production of Hallowed Grounds, a documentary highlighting 22 American overseas military cemeteries in eight different countries. The documentary aired as a PBS Primetime Special on Memorial Day 2009.

Another success involved the Columbia Trust. A powerful tool in fueling DAV's service, the Trust allows Chapters and Departments that are blessed with funds to help those that have few financial resources.

At year's end the funds in the Columbia Trust totaled \$1.5 million. From the Trust's formation in 1996 to year-end in 2009, nearly \$17.4 million has been granted to support: the National Transportation Network; Hospital Service Coordinators; Department Service Programs; and other essential service initiatives.

For that I thank you as individual members, Chapters and Departments. You continue to enhance the delivery of quality service through the Disabled American Veterans.

I also thank the DAV's National Organization. Let me remind everyone – and listen to this. Let me remind everyone that the National Organization matches every dollar you give to the Columbia Trust. It always has. It always has since we started this. (Applause) Thank you.

The National Order of Trench Rats Legislative Fund saw its assets end the year above \$215,000. It is my pleasure to present to National Commander Bobby Barrera, present to the Commander a check for \$6,071, the amount this fund earned last year. (Applause)

At the request of the Trench Rats – (Applause) thank you – this gift is restricted to support the DAV's National Legislation Program. Commander Barrera. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Gary Burns presented Commander Barrera with a check from the National Order of Trench Rats Legislative Fund.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Now, let me speak to you as an individual member of our organization. As I urge you to turn to the DAV National Service Foundation as a way to help our comrades in arms, let me ask you to review our Annual Report.

And that's this one right here. It's in your packet. You have one, I'm sure. There is a copy in the packet you received when you registered. In the back you'll see the list of the people and organizations the Foundation honored for making gifts during Calendar Year 2009.

Exceptional generosity earned 27 benefactors the highest level of prestige during 2009, a place or an upgraded position on our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors. Their gifts to the Foundation have received distinction through plates and stars on the plaques that line the walls of our National Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Most of these folks are individuals giving by themselves or through family foundations. Others are corporations or organizations. But right now I'd like to spotlight the Departments of Arkansas, Louisiana, Maine, and West Virginia. All reached new plateaus with gift totals in the five-figure range. Thank you.

And now allow me to recognize the Past Department Commander's Club of New York, New York State, for its generosity. Sal, thank you, sir. Let me also thank Minute Man Chapter 28 and Edgar Gilmore Chapter 64 in Massachusetts as well as Pitt County Chapter Number 37 in North Carolina, that gave \$1,000 or more last year. Thank you, folks.

What these Chapters and Departments did in 2009 will translate into DAV service in the year 2069. And the young veterans in this room, in this building, will need that service in their later years. As I hold these DAV entities up as examples let me also thank the individual members, couples, family foundations, companies and other organizations that earned special recognition.

In all, 125 took a place on the Grand Memorial Roll or attained a National Service Foundation Commendation during 2009. And 40 Chapters and Departments earned Certificates of Commitment during the past year.

I would urge you to look up their names in the Annual Report in your Convention packet, if you would, please. That report lists all who made a gift in 2009 and saw their fund total reach \$100 or more, \$100 or more, last year. Please check it out. See who supports our mission and join in thanking them for their dedication to the cause.

Finally, if you donated to the DAV National Service Foundation during 2009, this report is about you. It means you saw the need and responded during a year of change, challenge and great need. And I thank you.

Now let me highlight a particularly strong group of supporters and a bunch of guys and gals that are particularly close to me and that's DAV National Service Director Garry Augustine – newly-appointed, I might add, National Service Director Garry Augustine – and his team of National Service Officers all across this country.

NSOs are key players in the Foundation's initiative. Their steadfast commitment to excellence in service helped us attain great successes last year. And we honor our most outstanding achievers through the Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards. Garry, will you help me, please, honor these National Service Officers, Garry Augustine. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Service Director Garry J. Augustine joined President Burns at the podium.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Garry. Division 1, National Service Officer who has been up here before, William Gibney from Albany, New York, office with a contribution total of \$7,930.

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to William Gibney of the Albany, New York, office.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Please.

MR. WILLIAM GIBNEY: Thank you very much, Gary. And I'd like to express my appreciation to all of the service officers, Chapter Service Officers, Department Service Officers, and National Service Officers in the great State of New York who helped to make this possible. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: The next is Division 2, and National Service Officer Gregory Dubin from Muskogee, Oklahoma – he's new to the stage – whose gift total reached \$3,775. Congratulations, Gregory. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Gregory Dubin of the Muskogee, Oklahoma, office.)

MR. GREGORY DUBIN: I would also like to thank the Department of Oklahoma for their support, the National Service Office that I work in. This isn't my award. This is their award. Thank you all for your support. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Division 3 and a gentleman that's been up here several times, National Service Officer Len Harris, from Saint Louis who ended the year with total gifts – total gifts – of \$23,991. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Leonard K. Harris of the Saint Louis, Missouri, office.)

MR. LEONARD K. HARRIS: It's pretty easy for me to come up here with generous Chapters who support this cause. I'd like to recognize my entire Department and Chapter 2 and my own Chapter in Kansas City for the large donations they've made over the past few years. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Division Number 4 National Service Officer Bob Sinclair from our Boston National Service Office whose total was \$12,753. Unfortunately, Bob cannot be here with us this morning. Accepting on behalf of the supervisor in the Boston National Service Officer, Mr. Mason Sullivan, sir. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Mason Sullivan on behalf of Robert Sinclair of the Boston, Massachusetts, office.)

MR. MASON SULLIVAN: Thank you. I accept this award humbly on Bob's behalf and his 20 years of service to the DAV and the members of the Department of Massachusetts. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Division 5 is National Service Officer Jack Burlingame of our Cleveland, Ohio, office, a new visitor to the podium, with total gifts of \$5,895. Congratulations. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Jack Burlingame of the Cleveland, Ohio, office.)

MR. JACK BURLINGAME: On behalf of the Department of Ohio, the NSOs at the Cleveland Regional Office, and our Team Ohio concept, this is their award. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. It is through the claims work of our NSOs that veterans and their families come to see the immense value of DAV service. Their drive to carry

the Foundation's message to our members, Chapters and Departments is absolutely essential. The awareness they create is a seed that they nurture throughout its growth.

I also thank you as DAV members for everything you do to contribute to the success of the DAV National Service Foundation, to your future and the future of all disabled veterans and their families.

So, Commander Bobby, as is our tradition, I will now gratefully, gratefully accept donations from the Convention floor. Today's donations and those received throughout the National Convention will be placed in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, the Columbia Trust, or the Trench Rats Fund, as specified.

Allow me to begin by recognizing a generous \$300 contribution from Karl Ford of Texas. I thank you. And as you come forward, please clearly state your name and what state and the amount of the contribution, please. Thank you, again.

And that officially concludes my remarks. And now we'll accept donations. We've got the guys coming in this direction. Come right up. We're ready. Good morning.

MR. ROBERT MOFFITT: President Burns, I am Robert Moffitt from North Carolina. It is a pleasure to present to the National Service Foundation this contribution of \$1,500 from the Moral Rearmament League. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Moral Rearmament League.

MR. MOFFITT: Moral Rearmament League.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

PDC CHAD RICHMOND: PDC Chad Richmond from Alabama and on behalf of all of Alabama PDCs we'd like to present the National Service Foundation with a check for \$100 in memory of PDC Coy W. Mattox who passed on New Year's Day.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you sir. Appreciate it. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette from Chapter 20, the home state of our Commander, Bobby Barrera, would like to donate \$500 to the Disabled for LIFE Memorial in continuing support. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Good morning. Step right up, please.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Gary, I have four checks for you, two from the Department of Vermont, one for the Columbia Trust and one for the National Service Foundation for \$500 apiece.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Five hundred dollars apiece. (Applause) Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: And on behalf of the Department Commander, Winston Dowling, from the great State of Vermont, he has two checks from his Chapter for \$500 each for the National Service Foundation and –

PRESIDENT BURNS: Five hundred dollars each for the National –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Five hundred dollars for the National Service Foundation and \$500 for the Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. PAUL LIZOTTE: President Burns.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning. Step right up, please.

MR. LIZOTTE: Good morning. My name is Paul Lizotte from Chapter 6, J.F.K. out of Maine. We have a check for \$500 presented to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Paul.

MR. LIZOTTE: Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning, Jim.

MR. JIM S. GEHRING: Good morning. Jim Gehring, Chapter 10, the oldest Chapter in the State of Maine, \$400 for the National Service Foundation. Thanks, Gary.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Again, thank you. (Applause)

MR. GEORGE W. MATHIS: Good morning, Gary.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning, Commander.

MR. MATHIS: Good morning, George Mathis, State of Maine Commander. First of all, let's give our National people an applaud because they are the glue that hold this organization together, the National. (Applause) Thank you.

Gary, this morning I have four checks for you, one in the amount of \$150 from Chapter 19 in Sanford, Maine. I have a check for \$500, National Service Fund for Chapter 1 –

PRESIDENT BURNS: Tom McPherson Chapter –

MR. MATHIS: Tom McPherson. One, \$100 in Memory of Christine Burns; and a check from the State of \$1,000 which brings to a total of \$2,650 from the State of Maine.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. MATHIS: Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, gentlemen.

MR. DENNIS O'CONNELL: Good morning. My name is Dennis O'Connell. I'm the Commander of the Blind Veterans' National Chapter Number 1 who just celebrated their 85th Anniversary last February. (Applause) And on behalf of our Chapter I would like to present a check for \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. (Applause) Much appreciated. Next. Good morning.

MR. GARY A. CROSSLAND: Good morning. Gary Crossland, Past State Commander, California, I have one check, a personal check, to the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial for \$1,000 in memory of Ken Musselmann and we have Diane with us out there in the audience. Wave, Diane.

(Whereupon, Diane Musselmann waived from the audience and was greeted with a round of applause.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. CROSSLAND: I also have a check for the DAV National Service Foundation, a personal check of \$3,400. Nancy, I fulfilled my promise. So thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. ELDRA JACKSON: Good morning. I'm Eldra Jackson and I'm the Commander for Chapter 6 in Sacramento, California. And I'm presenting a check to the National Service Foundation for \$1,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. DAVID MAY: Good morning. David May, Department of Ohio State Commander, would like to present a check to the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation in honor of our Past Department Commander Joe Johnson and your Fourth Junior Vice Commander for National, Joe Johnson –

PRESIDENT BURNS: How much?

MR. MAY: Oh, in the amount of \$5,000.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Five thousand dollars. (Applause)

MR. MAY: I have a second check from my home Chapter, Department of Ohio, Alliance Chapter 50, for the Service Trust Foundation, Charitable Service Trust Foundation in the amount of \$1,200. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you kindly. Good morning.

MR. FRANK WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name is Frank Williams, Past Department Commander and current State Adjutant, Department of Ohio. I am currently the Commander of the third-oldest Chapter in all of DAV, Chapter, Capital City Chapter 3 in Ohio.

As we all know, this is the greatest veterans' organization in the world. And thanks to Judge Robert S. Marx, Chapter 1 was created 90 years ago in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Having said that I would like to issue a challenge to every Chapter and every state, specifically the Miami Hurricanes in Florida and the Michigan Wolverines in that state up north, to match what my Chapter, Chapter Number 3 in Ohio, is contributing to the National Disabled for LIFE Memorial. I have here a check for \$10,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning. Step right up here.

MR. DEANE L. SPRINGSTEAD: I'm Deane Springstead. I'm the Commander of the Empire State, State of New York. (Applause) I have, I have a check here for Charitable Service Trust in the amount of \$1,000 in the memory of the following Past Commanders of the State of New York: Paul Mazire; Milton Cohen; Michael Trezzi; Andrew Niebel; Doctor Carl Saint Jewel; Edward Sipple; Thomas Savage; John Vicette; Louis Yandine; and Michael Corinne.

I would also like to present a check to Columbia Trust in the amount of \$10,000. (Applause) And, thirdly, I would like to give this check to Disabled American Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation in the amount of \$25,000. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. MIKE COX: Good morning. I'm Mike Cox, Past Department Commander, Department of Louisiana. And on behalf of the Shreveport-Bossier Chapter 30 I would like to make three donations, also: the first to the National Service Foundation, check in the amount of \$10,000; (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Ten thousand dollars.

MR. COX: For the Columbia Trust I would also like to donate \$10,000; (Applause) and for the American Veterans for LIFE Memorial, ditto, \$10,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. CLIFFORD W. DILLARD: Airborne Cliff Dillard here from the State of Kansas. I have a \$300 check from the Chapter 11 in Salina, Kansas, and a \$500 check from the Department of Kansas. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. CARROLL E. PROSSER: Good morning. I'm Carroll Prosser. I'm the Senior Vice Commander, Department of South Carolina.

I'm also the Chapter Commander, Chapter 30, Grand Strand Chapter 30, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. And in honor of my platoon medic in Vietnam, Michael "Doc" Askew, who lives in Bossier City, Louisiana, I have a check for the American Disabled for LIFE Memorial for \$500. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning. Step right up, please. Good morning, sir.

MR. CLARENCE WOODS: Thank you, sir. Good morning. Clarence Woods from the State of Virginia. I'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Clarence. Good morning.

MR. FRED ADAMS: Good morning. My name is Fred Adams, Department of Rhode Island Commander. I'm donating a check for \$300. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Fred. Appreciate that.

MS. SHONTAY S. RAND: National Service Officer Shontay Rand, Senior Vice Commander of Chapter 21, I'd like to donate \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. MACARIO C. DIMAYUGA: Micario Dimayuga, Department of California, on behalf of the officers and members of San Diego Chapter, Dick Cosgriff Chapter 2, I would like to donate \$3,000 for Columbia Trust, and another \$3,000 for National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Much appreciated. Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. PAUL DORMIDA: Commander Paul Dormida, on behalf of the Department of New Jersey I'd like to donate a check for \$2,500 Columbia Trust –

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. DORMIDA: – and \$2,500 to the National Service Foundation and \$5,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic and also we've already sent a check to the Disabled American Veterans for LIFE Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Thank you, sir. Hi, John.

MR. JOHN E. MARKIEWICZ: Good morning. I'm John Markiewicz, Commander, Department of Florida. I have a check for the National Service Foundation in the amount of \$100 which we are donating in honor of our immediate Past Department Commander Jim Sursely. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning, Al.

MR. LINDEN: Good morning. Al Linden, Department Adjutant from the poor, struggling State of Florida. (Laughter) We have a check here for the LIFE Memorial Foundation in the great amount of \$120,000. And, Frank, I think that – (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning. Good morning, sir.

MR. ARTHUR R. CHICK: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Arthur Chick. I'm Commander of Delaware. I have a check for the National Service Foundation for \$200 in the memorial fund remembrance of Paul Moore. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. MIKE TEMPESTA: Good morning. My name is Mike Tempesta, President of the Foundation from California. We'd proudly like to present a check for \$25,000 to the Disabled Americans LIFE Memorial Fund. (Applause) I also have another check here from our small Chapter in Fresno, California, which was chartered in 1922 for \$1,500 for the Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. DANIEL CONTRERAS: Good morning, everyone. I'm Dan Contreras, Department Adjutant, California. Ken Musselmann's dream was to get this memorial completed and we, in California, are dedicated to helping make that dream come true.

From the Department of California we want to first present a check for \$50,000. (Applause) In doing some creative things we were able to raise an additional \$8,000 for the Disabled for LIFE Memorial Foundation. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Dan. Good morning.

MR. RICHARD PRICE: Good morning. My name is Richard Price. I'm from Washington, D.C., Second Vice Commander. I'd like to present a check to National for \$500 for the National Trust Fund.

PRESIDENT BURNS: The National Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. RALPH H. HOGUE: My name is Ralph Hogue. I'm Commander from the State of Colorado. We're donating \$5,000 to the National Disabled for LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. JAMES EMERSON: Good morning. I'm James Emerson from Murphy-Borelli-Kumker Chapter Number 70 in Colorado and we're donating \$5,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. E.B. OWENS: Bud Owens, Department of New Hampshire, \$500 for the National Service Foundation and \$500 for the Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GENE A. MURPHY: Gene Murphy from South Dakota, \$100 in the name of Roger Andall with the Fourth Infantry for the Service Foundation. And we took a collection up for the Past National Commander's in honor of our Past National Adjutant Dale Adams and we raised \$1,100 in memorial of Dale Adams.

PRESIDENT BURNS: For the Foundation?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MURPHY: No, for the, that's for the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Okay, thank you. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. DAMA C. COOPER: Good morning. Dama Cooper, Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri, we have a check here for \$20,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. And your name, again, please?

MR. COOPER: Dama Cooper.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. EDWARD S. SANDAU: Good morning. My name is Ed Sandau from the great State of South Dakota, friendly faces, friendly places. Here is a check for \$500 from, for the National Service Foundation in honor of our NSO that left us, Paul Wekenmann and Eric Van Emmerick and then from the Chapter 1 of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, another check for \$500 for the National Service Foundation for, in honor of Paul Wekenmann and Eric Van Emmerick.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Good morning. Step right up, please.

MR. SILAS "ED" DAWSON: Good morning. My name is Silas "Ed" Dawson, Commander of South Carolina. I have a few checks for you, the first one from Chapter 44, for the Memorial.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Forty-four?

MR. DAWSON: Chapter 44. The second one from Chapter 47 for the DAV Memorial. The third one is for LIFE Memorial, Chapter 17. The next one is from DAV Chapter 40, Disabled for LIFE Memorial.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. DAWSON: The next one is from our Adjutant John Ashmore and wife Shirley. This is for \$100. The next is from PDC Jimmy Stewart and wife Camilla, the first one for Winter Clinic, \$250; the next one is for Disabled for LIFE Memorial, \$250; the second one for Service Foundation is \$500.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. DAWSON: And we have some from the State Department, Disabled Veteran Memorial Fund, \$1000; National Foundation, \$1,000; and Winter Clinic Fund, \$1,000. Thank you much.

PRESIDENT BURNS: That's very generous. (Applause) Good morning. Good morning.

MR. JAMES F. FOLLIS: Good morning. My name is James Follis. I'm the Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Massachusetts. And on behalf of the Department we'd like to present three checks. The first check is for \$2,550 for the LIFE Memorial. The second check is \$1,000 for the Columbia Trust. And the last but not least is \$1,000 for the Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. JAMES E. UCKELE: Good morning. My name is Jim Uckele. I'm a retired National Service Officer and NEC Delegate of District 5. I'd like to make a \$100 personal donation to the National Service Foundation on behalf of my NSOs from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. ROBERT F. CUDWORTH: Good morning. I'm Commander Bob Cudworth and my State Adjutant Phil Arnold. On behalf of the Department of Pennsylvania I wish to present a \$1,000 check to the Columbia Trust and a \$20,000 check to the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial Fund. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: One thousand and 20,000. Thank you, guys. Appreciate it. Good morning.

MR. PAUL D. PARHAM: Good morning. I'm Paul Parham. I'm Commander from the State of Oklahoma Department and I have a check for \$1,000 for the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Appreciate that. Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. LYNN L. PAYNE: I'm Lynn Payne. I'm the Commander of the Department of Idaho. I have one check here for \$500 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. J.W. MARTIN: Good morning. I'm J. Martin, Department Commander for Missouri. We have two checks this morning. We have one for \$1,000 for the National Foundation and \$1,000 for the Colorado Trust. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. MANUEL M. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Manny Rodriguez, Department of Arizona Commander. I hope everybody is having a good time. Two checks here, one from the Department, \$2,000 for the LIFE Memorial Fund.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: And another one from Chapter 22, Scottsdale, Arizona, LIFE Memorial Fund, \$500. Have a good Convention.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Appreciate that. Good morning.

MR. K.C. JOHNSON: Good morning. My name is K.C. Johnson. I'm a member of Chapter 3 and immediate Past Commander. And on behalf of Commander John Honaker, Chapter 3, Department of Wisconsin, I would like to give \$100 cash donation in recognition of one of our members and Past National Commander, Richard Marbes. And that is going to the Disabled American for LIFE Memorial. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, K.C. (Applause)

MR. VAN KARG: Van Karg, 14th District NEC, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota. At our District meeting on Friday we took up a collection. I have \$156 cash. I have a \$20 private donation from Chapter 37 in Hutchinson, Minnesota, and a \$1,000 check from Minneapolis Chapter 1.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. All to?

MR. KARG: All for the Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL PATRICK DOVER: Greetings from the great State of Georgia. My name is Mike Dover. I'm the Department Commander. And on behalf of the Department we would like to present an initial donation to the Columbia Trust Fund of \$500 and we would also like to present an initial donation of \$500 to the National Service Foundation with more to follow at the Midwinter. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. PAUL VARELA: Good morning, Gary.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. VARELA: Art, good morning. Good morning, everyone. I'm Paul Varela, National Service Officer and Supervisor of the Los Angeles, California, National Service Office, Chapter Commander, Los Angeles Chapter 5, and currently serving as the President for the National Guild of Attorneys-in-Fact for our National Service Officer Corps.

I have here a check made out to the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial in the amount of \$500 in memory of not only a friend to me and to the State of California but to a friend to all veterans in this room, the late Kenneth G. Musselmann.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. (Applause) He was a good man. Thank you, sir. Good morning, big guy. How are you doing?

MR. DOUGLAS K. WELLS JUNIOR: I'm Doug Wells, the Assistant Supervisor in the Detroit National Service Office and currently serving as the Vice President of the NSO Guild. On behalf of the members of the Guild I've got a total of \$515 in loving memory and honor of our fallen NSO Carl Brown for the Disabled for LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. FRANK BUDD: Frank Budd, National Service Officer, Assistant Supervisor in Nashville, Tennessee. A check here in representative of the NSO Guild for \$100 in memory of Dale Adams and NSO Carl Brown. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning. Step right up.

MR. GERARD F. DEVLIN: Good morning. I'm Jerry Devlin. I'm Department Commander for the great free State of Maryland, home of the Ravens, Redskins and Orioles. We have a check for the National Service Foundation of \$2,500. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning. Come right up.

MS. SANDRA MARSH: Good morning. Sandra Marsh, Commander, Chapter 1, Department of Missouri. In honor of our National Service Officers under supervision of Assistant Andrew Edwards we would like to donate \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN: Good morning. Good morning, vets. I'm William Brown from the great State of Texas, home of the Bobby Barrera. (Applause) On behalf of DAV James T. Hall Chapter 9 out of Houston, Texas, I have a check for \$3,000 to present to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

I also have a personal check of \$20 to the DAV Charitable Service Trust to present for myself. (Applause) Please note that my eight-track brain just jumped track. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Hi, big guy.

MR. GREGORY JONES: Good morning, everybody. My name is Gregory Jones. I am the National Sixth District NEC-elect. And on behalf of the Sixth District comprised of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to pledge \$2,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD WALKER: Good morning, everyone. I'm Richard Walker, Commander, Black Mountain Chapter Number 12 in Henderson, Nevada. On behalf of the Department of Nevada I'd like to donate a check for \$200 in the name of our Past National Adjutant Dale Adams; \$200 in the name of one of our Past Department Commanders, Jose Garcia; \$200 to the National Service Foundation from the State of Nevada.

On behalf of my Chapter I'd like to donate a check for \$500 to the National Service Foundation and \$1,000 to the Memorial for LIFE.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Very generous. Thank you, sir. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. STEVEN D. DEINES: My name is Steve Deines. I'm Commander of the Arlington-Fairfax, Virginia Chapter 10. And on behalf of Chapter 10 I'd like to present a check for \$1,000 for the National Service Foundation. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

MR. JOHN R. HOEFT: Good morning. John Hoeft, Department Commander, from that great dairy state, Wisconsin. (Applause) I'd like to present a check for \$1,500 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. JOHNNIE BAYLARK JUNIOR: Good morning. My name is Johnnie Baylark Junior. I'm the Commander from the Department of Illinois. And we'd like to present a check to the National Service Foundation in the amount of \$5,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. PHILIP A. MICHAEL FIUMARA JUNIOR: Good morning, DAV. Philip Anthony Michael Fiumara Junior, from the Department of Pennsylvania. I want to make a personal check in honor of our National Service Officers Jim Marszalek as our National Service Office Supervisor for the region. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it. (Applause)

MR. DANA BAKER: Good morning, everyone. Dana Baker from the great State of North Dakota. On behalf of all the disabled veterans in our Department we wish to donate \$5,000, also from the individual Chapters and individual members of North Dakota, \$3,035 for a total of \$8,035. And this is for the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. Disabled American Veterans Department of West Virginia, \$4,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you, much. Appreciate it. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. National Service Foundation. Good morning.

MR. MICHAEL K. DAWSON: Mike Dawson, Senior Vice for the Department of West Virginia. I'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation from the Department of West Virginia.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, West Virginia. (Applause) good morning.

MR. DENNIS HURLEY: My name is Dennis Hurley. I'm from the State of West Virginia. And I'm also donating \$500 from our Chapter 56 as a pledge. Forgot about that. (Applause) A pledge.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. ALFRED C. REYNOLDS: Al Reynolds, Adjutant, Department of Illinois. I'd like to pledge \$5,000 for the Disabled for LIFE Memorial and as Senior Vice Commander, Chapter 17, Illinois, I'd like to present a check to the National Service Foundation for \$5,000 and also for the Chapter we're pledging \$1,000 for the Memorial.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Al.

MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, sir. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. KENNETH COUTURE: Good morning. My name is Ken Couture, Commander of Chapter 42 in Illinois. On behalf of a member of my Chapter, Al Zurich, he donates \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. (Applause) Appreciate it. Good morning.

MS. LUZA. BERRIOS: Good morning. My name is Luz Berrios, Senior Vice Commander, Department of Puerto Rico. On behalf of the following Chapters for the National Service Foundation, Chapter 7, \$100; from the Chapter 16, \$200; from the Department, \$200.

For the Disabled for LIFE Memorial from my family \$100; the Disabled for the Department, \$300; from the Chapter 7, \$100; and for the Department Chapter 1, \$200.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. BRIGITTE S. MARKER: Brigitte Marker, Department Commander of Oregon, would like to donate \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MS. WANDA STEPHANIE JANUS: I'm Wanda Janus, Commander, Chapter 1 in Portland, Oregon. I'm proud to present on behalf of Chapter 1, \$75,000 for the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. ALFRED L. HOLTAN: Good morning. I'm Al Holtan from the great State of Minnesota. I have two checks here, one in the amount of \$2,500 from the Department of Minnesota to the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. HOLTAN: And I have another check, actually two of them, from the, from our Foundation in the State of Minnesota to the National Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 and another for \$150 from a retired NSO, Craig Fisher.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. (Applause) Good morning, George.

MR. GEORGE MARTIN: I'm George Martin from the great State of Tennessee. We have a check for \$6,245 for the LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. EFRAIN G. VILLAGOMEZ: My name is Efrain Villagomez, Commander for Chapter 233 from the Great State of Texas. On behalf of our Chapter we would like to present a check of \$250 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

MR. DAVID BOLTON: Good morning. Dave Bolton, Commander, great State of Iowa. I have two checks from Chapter 20, Des Moines, Iowa, one for \$500 to the National Service Foundation and another one for Columbia Trust, \$500. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning, ma'am.

MS. MARIAN J. TRUSCELLO: I'm Marian Truscello from Chapter 51 in South Carolina, the South Carolina Chapter of Wally Tyson. And I would like to give \$500 to the National Service Foundation in honor of Wally Tyson and also from the Chapter to the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE \$100, and a personal check from my husband and I in honor of Art Wilson for \$100. (Applause)

MR. RODNEY TUCKER: Good morning. I'm Rodney Tucker from the Department of North Carolina and proud to say I've been Wally Tyson's campaign manager. From his campaign fund we're going to donate a check, the first check from North Carolina, for \$5,000 to the LIFE Memorial Fund. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Hi, Pete.

MR. PETER E. McCANN: My name is Peter McCann. I'm the Commander of the Department of North Carolina. With the \$5,000 from the Wally Tyson Campaign Fund plus the donations we have from the membership we come up with a grand total of \$43,100. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. CLARK R. MASTERS: Ron Masters, Department Treasurer, a personal check to the Service Foundation, \$100. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning. Step right up.

MS. KAREN M. KEY: Hi, Karen Key from the State of Washington, Chapter 9. On behalf of Al Buster we're donating \$100 in his memory to the Memorial Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: LIFE Memorial. Thank you. One hundred dollars cash for the LIFE Memorial. Good morning.

MR. RYAN B. NABORS: Good morning, everyone. Ryan Nabors, Department of Washington, Senior Vice Commander. I'm making a \$100 donation to the Memorial for Disabled for LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. NABORS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. JAMES PARKER: Good morning. I'm James Parker, State Adjutant for the Department of Arkansas. And can't say that's the home of Bobby Barrera but I did get to take him fishing. (Laughter) If you all notice, he's always checking his fingers out.

On behalf of my dad and I, I would like to donate \$100 to the Foundation. And I would also like to introduce to you our Department Commander from the State of Arkansas, John Donovan.

MR. JOHN F. DONOVAN: Good morning. (Applause) On behalf of and in memory of Nick Bacon, a Congressional Medal of Honor winner and a past Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Arkansas I'd like to make a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Very generous. Hi, Jerry. How are you doing, big guy?

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Gerald E. Humphries, with Chapter 11, Department of Mississippi, I'd like to donate this \$1,000 to the Service Foundation in the name of 30-year retiree Gerald E. Humphries.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Okay, big guy. Thank you. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. VICTOR LEE: Good morning. Victor Lee, Commander, State of Mississippi. On behalf of the Magnolia State we present this check to the National Service Foundation for \$1,000.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. JOHN DIXON: My name is John Dixon. I'm the Chapter Commander for Craven County Chapter Number 40, Tar Heels State of North Carolina, I'm making a \$40 personal donation to the Charitable Service Foundation in memory of John Dixon Senior, my father, and my uncle, Merle Avon Dixon.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. DIXON: He died in a – he died alone and without hope. He was 11th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne. He was one of the first jumpers in Korea. He died without hope. And I want to thank God for this organization that our veterans don't have to go through that any more. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much.

MR. RONALD C. HANSEL: I guess I'm last but not least, Ron Hansel, Chapter 44, Past Commander, Golden Rodent, California Sector South, \$100 from myself and my wife, Ann Gomez, put to the National Foundation for LIFE. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: From you personally?

MR. HANSEL: From me personally and my wife Ann Gomez.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. HANSEL: Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: And thank you. One final check from retired National Service Officer Gary Burns and his wife Carolyn in memory of someone who did a lot for me, Mr. Dale Adams, the former National Adjutant. Thank you, people. (Applause) No more money coming in. That's it. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Gary.

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and
Independent Auditors' Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
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, 2009 and 2008, 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 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 consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, 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, 2009 and 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

March 31, 2010

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 748,097	\$ 1,538,074
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	284,450	311,756
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	72,073	46,095
INVENTORY — Net of \$16,000 reserve for obsolescence in 2009 and 2008	249,158	443,715
PREPAID EXPENSES	30,543	2,455
INVESTMENTS (Note 2)	73,048,846	60,749,088
DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS	128,987	31,331
TOTAL	<u>\$ 74,562,154</u>	<u>\$ 63,122,514</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV	\$ 171,944	\$ 186,611
Due to DAV Legislative Program	6,071	7,171
Other liabilities	<u>88,293</u>	<u>183,210</u>
Total liabilities	<u>266,308</u>	<u>376,992</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	11,154,369	10,946,193
The Columbia Trust (Note 2)	1,553,969	1,736,914
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	25,315,054	24,360,830
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	<u>1,318,076</u>	<u>(3,851,274)</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>39,341,468</u>	<u>33,192,663</u>
Temporarily restricted:		
The Columbia Trust (Note 2)		370,738
Other (Notes 2 and 3)	35,491,423	34,761,707
Accumulated net unrealized (depreciation) of investments	<u>(752,339)</u>	<u>(5,789,880)</u>
Total temporarily restricted	<u>34,739,084</u>	<u>29,342,565</u>
Permanently restricted — National Order of Trench Rats DAV Legislative Fund (Note 2)	<u>215,294</u>	<u>210,294</u>
Total net assets	<u>74,295,846</u>	<u>62,745,522</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 74,562,154</u>	<u>\$ 63,122,514</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

	2009			2008		
	General, The Columbia Trust, Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund (Unrestricted)	The Columbia Trust and Other (Temporarily Restricted)	National Order of Trench Rats (Permanently Restricted)	General, The Columbia Trust, Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund (Unrestricted)	The Columbia Trust and Other (Temporarily Restricted)	National Order of Trench Rats (Permanently Restricted)
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES:						
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 954,224	\$ 784,640	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,257,942	\$ 1,699,619	\$ 2,500
Net assets released from restrictions	1,162,778	(1,162,778)	—	1,185,121	(1,185,121)	—
Revenues:						
Interest and dividend income — net	939,303	854,192	—	1,169,432	1,072,652	—
Loss on sale of investment securities	(102,323)	(117,076)	—	(3,228,310)	(3,044,989)	—
Sales of fraternal items	872,178	—	—	876,971	—	—
Total revenues	1,709,158	737,116	—	(1,181,907)	(1,972,337)	—
Total public support and revenues	3,826,160	358,978	5,000	1,261,156	(1,457,839)	2,500
EXPENSES:						
Program and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,389,817	—	—	1,226,851	—	—
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	365,552	—	—	370,929	—	—
Costs of fraternal items sold	669,958	—	—	650,465	—	—
Other program expenses	136,589	—	—	122,616	—	—
Total program expenses	2,561,916	—	—	2,370,861	—	—
Management and general	157,094	—	—	193,047	—	—
Fundraising	127,694	—	—	118,491	—	—
Total expenses	2,846,704	—	—	2,682,399	—	—
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	979,456	358,978	5,000	(1,421,243)	(1,457,839)	2,500
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	5,169,349	5,037,541	—	(6,492,230)	(6,098,514)	—
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS AFTER CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION (DEPRECIATION) OF INVESTMENTS	6,148,805	5,396,519	5,000	(7,913,473)	(7,556,353)	2,500
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	33,192,663	29,342,565	210,294	41,106,136	36,898,918	207,794
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$39,341,468	\$34,739,084	\$215,294	\$33,192,663	\$29,342,565	\$ 62,745,522

See notes to financial statements.

**STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS **FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008**

	2009	2008
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 11,545,324	\$(15,469,826)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation of investments	(10,206,890)	12,590,744
Loss on sale of investment securities	219,399	6,273,299
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	27,306	141,816
Accounts receivable	(25,978)	(38,776)
Inventory	194,557	(60,705)
Prepaid expenses	(28,088)	2,946
Due to DAV	(14,667)	26,143
Due to DAV Legislative Program	(1,100)	(767)
Other liabilities	(94,917)	(10,062)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,614,946</u>	<u>3,454,812</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(56,983,277)	(51,736,434)
Proceeds from sale of investments	54,671,010	48,498,221
Purchases toward development in process	(97,656)	(3,100)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,409,923)</u>	<u>(3,241,313)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES — Contributions of permanently restricted assets	<u>5,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH	(789,977)	215,999
CASH — Beginning of year	<u>1,538,074</u>	<u>1,322,075</u>
CASH — End of year	<u>\$ 748,097</u>	<u>\$ 1,538,074</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

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 of accounting.

Cash and Cash Equivalents — The Foundation considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash equivalents and are stated at cost which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Foundation's checking accounts were \$2,044 and \$14,083 in 2009 and 2008, respectively. The Foundation maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Foundation has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Contributions — Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation.

Unrestricted Net Assets — All unrestricted contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") for permanent investment in a Board-designated endowment fund, known as the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, as a reserve for future needs.

Investment income derived from these invested amounts are included in the General Fund and used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated by the Foundation for use by the DAV.

In 2008, the Foundation adopted FASB Staff Position FAS 117-1, *Endowments of Not-for-Profit Organizations: Net Assets Classification of Funds Subject to an Enacted Version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA), and Enhanced Disclosures for All Endowment Funds*. This guidance was codified into ASC Topic 958, *Not-for-Profit Organizations*, effective July 1, 2009.

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy for the Board-designated endowment fund. It is commingled with temporarily restricted investments. The primary goals of the investment portfolio are safeguarding of the assets; maximization of return on the interest, dividends, and appreciation of capital; and avoidance of undue interest rate risk in the fixed income portion of the portfolio. The portfolio performance objective is to exceed a custom benchmark of 70% Russell 3000/30% Barclays Intermediate Government Credit over a five-year period and a full market cycle.

The Foundation relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Foundation targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investment to achieve its long-term return objective within prudent risk constraints.

The Foundation's unrestricted Board-designated endowment for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, had the following activity:

	2009	2008
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 954,224	\$ 1,257,942
Investment return:		
Interest and dividend income — net	939,303	1,169,432
Loss on sale of investment securities	(102,323)	(3,228,310)
Sale of fraternal items	872,178	876,971
Total public support and revenues	<u>2,663,382</u>	<u>76,035</u>
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	365,552	370,929
Cost of fraternal items sold	669,958	650,465
Other program expenses	180,683	164,346
Management and general	157,094	193,047
Fundraising	127,694	118,491
Total expenses	<u>1,500,981</u>	<u>1,497,278</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	<u>5,169,349</u>	<u>(6,492,230)</u>
Total change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund	<u>\$ 6,331,750</u>	<u>\$ (7,913,473)</u>

For 2009 and 2008, respectively, the Board has designated \$1,553,969 and \$1,736,914 as total unrestricted net assets for The Columbia Trust and are not included in the Board-designated endowment fund. In 2009, The Columbia Trust recorded a decrease of unrestricted net assets of \$182,945; in 2008, there was no change. No unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments is designated to the Columbia Trust's net assets.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets — In 1996, The Colorado Trust (the "Trust") was established to provide funds for service programs of needy DAV state departments and local chapters. It was agreed when the Trust fund was established that when another donor contributed a total of \$500,000 to the Trust it would be renamed "The Columbia Trust". In March 2008, the Trust was renamed.

Funds contributed to The Columbia Trust are matched 100% by DAV, up to a maximum of \$3,000,000 per year. In 2009 and 2008, The Columbia Trust received \$67,320 and \$287,151, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV. In 2009 and 2008, The Columbia Trust received \$650,000 and \$700,000, respectively, from the DAV Charitable Service Trust (CST) to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

As of December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, The Columbia Trust held \$1,096,905 and \$1,238,768 in money market funds.

In 2008, \$425,317 was received from the CST and is recorded within other temporarily restricted net assets (See Note 3). At December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, \$(752,339) and \$(5,789,880) was designated as unrealized depreciation to other temporarily restricted net assets.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets — Contributions by the National Order of Trench Rats for the DAV Legislative Program are permanently restricted. Investment income of \$6,071 and \$7,171, in 2009 and 2008, 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 are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Foundation'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 are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments of the Foundation. The Foundation's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and market value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2009 and 2008, are summarized below:

			Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
2009	Cost	Fair Value	
Cash	\$ 13,542	\$ 13,542	\$ -
Money market investments	18,962,781	18,962,781	
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	26,618,232	27,022,243	404,011
Common stock	18,607,888	20,310,826	1,702,938
Equity mutual funds	<u>8,280,666</u>	<u>6,739,454</u>	<u>(1,541,212)</u>
Total	<u>\$72,483,109</u>	<u>\$73,048,846</u>	<u>\$ 565,737</u>
2008			
Cash	\$ 9,063	\$ 9,063	\$ -
Money market investments	5,625,201	5,625,201	
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	28,079,180	28,377,892	298,712
Common stock	28,521,784	21,896,980	(6,624,804)
Equity mutual funds	<u>8,155,014</u>	<u>4,839,952</u>	<u>(3,315,062)</u>
Total	<u>\$70,390,242</u>	<u>\$60,749,088</u>	<u>\$ (9,641,154)</u>

Fair value is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1) and quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or quoted prices in markets that are not active for identical or similar instruments, and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets (Level 2). The Foundation does not have any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3). The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, are as follows:

2009	Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value		
	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 13,542	\$ -	\$ 13,542
Money market investments	18,962,781		18,962,781
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	10,091,340	16,930,903	27,022,243
Common stock	20,310,826		20,310,826
Equity mutual funds	<u>6,739,454</u>		<u>6,739,454</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 56,117,943</u>	<u>\$ 16,930,903</u>	<u>\$ 73,048,846</u>
2008			
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 9,063	\$ -	\$ 9,063
Money market investments	5,625,201		5,625,201
U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds	17,833,080	10,544,812	28,377,892
Common stock	21,896,980		21,896,980
Equity mutual funds	<u>4,839,952</u>		<u>4,839,952</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 50,204,276</u>	<u>\$ 10,544,812</u>	<u>\$ 60,749,088</u>

Interest and dividend income is composed of interest and dividend income of \$1,937,132 and \$2,389,232, net of fees paid to trustees of \$143,637 and \$147,148, in 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Inventories — Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or market, generally determined on the first-in, first-out basis. Inventory consists of fraternal items to be sold.

Income Taxes — As a not-for-profit service organization, the Foundation has received a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from federal income taxes as a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions made to the Foundation are tax deductible by the contributor.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — In July 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109*. This guidance was codified into ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, effective July 1, 2009. ASC Topic 740 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. The Foundation applied ASC Topic 740, beginning January 1, 2009, and noted no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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.

Development in Process — Development in process is stated at cost. It is composed of software that is in the process of being developed for internal use and has not yet been placed in service.

3. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV personnel assist the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed the DAV \$154,949 and \$149,192 in 2009 and 2008, respectively. At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the Foundation owed the DAV \$171,944 and \$186,611, respectively. The DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities and equipment at no charge.

As discussed in Note 2, the DAV contributed \$67,320 and \$287,151 to The Columbia Trust in 2009 and 2008, respectively. In 2009 and 2008, respectively, the CST made a \$650,000 and \$700,000 contribution to The Columbia Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

In 2008, the CST allocated a final \$425,317 from a bequest totaling \$34,962,120 to be available whenever needed for services to disabled veterans and their families. These funds are reported as temporarily restricted net assets. The allocations are made on the condition that the Board adheres to annual reporting and expends the funds for purposes consistent with the Foundation’s mission provided they are purposes consistent with those of the CST, a tax exempt entity recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In performing the duties of their positions, the DAV’s National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Foundation’s Board. The Chairman of DAV’s Board of Directors serves as an ex officio member of the Foundation’s Board.

4. GRANTS AND EXPENSES OF THE COLUMBIA TRUST

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, the following are grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust:

	2009	2008
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 383,375	\$ 306,845
National Transportation Network Van Program	925,142	765,733
Other grants to service programs	35,000	106,000
Miscellaneous expenses	2,206	6,360
Grant proposal processing	44,094	41,913
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,389,817</u>	<u>\$ 1,226,851</u>

In 2009 and 2008, The Columbia Trust's grants and expenses totaled \$1,389,817 and \$1,226,851, respectively. In 2009, temporarily restricted net assets of \$1,162,778 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$227,039 were used. In 2008, temporarily restricted net assets of \$1,185,121 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$41,730 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of \$1,162,778 and \$1,185,121, are shown as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the accompanying Statement of Activities for 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Net assets are released from restrictions by incurring expenses to satisfy the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors.

5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Foundation evaluated subsequent events through March 31, 2010, which is the date the financial statements were available for issuance.

* * * * *

COMMANDER BARRERA: May I have a motion to accept the report from President Burns for the National Service Foundation?

MR. LINDEN: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Chapter Gator 90, Florida, moves that we accept his report with a great deal of thanks.

COMMANDER BARRERA: May I have a second? Mic 3.

MR. KARG: Karg, 14th District NEC, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: We have a motion. All those in favor signify by saying aye; all those opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

Now I'd like to welcome William Anton of Nevada, the newly-elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for the year 2010-2011.

MR. WILLIAM ANTON: National Commander Barrera, National Adjutant Wilson, National Officers, delegates, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. ANTON: I am proud to have been elected President of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for the 2010 to 2011. We pledge to continue our support of the National Organization through our sponsorship of the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, the Mid-Winter Conference, and the Winter Sports Clinic. We look forward to another very productive year in the DAV.

At this time I would like to read into the record our officers and committees for the coming year. President, William Anton, Nevada. Vice President, Joseph Connelly, Michigan. Executive Committee: James Bogan, California; Dennis Krulder, New York; Robert Moffett, North Carolina; Francis Reding, Idaho; Brenda Reed, Iowa; Floyd Watson, Wyoming.

Past President William Novak, New York. Secretary-Treasurer David Tannenbaum, Florida. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Rita Albaregg, Virginia. Judge Advocate, Jimmy O. Stewart, South Carolina. Chaplain, Brian Wilner, Georgia. Sergeant-at-Arms, Leo Ortiz, New York, Fay A. Lyon, Washington.

Resolutions Committee: Robert Bertschy, Ohio; Christian Kramer III, Kansas; Teresa Johniken, Texas. Audit and Finance Committee: Danny Oliver, Oklahoma; Robert Wilcoxon, Maryland; Ronald Begley, Kansas; Charles Vandenplas, Wisconsin; James Scott, Texas.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Carl Bailey, Alabama; Ed Meiser, Texas; Michael Dover, Georgia; Warren Tobin, North Dakota; Moses McIntosh, Georgia. Special Projects: Chad Richmond, Alabama; Ted Barbuto, New York; Sarah Royce, Washington; and David Spurgin, Arkansas.

Would National Commander Barrera and National Adjutant Wilson please join me to receive a presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera and Adjutant Wilson joined Mr. Anton at the podium.)

MR. ANTON: Hi, Art. On behalf of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association I would like to present you with two donations for the National Service Foundation: a check in the amount of \$100 in honor of our Immediate Past President William Novak and a second check for \$1,500. Gentlemen, this is for you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Anton presented Commander Barrera and Adjutant Wilson with the two checks.)

MR. ANTON: In addition we are proud and pleased to present a check to the Disabled Veterans for LIFE Memorial Foundation in the amount of \$5,000. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Anton presented Commander Barrera and Adjutant Wilson with the check.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, William. At this time I will ask Bill Taylor, Chairman of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation.

MR. WILLIAM B. TAYLOR: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. TAYLOR: Ladies and gentlemen, you know very little about me. Mr. Wilson, of course, knows a lot about me. (Laughter) You know, at the 90th Convention I was really humbled.

Being a former prison of war out of Southeast Asia and on my second attempt of escaping the next exciting thing – and I say "exciting,," it was exciting and yet I was blessed – I had the opportunity of coming to work with one of the finest organizations that this country could provide and that's the National Organization of the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

Second of all, at our 90th Annual National Convention I was most humbled at the Opening Ceremony of this year's Convention when they showed the display of our table. I would like all

of you to give a round of applause, please, to National Commander Barrera, National Adjutant Art Wilson, and his staff for continuing this legacy. (Applause)

The POW Committee would like to give thanks to National Bobby Barrera for his continuing efforts to keep the POW/MIA issue in the forefront of this organization. We are truly indebted to our National Organization for their unwavering support.

It gives our Committee pleasure to present the American POW/MIA flag. We must never forget in this day and time, for the men and women who proudly served our country as our country called upon them and became prisoners of war and missing in action.

We trust that with continuing efforts our country will one day bring these men home. At this time may we have Senior Vice Commander Wally Tyson to come forward.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Wallace Tyson joined Mr. Taylor at the podium.)

MR. TAYLOR: Wally, on behalf of our Committee we would like to present this flag to you and ask that you fly this flag at your home in North Carolina proudly. And your actions will honor their sacrifice and our sacrifice. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Taylor presented the POW/MIA flag to Senior Vice Commander Tyson.)

MR. TAYLOR: I forgot to say Wally and I grew up together but we never recognized one another. (Laughter)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. Now I would like to welcome Chad Richmond, Adjutant from the Department of Alabama.

MR. CHAD RICHMOND: Art, could I get you to stand up here with me?

(Whereupon, Adjutant Wilson joined Adjutant Richmond at the podium.)

MR. RICHMOND: We have a little tradition in Alabama that we like to give our friends a chunk of Alabama dirt to remember us by. I got your dirt with me today. (Laughter) Actually, Art, it's not dirt. It's clay from the Wetumpka River. And your chunk of Alabama dirt just happens to be in the form of a soaring eagle. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Richmond unveiled a beautiful eagle sculpture which he presented to Adjutant Wilson.)

MR. RICHMOND: And the plaque says: "Presented to Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans, for exemplary service to all veterans and their family members. The DAV has become and will remain the premier veteran's organization because of your dedication to those who served the United States of America. Presented by Department Adjutant Chad Richmond, PDC, 2006-2007 and your DAV/DAVA family in Alabama." Mr. Wilson.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thanks.

MR. RICHMOND: You're welcome. (Applause) And the next time somebody whips a challenge coin on you, just whip this DAV coin on them that says on the back, "Thank you for all you do for veterans and their families."

(Whereupon, Adjutant Richmond presented Adjutant Wilson with a DAV coin.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. RICHMOND: Thank you, Art.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Chad. At this time I will ask Adjutant Wilson if he has any announcements.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I'm kind of taken back by that. Excuse me. This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30.

We will start off with the important business of nominations and election of officers. I can hope that you will all be on time. This evening's activities include the introduction of National Officers at 6:00 o'clock followed by delicious food and great entertainment.

As a reminder, we are giving away a DAV jacket to five delegates attending the Convention. If your name is called and you're in the hall please see Tony Baskerville up here on the stage as soon as we adjourn to receive your jacket. And we have the names: Ronald (Undistinguishable); John Dixon, Lionel Mendez; Jerry Roebuck; and Evangeline Douglas. That's all I have Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Art. Chaplain Edwards would you lead us in prayer, please.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds within the knowledge and the love of God. And now unto the eternal and all-wise creator of the universe, the preserver of our nation, be honor and glory forever and forever. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: We stand in recess until 1:30 this afternoon. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:46 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.)

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION
August 3, 2010

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 89th National Convention convened in the Centennial Ballroom on the Ballroom Level, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday afternoon, August 3, 2010, and was called to order at 1:32 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera.

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Convention will come to order. Once again I want to remind you to please turn off your cell phones. In this opening session it is fitting and proper that we render the proper respect to our flags. Hand salute. Two. We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Edwards.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: None of us work alone. We are part of a great team and we need each other. Gracious Heavenly Father, we offer our thanks to You for the gift of life and for the service rendered by the members of the Disabled American Veterans.

Father, we ask You to continue Your blessings on all of the people gathered here at this Convention who so graciously give of their time, give of their talents in serving others. Grant that those here today may freely receive as they have freely given. And may feelings of worth and accomplishment continue to be theirs and may all of us remember that what is given in love is retained in eternity.

Bless and protect us as we continue to build better lives for America's disabled veterans. And bless our veterans for we realize that it has been through their efforts, their dedication, their commitment to duty that our country has continued to remain free. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: At this time I ask Adjutant Wilson for some announcements.

ADJUTANT WILSON: We have two, two hats, one a baseball cap, DAV baseball cap – with all of the pins on it I think it weighs about five pounds. (Laughter) The member may have a headache. It's the Atlanta cap. If it's yours, it's here.

We also have a DAV cap that's loaded with pins. I think it has an Air Force Command Sergeant-Major emblem on it, so.

UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER: I'll take both of them. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT WILSON: You don't have to take both of them. You're going to have to get them from me.

One other thing, I want to mention something to you about your participation this morning and the contributions that you all made to the Disabled Veterans LIFE Memorial Foundation in support of the Americans Disabled for LIFE Memorial, it was just simply awesome. And I thank you.

The Board of Directors from the Foundation thanks you. As I said in my remarks on Saturday, this is your memorial, truly your memorial. You're building it. You're funding it. And you're going to make it happen.

And I know that you've been asked a lot to contribute. Hopefully this is the end. I mean we're very close to the end. We're going to get it built. I applaud you. The Board of Directors applauds you. Thank you so much for all your help. (Applause)

(Whereupon, someone called out a question from the audience.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: I heard that question. I think you said, "How much did you get?" As soon as I find out I'll let you know. Thank you.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Art. For more than seven years the DAV Flight Team has carried our mission of building better lives for disabled veterans to hundreds of air shows across the country.

The highlight of the recent air show seasons for DAV's traveling B-25 bomber and its spectacular ground display has been EE – EAA Air Venture at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

This week-long, annual gathering of military and civilian aircraft is known as the "Super Bowl" of air shows. Thousands of aircraft and hundreds of thousands of guests converge on this historic airport at Oshkosh as aviation enthusiasts flood in to take in the sights.

This year's featured something new – a first-of-its-kind partnership between EAA and the DAV called a Salute to Veterans. The event kicked off last Monday and concluded this past Sunday.

Obviously, I was busy doing other duties here in Atlanta but I sent my good friend, past National Commander Jim Sursely up to Oshkosh to lead the flight team and to tell the aviation

world about the great things the DAV is doing for disabled veterans. Please enjoy a recap of Jim's incredible journey to Oshkosh.

(Whereupon, a videotaped Special Report from Oshkosh was viewed.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Jim, for covering that event. As a reminder, in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized.

Upon being so recognized the delegate must state his or her name, the chapter number and the state that they represent. I need to remind everyone that registration for the delegates is now closed and at this point I will call for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

MR. DAY: Comrade Commander and delegates, this is the final report of the Credentials Committee and reflects the total registration as of 10:00 a.m. on 8/3/2010.

There are 1,228 delegates, 31 alternates which are registered and it includes 44 Departments and 471 Chapters. There are 17 National Executive Committeemen and 9 Past National Commanders for a total of 26 National Officers. The total vote is 8,582.

Now, for those of you who don't know, the Credentials Committee is the first Committee in session and the last Committee out of session. Our Committee meetings start as early as 7:30 a.m. and sometimes twice a day.

At this time I would like to extend my thanks to our advisors and Committee members. Our advisors were Michael Dobmeier, Anthony "Tony" Baskerville, and our daily advisor, mentor and credentials expert Gregory "Greg" Jackson. Please, give them a round of applause, please. (Applause)

I want to thank the Credentials Committee Secretary Warren Tobin for his complete dedication to the mission. Thank you, Warren. I want to thank my alternate from New York, Bill Gibney, for his decades of service to the DAV and his willingness to pass the torch.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the entire Credentials Committee by having everyone who served, delegates and alternates, to please stand at this time.

(Whereupon, the members of the Credentials Committee stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. DAY: Thank you. Comrade Commander, that completes the final report of the Credentials Committee and I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much, Don.

MR. CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 6.

MR. CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 2.

DR. LOUIS DALE: Mic 4.

MR. CONTRERAS: Daniel Contreras, Chapter 99, District 16, moves to accept the Credentials report and that they be discharged with the vote of thanks from the Convention for the great work.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Dan, may I have a second? I think he made –

DR. DALE: Mic 4. Doctor Louis Dale, Chapter 12.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Hold on. Please hold. Dan.

MR. CONTRERAS: All right, I'll change that to a second of the motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Second of the motion, please. We cannot discharge the Committee at this point in time. Thank you, Dan. We have a motion for the floor. All those in favor – in flavor. (Laughter)

All those in favor please indicate by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thanks, Don. I will now call on Dennis Joyner, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER 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 July 31, 2010, by the Committee Advisors Gene Murphy and Dick. Marbes.

The first order of our business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Dennis Joyner was elected chairman and Frank Williams was elected secretary. We interviewed 13 candidates for National Office.

And now the Nominating Committee recommends and places into nomination the following individuals to serve as National DAV Officers for Fiscal Year 2010-2011: for the office of National Commander, Wallace E. "Wally" Tyson from North Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice Commander, Don L. Samuels, Tennessee; (Applause)

for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, Larry A. Polzin, California; (Applause) for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander, Mary J. Bencivenga, New Jersey; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander, Joseph W. Johnston, Ohio; (Applause)

for the office of Fourth National Junior Vice Commander, Ron Voegeli, South Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier, North Dakota; (Applause) and for the office of National Chaplain, Doctor Charles W. Edwards Junior from Texas. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of this report.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Dennis. I will now call for a second of that report on the Committee from the Nomination of National Officers be adopted and that the Committee be discharged. May I have a second?

MR. FRANK WILLIAMS: Mic 1.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 1.

MR. WILLIAMS: Frank Williams, Ohio –

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 1. Mic 1.

MR. WILLIAMS: Frank Williams, Chapter 3, Ohio, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: All those in favor indicate by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. You have heard the report from the Nominating Committee of National Officers and they have nominated Wally Tyson for National Commander. Here to second the nomination is delegate of the Stanley County Chapter 12 and DAV National Service Officer Ron Hope of North Carolina. (Applause)

MR. RONALD F. HOPE: Thank you. National Commander Barrera, National Adjutant Wilson, National Officers, delegates and guests, I am very proud and honored to appear today to second the nomination of Wallace E. Tyson for the office of National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans.

After graduating from high school in Clearwater, Florida, Wally knew he wanted to serve his country and his fellow man. He joined the Army in September 1972 and advanced rapidly in rank and responsibility.

However, while serving as Station Commander of the Army Recruiting Center in Batesville, Arkansas, he began having severe medical issues which resulted in his medical charge in December 1940 – 1984. We almost got him, though. (Laughter)

Never being one to accept the status quo, Wally returned to his native state and immediately joined Kimberly County DAV Chapter Number 46 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. At the same time he continued his education, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration.

In 1989 Wally was appointed Department Adjutant of North Carolina and assumed the day-to-day operations, a position that he continues to serve in today. He has been instrumental in the growth of the Department of North Carolina from 17,000 members in 1989 to more than 35,000 members as we gather for this Convention.

He also remains an integral part of the team that makes up the National Ninth District along with our fellow states Georgia and South Carolina. Wally embodies all of the distinguishing attributes of Disabled American Veterans. He projects the well-known fact that the DAV is our nation's premier veteran's service organization.

He uses every opportunity to promote the value of DAV membership and the superior services provided by DAV volunteers, DAV Chapter, Department, and National Service Officers to everyone with whom he comes in contact.

We are certain Wally will continue to apply that same "can-do" attitude while serving as DAV's National Commander to obtain the very best benefits for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. He is widely known as a true ambassador for the DAV and we are sure that he will represent each current and potential member equally as well as those commanders before him.

It is with humility and pride that I second the nomination of Wallace E. Tyson to become the 89th National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Ron. The chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of National Commander. Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I close the nominations and declare Wally Tyson elected as the National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Wallace E. Tyson for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: The Nominating Committee has elected Don Samuels – has nominated Don Samuels for the office of National Commander(sic). I now will call for any further nominations for National Senior Vice Commander.

Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no other nominations, I close the nominations and declare Donald Samuels elected as the National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Larry Polzin for the office of National First Junior Commander(sic). I will now call for any other nominations for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander.

Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no other further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Larry Polzin elected as National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Mary Bencivenga for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. I will now call for any further nominations for the National Second Junior Vice Commander.

Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Hearing none, I will close the nominations and declare Mary Bencivenga elected National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Joe Johnston for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. I will now call for any further nominations for National Third Junior Vice Commander.

Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? Hearing none, I will close the nominations and declare Joe Johnston elected, I mean nominated, as your National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Ron Voegeli for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. I will now call for any further nominations for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Ron Voegeli elected as National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dobmeier for the office of National Judge Advocate. I will now call on any further nominations for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any further nominations?

Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Michael Dobmeier elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Doctor Charles Edwards for the office of National Chaplain. I will now call on the floor if there any further nominations for National Chaplain. Are there any other further nominations?

Are there any other further nominations? Are there any other further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Doctor Charles Edwards as elected as your National Chaplain. (Applause) I will now instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these offices.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, cast one unanimous ballot for Donald Samuels for National Senior Vice Commander; Larry Polzin for National Junior Vice Commander – First Junior Vice Commander;

Mary Bencivenga for National Second Junior Vice Commander; Joe Johnston for National Third Junior Vice Commander; Ron Voegeli for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander; Michael Dobmeier as National Judge Advocate; and Doctor Charles Edwards for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. I would like to ask that the newly-elected officers and their wives be escorted to the stage, please – and their spouses. (Laughter) And the family members please join them on stage.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and families were escorted to the stage.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: No one else, please? If not, then I would like to call on National Commander-Elect Wally Tyson for remarks. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER-ELECT WALLACE E. “WALLY” TYSON: Thank you. I’ve been accused of not smiling a whole lot. If you could see the butterflies and the smiles inside, I assure you, that remark has no place.

National Commander Barrera, National Adjutant Art Wilson, Departments and Chapters, honored guests, friends, my family members, and my family members in the Disabled American Veterans, as I stand before so many great Americans, so many patriotic and forthright men and women, I am absolutely humbled to be counted among you.

I look forward to this opportunity to serve you and vow I will do my utmost to meet the un-dauntingly high standards that have been set by so many veterans who have worn the cap of National Commander over the past nine decades.

As I look out at my brothers and sisters in this room and I think of those watching at home and all those we represent, I stand in awe of the adversity you’ve overcome and the selflessness and the sense of duty that bring us together.

Anyone who truly understands what the DAV is will tell you that, beyond being the premier service organization in the world, beyond being a network of chapters and departments, beyond having the most caring volunteers on the face of the earth, beyond being one of the most respected voices in Washington, D.C., at the heart of who we are the DAV is a community. (Applause)

We are an organization of members. In the cities where you live, in your circles of influence, you, my friends, are the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause) You are the backbone behind our successes from Main Street to “K” Street. And you are the reason why we saw Pennsylvania Avenue in this hotel in Downtown Atlanta this week. (Applause)

Our community now celebrates nine decades as an official, unified body. Our National Adjutant has wisely asked that we use this as a time to prepare for a new century of service and advocacy. As a community we have enjoyed astounding successes in the last couple of years.

The Disabled American Veterans took the lead and saw advanced funding for the Veterans Administration become a reality. (Applause) We’ve seen our government own up to its responsibilities to the veterans who have suffered Agent Orange exposure – and it was about time. (Applause)

Through generations who’ve suffered in silence we’ve pushed to recognize that all the trauma inflicted on the battlefield is, was not visible. Post traumatic stress disorder is an issue the DAV identified. We, the DAV, have taken the stigma out of men and women getting help. (Applause)

We can only hope in this area in particular that immediate care will change a trend that’s been disastrous for generations of our members and their families. For the first time we’ve seen improved assistance and training for caregivers, a step that recognizes that when a veteran is disabled in service that he or she isn’t the only one to bear the burden of a life changed forever.

The VA of yesteryear was slow to recognize the sacrifices of our women veterans. Today – (Applause) today we see our honorable female comrades taking leadership roles in our ranks and being welcomed in VA facilities where they previously felt in isolation.

We’re even marching nearer and nearer to breaking ground on the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial that will recognize the sacrifices and contributions of our community in a place of honor and prominence in our nation’s capital. I don’t know about you but I’m anxious to hear the number Mr. Wilson is going to report shortly of the amount collected this morning.

I’m not, of course, going to stand here in front of you and say that we’re finished or that we’ve cleared every hurdle when it comes to these and other issues where we’ve seen considerable progress. You’re smarter and you know better.

The Veterans Administration we inherited was not perfect. But it’s a whole lot better than the VA our grandparents had when they returned from Japan and Europe to find a far cry better than the federal initiative their fathers had to begin as the Disabled American Veterans of the World War.

Our commitment as veterans who recognize the importance of our organization and have benefited from it must be on preparing for a new century of unity and advocacy. We have to give back what we have received. We must look for meaningful ways we can extend our reach, improve our communications, and use available technologies to build momentum in all aspects of our business.

And if you ask anyone what makes the DAV unique, what makes us different, they will tell you that it is our commitment to service that makes us stand apart. Our credibility – (Applause) Thank you.

Our credibility comes from the National Service Officers who are processing some one-quarter-of-a-million claims annually. How is that for service? (Applause)

Furthermore, our credibility lies in the hands of caring volunteers who make veterans in VA hospitals and clinics and nursing homes feel appreciated or who make it possible for them to get to and from their appointments in the first place through our Veterans Transportation Network. Who else does that but the Disabled American Veterans?

Our brand identity is formed in the minds of veterans, families and survivors when we take the time to thank them and provide some advice during a Military Appreciation Day or a civic event.

It's our Transition Service Officers helping service members get off to a good start in their civilian lives and our Department and Chapter Service Officers who make certain no veteran that they encounter falls through the cracks. Thank you. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, our reputation is built on service and advocacy. And we could do a whole lot worse. The reason why we are successful as a veterans' service organization is because deep down in our hearts the people in our communities know we are true believers; therefore, they believe in us. (Applause)

We know what hope means to our brothers and sisters who find a ray of light when they felt that the world had turned its back on them. At the end of the day, there is a sentimental voice in our hearts that believe in justice. That sense of optimism led me to serve with my fellow veterans in the DAV.

That sense of community and duty I recaptured from the days in the military kept me coming back. And the mentorship that I received inspired me to look for greater possibilities to serve our country and our community.

I would ask that each of you take the time, find ways that you can better serve your community and our community in the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause) One of the real challenges right now that I ask, please take it upon yourself to be mentors to a new generation of veterans who we need to bring along quickly to fill our ranks.

I would ask that you remember the times you felt down and out, and a fellow veteran or Auxiliary member in our community picked you back up again. Look out for the people in your state and your town. Bring them into our fold. If they're qualifying veterans, make them members.

Pursue every way possible to make them members. Know what to say when they offer to help. Don't try and do it all yourself. Delegate some work for them to do. They will be grateful. And if they need help, connect them with a National Service Officer.

Use this time to live up to Adjutant Wilson's call to prepare for a new century of service and do so moving forward as members of a community. Now is a time when our community needs passionate advocates. I ask you to speak your minds and to speak from the hearts.

Become involved – if not at the statehouse, be someone who speaks out at a diner, on Facebook, in your local newspaper. Your voice matters. You have the power to make a difference.

We've seen things happening at the Chapter and Department level that are very, very inspiring. For example, the Department of Minnesota's Donor Connection Program is an example of an initiative that takes advantage of our networks and pairs individuals in need with the resources they wouldn't otherwise get. Thank you, Minnesota. (Applause)

The key to success in the next century of service and advocacy is our loyalty to our organization and our ability to leverage our resources. At the chapter level that means giving new members the opportunity to make decisions. On the national level it means harnessing our experience and unparalleled knowledge of the issues we face and providing solutions to the issues that impact us all.

That includes our 21st Century Claims Process proposal, our ongoing Stand Up for Veterans program, and future initiatives, some online, wherein we'll ask you to lend your influence and voice to benefit our movement.

I hope when that call comes out you will remember your rightful place as a member of our community, remember our core values: service, quality, integrity and leadership, and be mindful of the influence you, each of you, have as the DAV where you live.

Remember, when people look at you and they see you, they see the Disabled American Veterans. Don't let yourself down. Don't let the organization down. (Applause)

Thank you for your confidence and for answering the call, for holding your DAV accountable to the needs of its members, and for giving your organization the credibility we need to make amazing things happen for our nation's disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community and for supporting me and your fellow veterans who rely on your leadership, foresight, and passionate involvement.

May God bless each one of you, your families. God bless those who are serving in harm's way anywhere in the world right now. May God bless the Disabled American Veterans. And we know God will always bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Wally, I present to you your National Commander's cap. Wear it with pride. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera presented the National Commander's cap to Commander-Elect Tyson.)

COMMANDER-ELECT TYSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Put it on.

COMMANDER-ELECT TYSON: I will.

COMMANDER BARRERA: I will now ask if Senior Vice Commander-Elect Don Samuels has any remarks. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DONALD L. SAMUELS: Thank you, Commander. You know, great commanders take care of their troops. How do you think our Commander did this year, Commander Barrera? (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT SAMUELS: Commander-Elect Tyson, you know, you've already heard it, he dedicated his life to the military, he's dedicated his life to the DAV, and you very readily, I'm sure, picked up on how he stands as far as the organization is concerned. You're a great American and a great friend and I've really enjoyed serving with you on the line.

Art Wilson – Art Wilson keeps the vision of the DAV out there, keeps it focused, keeps the wheel turning to make our organization what it is today, also, Dave Gorman, the Executive Director in our Washington office, who has the respect of the House and the Senate, other veteran organizations, commissioners from departments all across the country and Marc Burgess who has stepped up as the Acting Executive Director running our National Headquarters in Cold Springs.

But National Officers and delegates at this 89th National Convention, I want to thank you for the confidence in electing me your Senior Vice Commander and allowing me to be a part of the Disabled American Veterans organization.

I have truly enjoyed visiting many of you in your states and promoting the DAV programs across the country. What's even better than that, today is my birthday. What better birthday present? (Applause) What better birthday present could you get than to have the opportunity to serve the Disabled American Veterans?

I'd like to take just a moment and recognize my Department Commander George Martin. Stand up, George.

(Whereupon, Tennessee Department Commander George Martin stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT SAMUELS: Also, our newly-elected Eighth District NEC, Gerald Humphries. Stand up, Gerald.

(Whereupon, newly-elected Eighth District NEC Gerald Humphries stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT SAMUELS: Gerald is a retired National Service Officer but continues to serve the DAV. And I'd also ask, like to ask the states from the Eighth District to stand: Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee.

(Whereupon, the delegation from the Eighth District stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT SAMUELS: Thank you for all the help you've given me. I want to thank all the delegates that are here at this Convention for what you do every day, all the volunteer work that you put in to make all the DAV programs successful.

You're the ones that make the Disabled American Veterans the premier veterans' organization. In saying that I want to thank you once again. I lost it. I'm getting old. I had a birthday today. (Laughter)

You know, it's like the – and I'm going to try to remember this. It's like the commissioner today was talking about you know how you make holy water, you burn the hell out of it. I think that's a good joke. But thank you and I want to say God bless America and God bless the DAV. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: I would now like to invite Larry Polzin, First Junior Vice Commander-Elect, for some comments.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN: Commander Barrera, Commander-Elect Tyson, National Adjutant Wilson, and to all my fellow comrades, I give you my sincere thanks for your support, for everything for the past year, in allowing me this opportunity to serve you for another year.

First, I would like to introduce my wife, Judy, who has traveled with me on my journey to the top. Judy.

(Whereupon, Judy Polzin stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: And I would like to take a moment to thank all the states that I have had the opportunity to visit in the past for your warm and sincere hospitality that you have shown to Judy and I while visiting your Department Conventions.

Also, at this time I would like to introduce our Department Commander Mike Steinbaugh and all the members of District 16 for their support this year. Would you please stand.

(Whereupon, the Commander Mike Steinbaugh and the delegation from the 16th District stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: Again, I would just like to thank all of you for the great honor and the wonderful learning experience that you have allowed me to serve you and this proud organization, the finest there is, the Disabled American Veterans. I, again, thank all of you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Second Junior Vice Commander-Elect Mary Bencivenga.

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT MARY J. BENCIVENGA: Thank you. Here I stand before you in service for one more year. I can't thank you enough for your confidence. (Applause)

New Jersey, we have come a long way, baby. (Applause) I am so proud of our State of New Jersey. Our Commander Paul Dormida, our Adjutant Steven Duncan, and all of New Jersey please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the delegation from New Jersey stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT BENCIVENGA: Also, I would like to recognize our Fourth District NEC-Elect Joseph Harris. We're so very proud of you, too. And Connecticut and Delaware are the other states in our District. Please stand also and be recognized.

(Whereupon, Fourth District NEC-Elect Joseph Harris and the delegation from Connecticut and Delaware stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT BENCIVENGA: And our NSOs – and those of you who really know me know that the NSOs are truly in my heart and Nick Bernardi, Mike and Judy, you guys are the greatest in New Jersey and we just love you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the NSOs from the Department of New Jersey stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT BENCIVENGA: Next I would like to acknowledge my daughter Sarah and my son Paul. They have come to this Convention with me and I thank you so much for being here with me. I love you very much.

(Whereupon, Sarah and Paul Bencivenga stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT BENCIVENGA: Last but not least, my husband Brandon, he's back at home running not only the house but our new restaurant that we have so we do keep busy back home. I miss you honey and I love you, too. (Applause)

And that's it. I'll be nice and brief. Thank you so very much for the confidence that you have in me in allowing me to serve you for one more year. Thank you. God bless. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Mary. Third Junior Vice Commander-Elect Joe Johnston, do you have any remarks?

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JOSEPH "JOE" JOHNSTON: I am thankful for the opportunity to serve all of you as your Third Junior Vice Commander for the forthcoming year. Thank you. (Applause)

I pledge myself to further the ideals and institutions of this great organization, the Disabled American Veterans. I will not forget nor abandon the principles of trust that you have reposed in me by electing me to this position of responsibility.

Commanders Wally and Bobby, you have been my examples, my ideals of what I hope to become in the Disabled American Veterans. Adjutant Wilson, Art, thank you for your friendship and your mentorship to me to allow me to grow in my leadership in this great organization.

To my family, Vicki and Michael, thank you for your understanding and love given to me throughout this past year and the years to come. And, by the way, we're celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary at this Convention. (Applause)

To our Ohio Buckeyes, Commander David May, Adjutant Frank Williams, and the entire Ohio delegation, please rise and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the delegation from Ohio stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: To all of our DAV members who are my comrades, my brothers, my sisters, my family, thank you for your continued graciousness and support that you extend to me.

And, finally, thanks to almighty God who showed me this calling of service in the Disabled American Veterans. May God continue to bless the DAV and may God continue to bless this great country of ours. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Fourth Junior Vice Commander-Elect Ron Voegeli, some comments, please. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT RONALD L. VOEGELI: Thank you. Commander Barrera, Commander-Elect Wally Tyson, Adjutant Art Wilson, and the delegates, I couldn't have done it without District 9. I'd like District 9 to please stand up. Can you hear me? District 9.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 9 stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT VOEGELI: I'd like to especially thank my brother NSO out of retirement to come and help me before the Nominating Committee. Dave, would you stand up.

(Whereupon, David Nesbitt stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT VOEGELI: It's David Nesbitt. This is my wife Sandy which I could not have done.

(Whereupon, Sandy Voegeli stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT VOEGELI: I don't have any prepared remarks. I'd just like to say that I'm proud of everyone that's here. Everybody's been on their best behavior. We had four people running for Fourth Junior Vice. Everybody was congenial and nice. Great guys.

I commend them and I hope that they will run in the future. I just want to thank the Nominating Committee for selecting me. And I pledge to do whatever it is that I can do to further the betterment of the Disabled American Veterans. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Judge Advocate Michael Dobmeier.

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Art says I've got to keep doing this until I get it right. (Laughter) Thank you once again for your trust in me. I can tell you that I don't take it for granted and I appreciate it.

I've been a part of this team for quite a few years now and I enjoy every minute of it. Thank you to the 14th District for your continuing support. Would you all rise, please.

(Whereupon, the delegation from the 14th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: Thank you to my wife Sandy who bailed out during everybody else's speech but it's not because she doesn't support me; it's because they had another strategic planning meeting. And she's pretty busy in that.

Once again, I thank all of you for your continued trust. Commander Wally, I'm sure you know this already but we've got your back.

COMMANDER-ELECT TYSON: Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: National Chaplain, Mr. Edwards, my buddy. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT CHARLES W. EDWARDS, JUNIOR: Thank you my brothers and sisters, all of you, members of the greatest veterans' service organization in the world, the Disabled American Veterans.

And what a privilege you have given me to serve as your National Chaplain. And this is the fourth year. What a great opportunity. (Applause) I started this journey many years ago. And that journey began within the great State of South Carolina. Will the members of the State of South Carolina please stand, please.

(Whereupon, the delegation from South Carolina stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT EDWARDS: Thank you. Then I had the opportunity to return to my home state, the great State of Texas. (Applause) And as I look at the members of the great State of Texas I am indeed blessed. What a wonderful new team. We have a new commander, Mr. Jim Scott. Stand, please.

(Whereupon, Texas Commander James Scott stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT EDWARDS: We have a new adjutant, Teresa Johnston. Can you stand, please.

(Whereupon, Texas Adjutant Teresa Johnston stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT EDWARDS: We have a new NEC, Mr. Jay Johnson. Would you stand, please.

(Whereupon, NEC-Elect Jay Johnson stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT EDWARDS: And what a wonderful National Commander we've had this great year, Mr. Bobby Barrera. (Applause) Thank you very much. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mr. Wilson, I would ask you to please read the list of newly-elected National Executive Committee members.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term of 2010 to 2012: 2nd District, Dennis Krulder; (Applause) 4th District, Joe Harris; (Applause) 6th District, Gregory Jones; (Applause) 8th District, Gerald Humphries; (Applause) 10th District, David Martin; (Applause) 12th District, Charles Vandenplas; (Applause) 14th District, Joseph Litzinger – Joe; (Applause) 16th District, Delphine Metcalf-Foster; (Applause) 18th District, William Baumann; (Applause) and 20th District Jay Johnson. (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: At this point the chair will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee.

MR. CONTRERAS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 2.

MR. CONTRERAS: All right, let me try this again here, Commander. I move that the discharge, to discharge the Credentials Committee with a vote of thanks.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. May I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES E. SURSELY: Mic 5.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Mic 5.

MR. CONTRERAS: Daniel Contreras, District 16.

PAST NATIONAL SURSELY: James Sursely, Florida Chapter 16, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please indicate by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Now I get to say believe it or not we come to the end of our agenda. Art, do you have any additional announcements?

ADJUTANT WILSON: I do. As a reminder, all National Executive Committeemen, including those newly-elected to the National Executive Committee will meet immediately following the adjournment of the Convention in Regency VI.

A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. And NEC alternates should also attend the swearing-in ceremony, please. The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting in Regency V.

The presentation of National Officers will begin this evening at 6:00 o'clock here in the Centennial Ballroom followed by a reception.

Shimmer is the Atlanta-based variety ensemble with over 85 years combined entertainment experience. And beginning at 8:00 o'clock it's a musical experience for all ages. So come by and enjoy the evening filled with ceremony, food, friends, music and entertainment – and one special announcement that you won't want to miss. That's all I have, Commander.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you. Chaplain Edwards, would lead us in closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Eternal Father, we render to You acknowledgement of Your supreme dominion over all of us and gratitude for Your watchfulness as we come to the close of this 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

As we come to the end of this wonderful experience, we ask that You will refresh and renew and send us on courageously as we go to serve America's disabled veterans. Be merciful to our

honored dead, the memory of their lives because of their courage, which inspires us to noble actions, to the eternal preservation of our priceless liberty.

We remember Mr. Dale Adams, Past National Adjutant, Mr. Joe Andry, Past National Commander. Be with those who are prisoners of war, those who are missing in action. And in Your mercy may we, the members of the Disabled American Veterans, find our peace.

Now grant us now from above this day the challenge of high endeavor, the beauty of a humble spirit, the strong courage and will to advance the interests and to work for the betterment of all disabled American veterans. Keep us safe now as we journey to our various destinations. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you, Chaplain Edwards. Will the Department of Arizona Honor Guard please retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired.)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Ladies and gentlemen, the 89th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. See you in New Orleans. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at 2:50 o'clock, p.m.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
88th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia
August 1, 2010
First Business Session

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Regency VII, Ballroom Level, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday morning, August 1, 2010, and was called to order at 9:08 o'clock, a.m., by National Adjutant Judy Hezlep.

ADJUTANT JUDITH C. HEZLEP: Please take your seats. We're going to start bringing in the officers. I'd like to welcome everyone to this National Convention in Atlanta.

We look forward to a lot of fun and a lot of participation. So we'd like to start now with bringing in the officers. Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms please present National Commander Kay Egan to the platform.

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms escorted Commander Kay Egan to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAM A. TAYLOR: National Commander Kay Egan.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms please have the National Officers escorted to the platform.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Susan Henry.

(Whereupon, Susan M. Henry was escorted to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Patrice Rapisand.

(Whereupon, Patrice Rapisand was escorted to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Donna Adams.

(Whereupon, Donna M. Adams was escorted to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Susan Miller.

(Whereupon, Susan K. Miller was escorted to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: LeeAnn Karg.

(Whereupon, LeeAnn B. Karg was escorted to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Carol Gray.

(Whereupon, Carol A. Gray was escorted to the dais.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Louise Bohlinger.

(Whereupon, Louise E. Bohlinger was escorted to the dais.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And Immediate Past National Commander Sandy Dobmeier.

(Whereupon, Sandra J. Dobmeier was escorted to the dais.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-At-Arms please have the Past National Commanders escorted to the chairs in the front of the room and our Immediate Past has been escorted to the platform, thank you.

(Whereupon, the Past National Commanders were escorted to the chairs in the front of the room as their names were called.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Lucille McCarthy, Maria Tedrow, Betty Hall, Jane Troutman, Renee Jones, Judy Steinhouse, Donna Tanner, Kathy Wiley.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-At-Arms please have the State Commanders, or the Delegates casting the State Department vote, escorted to the front of the room starting with Alabama, Pat Daugherty, Commander;

(Whereupon, the State Department Commanders were escorted to the chairs in the front of the room as their names were called.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Arizona, Cathy Price, State Commander; Arkansas, Linda Sipes, Senior Vice Commander; (Applause) California, Joe Plescia, State Commander; (Applause) Colorado, Kathleen Hanner, State Commander; (Applause) Delaware, Sarah Kashner, State Commander; (Applause) Florida, Debbera McLaughlin, State Commander; (Applause) Georgia, Shirley Mauldin, Senior Vice Commander; (Applause) Idaho, Sandy Doutre, State Commander; (Applause) Illinois, Bernice Vargas, State Commander; (Applause) Indiana, Debra Loetz, State Commander; Iowa, Connie Bolton, State Commander; Kansas, Veronica Bergquist, Junior Vice Commander; Kentucky, Mary Hall, State Commander; (Applause) Louisiana, Edwina Daugereaux, State Commander; (Applause) Maine, Sylvia Heath, Treasurer; (Applause) Maryland, Ruth Wilcoxon, State Commander; (Applause) Massachusetts, Elizabeth Eldridge, State Commander; (Applause) Michigan, William Taylor, State Commander, also Sergeant-At-Arms; (Applause) Minnesota, Billi-Jo Weekley, Senior-Vice Commander; Mississippi,

Charlene Williams, State Commander; (Applause) Missouri, Louise Komer, State Commander; (Applause) Nebraska, Virginia Butler; Nevada, Gail Bocage, State Commander; (Applause) New Hampshire, Francis Clevette, State Commander; (Applause) New Jersey, Marjorie Flemming, Past State Commander; (Applause) New Mexico, Ellen Timmerman, State Commander; (Applause) New York, Nickole Barbuto, State Commander; (Applause) North Carolina, Kim Hampton, State Commander; (Applause) North Dakota, Margaret Wheelden, State Commander; (Applause) Ohio, Deborah Hall, State Commander; (Applause) Oklahoma, Katie Hauser, State Commander; (Applause) Oregon, Rickie Gunn, State Commander; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Elizabeth Johnson, State Commander; (Applause) Rhode Island, Donna Folcarelli, State Commander; (Applause) South Carolina, Harriett Hudson, State Commander; (Applause) South Dakota, Karen Bolton, Junior Vice Commander; (Applause) Tennessee, Virginia Stephens, State Commander; (Applause) Texas, Joyce Brannen, State Commander; (Applause) Utah, June Schow, Commander; (Applause) Vermont, Anne Marie Greenwood, Treasurer; Virginia, Barbara Copeland, State Commander; (Applause) Washington, Robi Riley, State Commander; (Applause) West Virginia, Ellen Griggs; (Applause) Wisconsin, Rose Williams, State Commander; (Applause) Wyoming, Margaret Lucas, State Commander; (Applause) and Puerto Rico, Noemi Burgos, State Commander. (Applause) Is someone here for the State Department of Montana? Okay I apologize, nothing was sent in and they did not give me your name. So, Mary Jean – Ghee. Okay. Well I apologize but we have been on this. Welcome Montana.

(Whereupon, Mary E. Ghee for the State Department of Montana was escorted to her seat.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Please clear the aisles. We are going to have the posting of the colors. National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present and post the colors for State Department of Georgia.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Post the colors for the state of Georgia.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the Department of Georgia were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present the National colors.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Please post the National colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please dismiss the color bearers.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Color bearers dismissed. Thank you.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We'll now have the prayer by our appointed National Chaplain Louise Bohlinger.

CHAPLAIN LOUISE E. BOHLINGER: Isaiah 40:31, "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint."

Pray with me please. Dear Lord, God Almighty, thank you so much for your grace to bring us here today to do the business of DAVA. Give health and strength to everyone of us.

Whether we feel good or feel bad, help us have the strength to have attention to what the business of what DAVA is today. Be with Dorothea Campanelli as she continues to heal from her illness and all other members that were not able to be with us at this Convention.

Lord give us wisdom, give us courage to speak when we should speak and knowledge to know when not to speak. Bless us all during this day. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by National Americanism Chairman Susan Miller.

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: Free your hands. Place your right hand over your heart and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Susan K. Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You may be seated. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary state that the supreme legislative 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, Judy C. Hezlep, National Auxiliary Adjutant declare that the 88th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened in at Atlanta, Georgia.

Consideration and disposition of business before this Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force. To all present take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

It is my pleasure at this time to introduce someone to you that really needs no introduction, but it has been a pleasure to work with Kay this past year.

We've had some things, but, and I have been asked since I've been here, right here, she's healthy she's a picture of health, because of your ski thing.

COMMANDER KAY EGAN: Oh, yes.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: But she's here and she's healthy and I'd like for you to welcome our National Commander Kay Egan. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER EGAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER EGAN: What a crowd. And my head is going have to be on a pivot to go from there, all the way over there. (Laughter) So, my end people keep me straight. If I don't look at you often enough stand up and wave your hands. (Laughter) Welcome.

JUNIOR ACTIVITY CHAIRMAN KIM STAKE: Madam Commander?

COMMANDER EGAN: I didn't ask for questions. Yes. Who? Where? (Laughter) Oh, yes ma'am.

JUNIOR ACTIVITY CHAIRMAN STAKE: Kim Stake National Junior Activity Chair. May the Juniors and me be excused?

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes ma'am, you may.

JUNIOR ACTIVITY CHAIRMAN STAKE: Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: As soon as I find my place – that'll give you a chance to stop talking. (Laughter) And the Juniors may be excused as well if there are any left in the room. In case you didn't hear the original, yes you may go. (Laughter)

It gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce a group of women whose ranks hopefully I will soon be joining; and that is our Past National Commanders. I would like to introduce them to you now, please.

Our first one is Lucille McCarthy from the State of Florida; (Applause) Maria Tedrow from Ohio; (Applause) Betty Hall from Texas; (Applause) Jane Troutman from North Carolina; (Applause)

Carol Gray from Michigan; (Applause) Renee Jones from North Carolina; (Applause) Judy Steinhouse from North Dakota; (Applause) Donna Tanner from – has dual membership from Massachusetts and Florida; (Applause)

Katherine Wiley from the State of Washington; (Applause) Sandy Dobmeier, our Immediate Past Commander, from North Dakota. (Applause)

Donna, would you please come to the podium and bring greetings. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Donna Tanner advanced to the dais.)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm slow too, so don't worry about it. We don't have anyplace to go for the next couple of days, do we?

(Response of "No.")

COMMANDER EGAN: I tell you we're all getting so slow and creaky. I think we ought to hire some tap dancers to cheer us up as we move along.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA TANNER: Thank you Madam Commander. To the delegates and guests on behalf of the Past National Commanders, I want say welcome and thank you. And we hope that you are active participants in our Convention.

We also want to thank Kay for a great year of leadership for this organization. I have to tell you I got on the elevator the other day and they had a little screen in the elevator.

And I got on and I wish someone was on with me, I was alone, but it said "Stay connected". And I thought "Oh my God," (Laughter) "does she have power or what." (Laughter)

But then it kind of flipped to another commercial so I guess – (Laughter) but, anyway, thank you Kay we appreciate all the hard work you've done representing our organization this year. And on behalf of the Past National Commanders we want to give you this token of our appreciation.

(Whereupon, Commander Egan was presented with a gift from the Past National Commanders.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very, very much. It's heavy which means it's nice. (Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TANNER: Not paid for yet either. (Laughter) Alright, so am I done?

COMMANDER EGAN: If you so desire. You may be excused. Oh yes, this very beautiful forget-me-not paperweight. You can't see but inside the little forget-me-nots are etched. And I dearly love this. Thank you very much ladies. (Applause)

Okay, now in this crowd of lovely faces I know there are some people here that have never been to a National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary before. Would you please stand.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes. Now that's what I call a crowd. Welcome. And I hope this is not the last. We keep going on and having a good time every year at this time.

I would like to recognize the Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member of the Year recipient, Marge Johnson from Arkansas? – Idaho. I knew it was one of the states I'd been to.

And I met the lady when I was there for their State Convention. She is a remarkable woman. Everybody in Idaho loves her just to pieces. And when I'm 93, let me be going as well as she does.

Some rules of the Convention that, you know, bear some repeating – and you've heard them every year, but you're going to hear them again this year too.

Anyone making or seconding a motion must go to a microphone, and they're located in the center, over in that aisle, and over in that aisle. There are three of them.

Go to any of those microphones and state your name, unit, and state department or they may not be recognized since our reporter hears this information through his earphones.

Would the Credentials Chairman please come forward to give her preliminary report of the Credentials Committee? And that will be Dorothy Reese from the State of Georgia.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOROTHY REESE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: Madam Commander, National Officers, Delegates and guests, the Credential report is as follows: total Units registered, 166; total Departments registered, 42, for a total of 208.

Delegates registered, 336; alternates registered, 19; guests registered, 83; VIPs registered, 0; for a total of 438.

Total unit votes, 1,056; total department votes, 42; National Officers votes, 7; PNC votes, 8; NEC votes, 0; for a grand total of votes of 1,113. This will be – Madam Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER EGAN: It is moved that the Credentials report be accepted. Do I hear a Second?

MS. CAROL GOODMAN: Carol Goodman, Unit 2, Arizona, and I second.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that the Credentials report as presented be accepted, are there, is there any discussion? All in favor; those opposed. The motion carried. Thank you very much.

Now that we're in the peachy keen State of Georgia, I'd like to call upon our National Convention Chairman Ann Wilner.

NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMAN ANN WILNER: Good morning everybody.

(Response "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: Are we awake? Come on let's do this again. Good Morning!

(Response "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: Thank you. If any of you have been to my conferences or conventions this is what I do.

National Commander Kay, National Adjutant Judy, National Assistant Adjutant Pat, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, members, and guests, I would like to welcome you to the great State of Georgia and the city of Atlanta.

It is a pleasure to have you here. (Applause) Currently, Atlanta has different things for us to do. It is a very vibrant city. You can go to the aquarium, which is only three blocks down the road.

We have Centennial Park where the 1996 Olympic Games were held. You can visit the World of Coke, and see how Coca-Cola was made, and is currently made. There's a historic section of the homes in Atlanta which offer tours.

We have plenty of places for you to eat, and explore. There are carriage rides that come to the hotel and will pick you up so this way you don't have to go find them. They are wonderful. They have them in every city and I love them.

Atlanta is considered a top business city and transportation hub. Atlanta is the world headquarters for the companies such as Coca-Cola, Georgia Pacific, AT&T, CNN, Delta Airlines, and Turner Broadcasting.

Atlanta has the country's fourth largest concentration of Fortune Five Hundred companies inside the city limits. Atlanta has the gross metropolitan product of \$270 billion, accounting for more than two thirds of Georgia's economy.

Hartsfield Jackson International Airport is the world's busiest airport. The land consisting of the city of Atlanta was once a Native American village called Standing Peachtree.

The land that became the Atlanta area was taken from the Cherokee and Creeks by the white settlers in 1822, with the first area settlement being Decatur. During the American Civil War Atlanta served as an important railroad and military supply hub.

In 1864 the city became the target of major Union invasion. The area now covered by Atlanta was the scene of several battles, including the Battle of Peachtree Creek, the Battle of Atlanta, and the Battle of Ezra Church.

On September 1st, 1864, Confederate General John Bell Hood evacuated Atlanta after a four-month siege mounted by Union General William T. Sherman and ordered the public buildings, a possible Confederate assets destroyed.

The next day Mayor James Calhoun surrendered on September 7th. Sherman ordered the civilian population to evacuate. He then ordered Atlanta burned to the ground on November 11th in preparation for this march, though he spared the city's churches and hospitals.

The weather, everybody knows the weather here. Is it hot here or what?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: Well for the month of August the average temperatures average between 89 and 92 without the humidity.

When you factor in the humidity today's temperature is going to be about a 110, so it's going to be very hot, so let's stay inside today, no outdoor activities. (Laughter)

Atlanta has a classical music scene, includes the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Opera, Atlanta Ballet, the New Trinity Bique, and the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, the Georgia Boy Choir and the Atlanta Boy Choir.

Classical musicians have included renown conductors such as Robert Shaw, and the Atlanta Symphony's Robert Spano. The city is well known.

And the active live music scene, as you can hear outside if anybody goes outside at night you can hear everybody on their little instruments, and it's wonderful because it makes you feel homey.

Even though you're here in a big city you hear that music and it's kind of soothing. I enjoy it.

Atlanta is home to several professional sports franchises including teams from all four major leagues. The Atlanta Braves are here of major league baseball, the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League. They have all played here; they have won.

And the Braves began playing in 1871 at the Boston Red Stockings – I know, isn't that funny – and are the oldest continually operating professional sports franchise in America.

The Braves won the World Series in 1995 and had an unprecedented run of 14 straight Divisional Championships from 1991 until 2005.

We have the Atlanta Hawks for basketball, and we also have women's basketball here now so the WNBA has finally come to Atlanta.

We offer the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, which is here – it has a peaceful oasis including 30 acres of gardens and urban forest, wild flower trails, the Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory, and a 10,000-square foot Fuqua Orchard Center. A charming bridge links the main gates to the Children's Health Care of Atlanta Children's Hospital.

The garden offers year-round special events, exhibits and workshops. So if you get a chance to come when it's not as hot, that might be a great place to go.

The Georgia Aquarium – has anybody been to the aquarium yet? It is huge; it is massive; it is wonderful. Dive into a one-of-a-kind aquatic experience at the world's largest aquarium.

The Georgia Aquarium, get up close and with the whale sharks, the toothy sand tiger shark, the beluga whales, the sea turtles, and the aquatic animals from around the globe. With the largest collection of aquatic animals you are sure to see things you never seen before.

On behalf of the State of Georgia, I would like to welcome everybody here to our wonderful city. I hope you enjoy yourself while you are here.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask one of our delegates from Georgia. They will lead you in the right direction. We are glad that you are here. Something for you. (Applause) (Whereupon, Commander Egan was presented with a gift.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: On behalf of the great State of Georgia, for your second trip in six weeks, we are glad to have you. And I have had a wonderful time being your Convention chair. Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much, Ann. You really have worked hard. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: Okay. And we cannot forget about the Adjutants. These wonderful ladies have worked their tail-end off and I appreciate everything that they do. (Applause)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: While she's opening this I just want to say we started out with a different Convention chairman and worked with her for about six or seven months.

And her husband was an NSO and they were transferred out of here so Anne graciously jumped in and took over and things have gone very smoothly and she has done a wonderful job. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Anne, get up here.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: This one's got batteries. (Laughter) Oh, well – to explain this, when Kay came to our state Convention, okay I sent my husband to go get a gift.

Now if any of you all know my husband, he's a practical joker, so he goes to Things Remembered and finds a mouse.

You know Kay's motto this year was to "Stay connected" so he finds a silver mouse gets it engraved that says "You're a click above the rest" and brings it.

Well Kay made such a comment at the state Convention, that it has not been forgotten. Okay? And you want to tell them what you said?

COMMANDER EGAN: I don't remember. I said a lot of things. (Laughter)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: She goes, she holds it up like this and the mouse is hanging by the cord and she says "Well I guess I get to play with my mouse now." (Laughter)

So that has been the joke going around now, but it was a wonderful little gift. We've never found seen anything like that before. And with her motto being staying connected we thought that would be the best thing because she can connect it to her computer.

COMMANDER EGAN: And to go with it, pen holder.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILNER: And it's a clock, too. And it changes.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has a clock that has batteries, which they have given me. (Laughter) And you can't see the inscription but it says "Kay Egan" and then there's a map of the United States. (Laughter)

It's right beside it. This is really lovely. This will give me the incentive to clean off my desk. (Laughter and applause)

Alright, now the moment we've all been waiting for. The 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 the adoption of these rules.

MS. PAMELA J. HOGAN: Pam Hogan Department of California, Unit 13, I move that we accept the – I move that we accept the Standing Rules as presented – I'm sorry the Convention Rules as presented.

COMMANDER EGAN: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

MS. GRACE M. JAMES: Grace James, District 6, seconds.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that the National Convention Rules have been, to be adopted as presented. Could we have your state and unit please?

MS. JAMES: State of Virginia, Unit 11.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed? The motion carried. At this time may I have a motion to accept the agenda subject to changes? Come on, it keeps us flexible. Go to the mic, please.

MS. RUTH ANN WILCOXEN: Madam Commander, Ruth Wilcoxen, Unit 26, Maryland.

COMMANDER EGAN: You second?

MS. WILCOXEN: I second it.

COMMANDER EGAN: No, you moved. You moved. I'm sorry. Now I need a second.

MS. DEBORAH L. BARBUTO: Debbie Barbuto, New York, Unit 88, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you Debbie. It has been moved and seconded, is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed? The motion carried. Would our Senior Vice Commander Susan Henry, please take my place at the podium.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER SUSAN M. HENRY: Can't wait. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: I have the rest of the day, Monday and half of Tuesday. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: I had to do that. Approximately three times this week so far people have already been doing that and saying that. So I just couldn't resist.

COMMANDER EGAN: It's all right.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Kay has been a, done a great job as Commander this year, and would you please present your report?

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much Susan. Make yourselves comfortable, it's a long one. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, a member made a comment from the floor, away from a microphone, generating much laughter.)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'll keep my place here at the podium however way I can, including filibusters. (Laughter)

My first official duty was to take a cruise. (Laughter) The weekend after Labor Day I set sail along the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers in Western Pennsylvania to the annual Sharing and Caring Cruise for the veterans in the Pittsburgh area VAMC's and the nursing homes.

I shared the experience with Pennsylvania State Commander Laurie Stopyra and State Treasurer Sue Seyboldt. We fooled around with a clown and I made him blush, but I'm not going to tell you how. (Laughter)

I also hooked up with a 93-year old veteran who was a volunteer with the Sharing and Caring organization. And he has been doing this since the program was started 25 years ago.

I wanted to take him home with me, he was just too cute; but Susan and Laurie wouldn't let me. (Laughter) But however, the trip made me very proud of my home city, Pittsburgh.

It is just beautiful these days and I wish all of you could see it. It's nowhere near dirty old town that made your nostrils black before noon, with the coal dust and with the steel mills. I have never seen it look so good and I'd left in 1978.

Next up was our Fall Conference; and you all know what a wonderful experience that was. But this year, Ha! Ha! I do not have to present a problem, a program. (Laughter)

That my dears is called a "Freudian slip." (Laughter) But those that did, did an absolutely super job in presenting their programs. And I am very, very proud of them all.

A lot was given and a lot was learned. I will never ever forget the program put on by the Arkansas Juniors. I freely admit to shedding a couple of tears and I know I was not alone.

I went to Southeast Virginia for their Fall Conference, and Southeast Virginia in October is a beautiful sight. It kind of appease my annual longing to go someplace where the leaves on the trees turn different colors and didn't just stay palm fronds and wave in the breeze. It was good to see real trees.

So then it was a double pleasure to be present in Virginia Beach for their Fall Conference and to see color in their trees and eat fish, especially crab cakes. And if you can't get good crab cakes along the Eastern Shore, then you aren't going to get them anywhere.

Virginia has a wine industry I found out and of course I tried some of that to. And yes, I sampled deeply of southern hospitality. (Laughter) Now why did I put those two sentences together? (Laughter) Oh well.

Providing community service has always made me feel very good about myself and this year was no exception. I donned a hair net – glamour statement – and went off to help prepare packaged food, packaged dinners for the families at the Methodist Church in my hometown of Lehigh Acres with many of their members.

There were 150 of us volunteers all there and all we had to do was volunteer two hours of our time to pack 50,000 meals for the citizens of the community. However, 59,000 meals was our goal and we did it: 59,000-plus meals in two hours.

People of all ages showed up. (Applause) This is what a community can do when you stay together, when you stay connected. People of all ages showed up, from the 'tween population to members of my own age group – and I won't put a name to that. (Laughter)

When this task was done we all shared the same feeling. We felt so good about what we had done. And there were smiles all around. You know there is much to be said for helping others. The goodness flows both ways.

I helped the local health department with Swine Flu vaccinations a few weeks later. Now don't worry I didn't stick 'em, I just helped register people. (Laughter)

I must say this about my local health department; it was the best organized mass distribution that I have ever seen. We did 1,600 and 2,000 people at a session. And they went through and nobody had to wait.

Veterans Day is always very important to me and this year was no exception. I was very privileged to be part of the biggest Veterans Day parade in the country in Birmingham, Alabama. (Applause)

What a turn out of both participants and viewers. It was awesome to see a lot of young children waving flags as all the cars drove by saying "thank you" to the veterans with their hands over their hearts as that flag went by. Little kids, God bless them, every one.

Later that night, I ate with the biggest crowd I have ever dined with. Over 2,000 of us were served a sit down dinner.

Met up with some DAVA and DAV friends and one night we all enjoyed some good, old-fashioned barbeque and some southern hospitality. And we sat there with our bibs and we just dug in.

Yes Virginia, chivalry is alive and well and existing in Alabama. Thanksgiving and Christmas were spent joyfully with my children.

Midwinter Conference in January in my home State of Florida was a memorable on two fronts. I was home again – admittedly with some trepidation, you know prophets not recognized in their own hometown – and I was really concerned about how my program would go over with my peers in Florida.

Well, I don't know how well it went over but I know there was an awful lot of interaction that afternoon; and I was very pleased to see that.

So, we got through – I got through that and then God kind of save me because somebody came in from the hall and said, "You gotta come outside, it's snowing". (Laughter) And the Commander, Diane Franz, had to call a recess so everybody could go out and see the snow in Florida. (Laughter)

I didn't go out. I was in Pittsburgh two weeks ago, and I had seen a lot of snow. (Laughter) Only in Florida do they recess a meeting to go see snow. (Laughter)

And then after the conference I went with two of my favorite State Commanders, the same Diane Franz and Jim Sursely. Yeah that Jim Sursely, he's now State Commander of the DAV in Florida – or at least he was. I don't know; he was. He just went out of office.

Went up to Tallahassee, where Governor Charlie Crist presented me with an award. Traveling with Diane and Jim and his lovely wife Jeannie was a pleasure of all pleasure. And it was kind of the dessert after the great dinner that the conference was.

Towards the middle of January I went to Phoenix as a rep to their Spring Conference. Although it was a very short trip, just a couple of days, I met some very interesting people and enjoyed their hospitality and was interested in what they were doing for their veterans in that community.

Yes, especially at the Sky Harbor Airport where I spent thirteen hours waiting for a flight back to Florida – equipment failure. And they call that airport "friendly." (Laughter)

Well it was, but so help me I didn't want any hospitality, all I wanted to do was go to sleep. And I got out just in time because a couple of days after I left, Phoenix had a snowstorm (Laughter) so I do count my blessings.

I went to an Americanism program in Kansas City, Missouri in February. The Unit Juniors, under the direction of Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy presented the program which was very well done. And they gave me the flag that they folded as part of the program to me.

You know, if we could keep up the enthusiasm that we see in our Juniors, we really wouldn't have to worry about where the organization is going. Keep that enthusiasm going and we can count on this organization going on and on for a long time.

It was an honor to be present at Commander Barrera's presentation to the Senate's Veterans Affairs Committee in February. He is so good at what he does. What can I say about Bobby?

A few of us, who shall remain nameless, all went to a Mexican restaurant to celebrate the success of his presentation. Along with the good food, the six of us polished off seven pitchers of sangria. (Laughter) We had a great time. (Laughter) We also closed the place. (Laughter)

March was the month I was really looking forward to because it meant that I could travel to Colorado for the snow clinic. Well, we all know what happened.

After I borrowed all the gear – the coat, the ski pants, the mittens, and bought a pair of boots which I needed like a hole in the head in Florida, but I got them, and long silky insulated underwear to keep me warm – I got altitude sickness and spent the next eight days in the hospital. Well, I guess I'll never climb Mount Everest. (Laughter)

As most of you know, going to the State Convention in Hawaii was one of the plum tasks we have here as National Commander.

The convention on the Island of Maui was well run and had several breaks so that we could enjoy the perfect weather and the beautiful scenery around the hotel, and the fresh fruit that was served with every meal and set out on tables for us to enjoy.

I had other purposes as well. I was in residence with six flamingos, four huge noisy colorful parrots, turtles, a cockatoo, a black swan, and a lot of colorful coi. (Sigh) And now for Texas.

(Whereupon the Commander put on a pink cowboy hat, followed by laughter and applause.)

COMMANDER EGAN: It started off with one of my favorite people picking me up at the airport, Betty Hall, and she had food. (Laughter) Those of us that travel around on assignment can get very hungry traveling from Point A to Point B.

And so anyone who says, "We're going to lunch" before the second foot was on the ground is a, you know, an A-plus in my book. Considering that airlines don't feed us any more, it was doubly welcome.

Thank all of you in Texas, who took me to lunch and dinner immediately. Texans are very proud of their state and they show it. And everything is done in a big way.

I was not in a little room the entire time I was in Texas. During the dinner festivities on Saturday, we had an excellent one-man-band performer who sang to any instrument you can name. And let me tell you, he played a wicked fiddle.

The DAVA State Second Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken asked me to dance. You know that's the first time I ever danced with another Auxiliary member (Laughter) but it was nice. (Laughter)

Went to Oklahoma about two weeks later, and then more fun began. I walked into my hotel rooms and found six Victoria's Secret bags, in various sizes, placed throughout the whole room. (Laughter) Victoria's Secret bags in the state of Oklahoma kind of go well together.

I've been there a couple of times, and every time I go there they haul out this humongous Victoria's Secret bag to give me my gift. It's gotten to be a kind of joke with us at this point but to have six of them?

I didn't what they were up to. And I would not open the bags by myself. (Laughter) One, I knew it would be a joke, and a joke is no joke and isn't fun when you do it alone.

And so I waited for company and I found some lovely jewelry – in fact the necklace I had on yesterday – snacks, my favorites, pretzels and Milano cookies, some fruit, and there was wine and cheese and it was just marvelous.

Texas is big, man, and they're big on hospitality as well. Where's Texas? (Applause) Thank you very, very much. I came home with a lot of nice jewelry from Texas thanks to the Commander.

Let's see, where did I go next? Oh yes, instead of a big fancy dinner on Saturday night, they served a sandwich buffet and we were entertained by a USO Troop. This was Oklahoma. Right. I'm still on that page. I'm a little confused here.

And there was an Elvis impersonator with the USO Troop that entertained. And we had a great, good fun. And I stole Elvis's scarf.

(Whereupon, Commander Egan pulled it out from behind the podium amid laughter and applause.)

COMMANDER EGAN: He walked by me and my quick little fingers went psht. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Commander Egan made a snatching motion with her hand to demonstrate her movement.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Oklahoma is always a good place to go, trust me. Oh yeah, there were a couple of fist fights there, or one anyway that I know of, two women who were fighting over Elvis. (Laughter) They had to separate them. And again I mention no names. (Laughter)

You know I'm missing a page. I must go back and tell you about Arkansas. Their Juniors were selling cans of Tootsie Rolls. And they were selling them to make money for the pizza party which was yesterday. There were 32 Juniors there, and they had a blast.

But those little kids were out there selling chances, and selling Tootsie Rolls like a veteran Auxiliary fundraiser. And those ladies, little ladies and gentlemen were taught right.

You know I wasn't really finished with Texas because I made two trips there. I went to Commander Barrera's testimonial dinner in San Antonio. Even at this affair there was Auxiliary business to attend to, so it wasn't all playtime.

But the dinner was great, and we all enjoyed. And I met Bobby's parents and they were so thrilled with his accomplishments that they just beamed all the way through dinner and the festivities beyond.

I also met everybody in Bobby's family, sons and their families, and brothers and sisters. And Bobby was so proud of them. And it was a real fantastic night for the Barrera family. And I was privileged to be part of it.

We arrived in San Antonio in the middle of fiesta time. If any of you have ever been there during that time, you know that the place is awash with color and music and fun and food.

You know I won't tell you how much weight I have put on this year and I've enjoyed every swallow. (Laughter) The following weekend was my testimonial in Fort Meyers. The weather showed itself off and everyone thought they were in paradise.

It was a long, hard, cold winter for many of my guests. And my home state kind of courted them with the beautiful weather and the location that I had my dinner. One of my guests even went house hunting.

The following week I went to Coeur d'Alene for the Idaho convention, which was held in an old Indian lodge. One of the Auxiliary's fundraisers was a baked potato bar. There is no better place to get potatoes than in Idaho.

And I'm doing a great, great thing this year. I have a potato pin and I just got a peanut pin the other day. I can have a snack bar on my chest. (Laughter)

At any rate, this was a very successful baked potato bar because there were unlimited toppings to put on them as well. And the calories and the carbohydrates that went down night in that room was just unreal.

I went to Cincinnati the following week for a Finance Committee meeting. We finished planning how to spend the National money early enough – it doesn't take long to spend money – to go to Mayfest in Covington Kentucky.

When we got out of the cab we all said pretty much the same thing, "I smell funnel cakes." (Laughter) And we enjoyed the, all the stalls that were there.

And we, you know, had to tear some people away so that we could get back to the hotel. But we were good visitors; we spent a lot of money. I'm sure we'd be invited back.

Arkansas was next, and I had a nice reunion with my friends there. The State Commander went for coffee at the airport while we were waiting for someone else to come in.

And she came back and she said, "I don't know what is in the cream container, but the coffee won't lighten up." And she said "And I put a lot in. I kept shaking; I kept shaking."

Well, it turns out, that what she thought was the creamer was the sugar. (Laughter) Did you ever see syrup on the hoof? (Laughter) So we sent her back and she came back with the appropriate kind of coffee. Arkansas.

(Whereupon, the Commander put on a red hat shaped like a Razorback.)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm an official Razorback. (Laughter and applause.) And I won't give the call. (Laughter) I'll let one of my friends from Arkansas do that for me 'cause mine comes out kind of weak.

We also had an auction in Arkansas. They sold me or auctioned me off, whichever the term, to the DAV State Adjutant. And he paid – and I blush, \$300. Told you I was worth it. (Laughter) They also auctioned off Dave Gorman. The Auxiliary was lucky to get a dollar-and-a-half for him. (Laughter)

I made a practice run up to Perry, Georgia. I wanted to get, you know, in shape for the hot Atlanta summer so I went to Perry and it was hot.

We broke into a sweat going from our hotel room across down a little walkway and into the building. It was awful. And I'm from Florida and I'm used to pretty awful weather; but Georgia, you take the cake.

Okay, now I'm back on line. Maybe I shouldn't find it, this is getting long enough. (Laughter)

My last official visit as Commander was to the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge Pennsylvania. It was nice to be home. I saw trees that were hundreds of years old there in Valley Forge and rolling hills and all the things I don't have in Florida. As nice as Florida is, it was good to be home.

I was very impressed. They invited me to be a juror of some activities that were submitted from various and sundry individuals throughout the country from their chapters in I think from six or seven states. And it was interesting to read all of these submissions.

There were 68 of them and we managed to read them all in one day. It's amazing what people outside of our organization do on their own, out of the goodness of their hearts.

I was also amazed by the youth of America group that was there learning about the history of the area and the United States. And I am thinking there are a group of individuals that will never stand on a corner and burn a flag.

And I say I think we should encourage all of these groups to go forward and do Americanism at the core because this is the only way our country is going to protect and save what our veterans have died for. (Applause)

It was fitting, I think, that I went to the Philadelphia area as my last visit. I started in Pennsylvania and I finished in Pennsylvania. And I think that tells you that the world is not that big that you can't fill in the blanks in the middle.

God love you. God take care of you. I love you. And when they finally get me off the podium, I want you to know I'll miss you. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Commander Egan thanks for that great and entertaining report. The chair will now entertain a motion to accept the Commanders report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I would like to. I would like to. I would like to.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: We have a motion by Carol Gray National Judge Advocate to accept. May I have a second?

MRS. ALTHEA J. JACKSON: Jean Jackson, Unit 7, Colorado Springs, I belong to District 17. It gives me great pleasure to second that speech. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Thank you.

DELEGATE JACKSON: Susan, you're alright lady. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Thank you. We have a motion and a second.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Susan, can I make a third on that? (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Sufficient, thank you. We have a motion and a second is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed? The motion carries.

COMMANDER EGAN: Now to get back to some serious business, I call on the Finance Chairman, Finance Committee Chairman Fran Ortiz for the National Finance Committee Report and Budget Review.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANCES ORTIZ: National Commander Kay Egan, National officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, family, and friends. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ORTIZ: The National Finance Committee meeting was held May 15, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Commonwealth Hilton in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members of the Committee present were: Kay Egan National Commander, Aura Lee Nicodemus District 3 NEC, Jean Sursely District 7 NEC, Iris Brzezinski District 18 NEC, and myself, Frances Ortiz District 2 NEC.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice Commander Susan Henry, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, and Assistant National Adjutant Pat Kemper. The purpose of the meeting was to set up and adopt a budget for the 2011 year.

At this time I would like to thank the Committee and the staff for all their help. The budget was included in your registration packets. And at this time I move for adoption of the budget.

MS. AURA LEE NICODEMUS: Madam Commander.

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm sorry. Yes.

MS. NICODEMUS: Aura Lee Nicodemus, Bryon Morris Unit 3, Vermont, I second that nomination.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that the Finance Report be accepted. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed? The motion carries.

We will now go into our awards program in the various categories. Monetary awards are given in each category of each program to the first place winning units. And the checks will be mailed out from National Headquarters after Convention.

The first one will be Membership Award. Patrice Rapisand, will you come to the podium and give your report?

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Commander Kay, Adjutant Judy, Assistant Adjutant Pat, State Officers, Past National Commanders, and all the members and visitors here, I'd like to tell you that we did have a pretty good membership year.

But I want to encourage you for the next year and the year after that and the year after that to always remember, membership comes first. It's membership, membership, membership. Can you say that with me? Membership, membership, membership.

(Response of “Membership, Membership, Membership.”)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, here we go. The Membership Awards for the year 2009-2010. Group 1, 10 to 50, was a tie: Port Huron Number 12 Michigan, 10 membership increase; (Applause) and Tazewell County Number 31 Virginia, 10 membership increase. (Applause) Would you like to come up to the podium please?

(Whereupon, a representative from each of the units came forward to accept their award to a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: How do you do those without glasses? (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: You get your cataracts removed. (Laughter)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Group 2, 51 to 100. Will County Number 103 Illinois, 17 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Group 3, 101 to 200, Roy B. Hodges Number 128, Texas. (Applause) I’m bias. (Laughter) Oh, I’m sorry. They had a 51 member increase. (Applause) Come on up.

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Sorry, it’s Texas. Group 4, 201 and over, Venice Gulf, Number 101 Florida, 29 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: The next one is for the new unit with the most new members and that is Kokoma, Number – Kokomo. I’m sorry, Kokomo. Number – I learned phonetics – Number 28 Indiana, 28 new members, senior members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, the next award is to the Department with the largest percentage increase over quota and that would be the State Department of South Dakota, with 66 percent increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: And I might add that South Dakota was the only state to reach quota this year. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a member indicated New Hampshire reached quota.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Did you? Did they at the last minute? I apologize, New Hampshire. Okay. Well, you know we have deadlines and I apologize for not recognizing you. New Hampshire. (Applause)

Okay, Department with the largest numerical increase over quota, the State Department of Indiana with a 19-member increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: And I know this is the one everybody’s waiting for, the top membership recruiter, Donna Boggs Florida Number 18, 51 new senior members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a Ms. Boggs came forward to accept her award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Good job. Now, of course, Donna is, will be awarded a \$300 stipend for all of her hard work. Thank you, Donna. (Applause) And the six runner’s up for top recruiter at \$100 each award are: Deborah Christian from Texas Number 6; (Applause) Mary Burns-Michael; (Applause) from Texas Number 128; (Applause)

Elizabeth Albertson, Florida, Number 82; (Applause) Linda Oliver from Oklahoma, Number 88; (Applause) Dorothy Businger from Ohio, Number 43 – Businger; (Applause) Brenda Ott Michigan Number 3. (Applause)

Congratulations to all of you. Congratulations to the whole membership for recruiting. And remember, what are we going to work on for the rest of our lives? Membership, membership, membership. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Whose glasses?

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAPISAND: Mine. There no good to me.

COMMANDER EGAN: That was great and I personally appreciate what all of you have done in membership efforts this year. Now we’ll have Americanism with Susan Miller as the Chairman. (Applause) A voice in the wilderness. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Would Leslie Ivy from District 21, please come forward? She’s with the Juniors? Okay, you can read for her, then. All right, the secretary, since the Chairman isn’t here because she is with the juniors, will the secretary for our committee please come up, Angela?

(Whereupon, Angela Lara advanced to the dais.)

MS. ANGELA LARA: Thank you. Madam Commander. Where did she go? (Laughter) There you are. National Adjutant, officers, delegates, and guests, the Americanism Committee met in the Teakwood Room at 1:00 o'clock on 7/31.

Our advisor was Susan Miller and I, Angela Lara, was the secretary. The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Americanism reward. Group 1, Coffee County, Unit 90 Tennessee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LARA: Did they come up?

(Response of "Yes.")

MS. LARA: Oh, okay. Group 2, 51 to 100 members was Antonio A. Hernandez, Unit 25 Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LARA: Group 3, 101 members to 200 members, Grandstand Unit 30, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LARA: Group 4, 201 members and over is Bay Pines Holiday Isles, Unit 13, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LARA: For the Special Americanism Award: Group 1 which is 10 to 200 members, Coffee County Unit 90 Tennessee; (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LARA: Group 2 which is 201 members and over is Elkhart Unit 19 Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LARA: The special Americanism. You got both. The Committee submitted one recommendation that we really want to stress – and I know you guys have heard this year after year, but make sure both sides of the paper are there. We had some that only had the front part.

The one side didn't have the back part therefore they didn't have the commander or the adjutant or chairman's signature on them. And we could see where they had been stapled together but stapled together they get pulled apart somewhere.

And I'd like to now announce our committee members and if you would please stand while I call you I'd appreciate that: Allen Herrick from Massachusetts Unit 72; Kristopher Barbuto New York Number 88;

Karen Rediker Vermont Unit 3; Renee Blow Delaware Unit 1; Mae Martin Pennsylvania Unit 78; Linda King Virginia Unit 2; Willie Hawkins Florida Unit 87; Faye Miller Alabama Unit 94;

Barbra Smeal North Carolina Unit 18; Carol Lee Michigan Unit 129; Debbie Hall Ohio Unit 50; Mary Elizabeth Honaker Wisconsin Unit 3; Donna Quesinberry Kentucky Unit 3; Glenda Cooper Missouri Unit 2;

Julie Steinbaugh California Unit 7; myself Angela Lara New Mexico Unit 11; Patricia Egel Arizona Unit 1; Belinda Hackney Texas 42; and I should have brought my glasses because I'm having a hard time reading these; and Leslie Ivy Arkansas Number 7.

I thank the committee members for all the work that they did. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Which unit did not pick up there award? Coffee County Tennessee got theirs. Antonio A. Hernandez from Texas 25, did you get your certificate? Will the State Commander from Texas come please pick up the certificate for Antonio A. Hernandez 25 please?

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: And I want to tell you I had the youngest member on my committee, and that was Riley Richard Barbuto from New York. And he's over there with his Daddy. (Laughter) And I got to feed him while everybody else worked. It was so wonderful.

COMMANDER EGAN: All right, we'll do the Community Service awards now, LeeAnn Karg advisor.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LeeANN B. KARG: The chairman of our committee was Mattie Roberts from District 17. Mattie would you come forward please?

(Whereupon, Mattie Roberts advanced to the podium.)

MS. MATTIE ROBERTS: National Commander, National Adjutant, Assistant National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests for the 88th

National Auxiliary Convention, the National Community Service Convention Committee in the Kennesaw Room at 1:00 p.m. July 31st, 2010.

Our advisor was LeeAnn Karg. Our secretary was Jackie Herrick. Would the following Committee members please stand as your name is called: District 1, Jackie Herrick, Massachusetts Number 72; District 2, Priscilla Levine, New York Number 35;

District 3, Ann Young, New Hampshire Number 7; District 4, Marjorie Fleming, New Jersey Number 42; District 5, Elizabeth Johnson, Pennsylvania Number 73; District 6, Diane Brinkley, Virginia Number 22;

District 7, Sharon Dean, Florida Number 38; District 8, Lois Starling, Mississippi Number 5; District 10, Alyson Lamphere, Michigan Number 114; District 11, Crystal Farrell, Ohio Number 144;

District 13, Mary Hall, Kentucky Number 169; District 15, Connie Bolton, Iowa Number 20; Number 16, District 16, Bea Vieira, California Number 77; and I'm District 17, Mattie Roberts, New Mexico Number 9;

District 18, Carolyn Walker, Nevada Number 12; Number 19, District 19, Sandra Doutre, Idaho Number 9; District 20, Martha Fairbanks, Texas 128. (Applause)

The following groups, Group Number 1, the winner was Unit 10, Idaho. That's 10 to 50 members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. ROBERTS: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, is Unit 66 Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. ROBERTS: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, was Unit 42 Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. ROBERTS: Group 4, 201 or more, is Unit 67, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. ROBERTS: The Committee submitted the following recommendations: make sure headings including numbers working; the Number 2 suggestion was make sure explanations include itemization; Number 3, do not mark on the border. That completes my report. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Is the Junior Activities Chairman in the room?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She's still helping with the Junior activity stuff.

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay. Can we skip that for the time being? And we will go on to the Legislative Committee report, Donna Adams, advisor.

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: Good morning, Madam Commander.

COMMANDER EGAN: Good morning.

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: You are a way tough act to follow, so I'm not going to try. Laurie Stopyra, would you come up please, the Chairman of the Legislative Convention Committee.

(Whereupon, Chairman Stopyra advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: Did I get it right?

MS. LAURIE STOPYRA: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. STOPYRA: Good morning National Commander, and Adjutants, guests, members. We had our meeting in the Lenox Room, July 31st, 2010. The advisor was Donna Adams. My secretary was Ramona Ganong.

I would like my Convention Committee members to stand when I call your name: Jackie Benning from Massachusetts 4, District 1; Carrie Robinson, New York Number 15, District 2;

Frances Clevette, New Hampshire Unit 1, District 3; Janet Johnson, Delaware Unit 1, District 4; myself, I'm from Pennsylvania Unit 78, District 5; Carol Simmons, Maryland Unit 22, from District 6;

Donna Joyner, Florida Unit 16, District 7; Everleen Register, Alabama Unit 87, District 8; Geraldine Evans, South Carolina Unit Number 4, District 9; William Taylor, Michigan Unit 11, District 10;

Judy Lenhart, Ohio Number 73, District 11; Ann Glende, Wisconsin Unit 19, District 12; Dewanna Rogers, Kentucky Unit 134, District 13; Peggy Wheelden, North Dakota Unit 1, District 14;

Leonard Steinman, Missouri, Unit Number 51, District 15; June Adema, California, Unit 6, District 16; Ramona Ganong, New Mexico, Unit 38, District 17; Ann Richardson, Nevada, Unit 12, District 18 –

(Whereupon, a member from the audience called out a different pronunciation of Nevada.)

MS. STOPYRA: Sorry Nevada. Kathryn Wiley, Washington Unit 46, District 19; and Christopher Easley, Texas Unit 5, District 20. Thank you everyone. (Applause)

Our winners; the first group 10 to 50 members, is Scott Vetterling, Unit 33 Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. STOPYRA: Our second group, 51 to 100 members, is Saint Mary's, Unit 26, Maryland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. STOPYRA: Our third group, 101 to 200 is John T. Hensley, Unit 96, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. STOPYRA: And our last group, unit or Group 4, 201 members and over is Glendale Unit 20, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. STOPYRA: We had one recommendation. The recommendation that we had discussed was when you fill out your form put bills on that is for veterans' bills only. I want to thank everyone for letting me be the chairman and have a great Convention. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'd like to call the advisor of the Mae Holmes, the one who's chomping at the bit to my left. (Laughter)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: I wasn't talking. Might be the first time.

COMMANDER EGAN: I didn't say – you've got a point. (Laughter) You think I talk a lot?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Thank you. Will Chairman Kathy Hannah – Hanner please come forward?

(Whereupon, Kathy Hanner advanced to the dais.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Sorry, I have a cousin named Kathy Hannah. Please.

MS. KATHY HANNER: Thank you. National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, and Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of our National Convention, this is the Mae Holmes Convention Committee that – we met at in the Marietta Room at 1:00 p.m. July 31st, 2010.

Our advisor was Susan Henry. And our secretary was Ann Schatz. I'd like to go ahead and list our or at least name our Committee people. And let's see, I have them right here. Makes it all little bit easier.

District 1 was Mary Bixby from Massachusetts – District 2, Mary Sternecker, New York Unit 118; District 3, Ann Schatz, Rhode Island Unit 1 – if they could please stand. I'm looking, I don't see you. Where are you? Okay, come on ladies help me out here. District 6, Ellen Griggs, West Virginia Unit 32; District 7, Donna Boggs, Florida Unit 18; District 8, Janet Reese, Mississippi Unit 56; District 9, Carole Bostwick, South Carolina Unit 1; District 10, Linda Walters, Michigan Unit 14; District 11, Carolyn Reed, Ohio Unit 35; District 12, Bernice Vargas, Illinois Unit 103; District 13, Deborah Loetz, Indiana – excuse me, Unit 23; District 15, Juna Ridenhour, Missouri Unit 2; myself, I'm Kathy Hanner; I'm from Colorado Unit 26; District 18, Iris Brzezinski, Nevada or we said Nevada earlier, excuse us, Nevada, Unit 13; District 20, Joanne Johnson, Texas Unit 128; District 21, Linda Sipes, Arkansas Unit 7. This was our Committee. (Applause) Thank you, ladies.

Okay, the following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Award. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Harry Murrell, Unit 26, Tennessee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. HANNER: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Robert Johns Unit 73, Pennsylvania. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. HANNER: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Wagner County Number 88, Oklahoma. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. HANNER: Group 4, 201 plus members, Francis J. Beaton Number 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. HANNER: Our committee recommended, submitted the following recommendations: on Line Item Number 7 on the form we wanted to add the miles to the community service.

There is a lot of miles and some of them weren't added. So we looked those over, we voted on this and that was our recommendation. Okay? That's it. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'd like to proceed now to the Hospital awards, Annie Adams, advisor.

MS. ANNIE ROSE ADAMS: Would my Chairman of my Committee please come forward, Judy Davis. I think that's who it was, the one that signed it.

(Whereupon, Susan Linder came to the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Here she is. I'm sorry.

MS. ADAMS: That's okay. I'll do this part. I'd like to thank my Committee people: Sandy Fincel would you please stand and be recognized; Deborah Barbuto; Ann Marie Greenwood; Lena Mae Maki; Marie Bear –

MS. SUSAN LINDER: This is part I'm supposed to do.

MS. ADAMS: Oh, I know that. I'm going to give you the easy part. (Laughter) Where was I? Yes, okay, Josephine Pike; Harriett Hudson; Alma Marie Taylor; Judy Davis; Evelyn Couture;

Arlene Newsome; Ardith Dillard; Susan Linder; June Schow; Kathy Price; Joyce Humes. And that finishes it out. And I wish to say to each of you thank you very much and you did an outstanding job. Please give them a hand. (Applause)

MS. LINDER: Okay, I was the chairman, Susan Linder. And the Group 1, 10 to 50 members, was the State of Washington, Unit 32. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LINDER: I don't have the names. Group 2, 51 to 100 was Texas Unit Number 95. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LINDER: Group 3, 101 to 200, Florida Unit 96. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LINDER: And Group 4, 201 and over, New York Unit 120. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. LINDER: We had a couple recommendations. The words on the application, it says, "use reverse side." It's in bold. It's underlined.

Maybe we could italicize it and put it in red because we do need the information on the back of the form, not attached to it. And it's that specific rule.

And the second one, have states do a little better proofreading so the reports that come in are eligible to be voted on because a lot of things that – we have to have the signatures, we have to have the, like I said, the stuff on the back so make sure that they're really proofread good on the state level.

And I want to thank everybody on the Committee for working with me. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much, Annie, for your contribution to this and congratulations to the awardees. And I would now like to call on Margaret Snelling for the History Book.

(Whereupon, Margaret Snelling advanced to the dais.)

MRS. MARGARET SNELLING: Would the chairman, Linda Bailey, please join me.

(Whereupon, Linda Bailey advanced to the dais.)

MRS. SNELLING: And while she's on her way here I'd just like to say I apologize for my voice. We had six fantastic history books. Thank you so much. We had a time judging because they were all so good.

And we didn't have enough time, really, because the men or whoever were in the next group came in and invited us to leave so we had to just grab up everything and leave. (Laughter)

I do appreciate all those books. I love to get history books when I'm the chairman. Is Linda?

MS. LINDA BAILEY: I'm here.

MRS. SNELLING: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. BAILEY: Madame Commander, Adjutant – oh, you're still here. Okay – officers and guests, on the history book we met in the Spring Room, 1:00 o'clock, July the 31st, 2010.

Margaret Snelling was the advisor. Denise Proffitt was our secretary. And the chairman was Linda Bailey. The State Department of Michigan was our winner. (Applause) But the main reason that we had a lot of them that didn't win is they didn't follow directions so.

But I would like to thank the Committee members. We have, from District 2 Harvey Levine, would you please stand; District 3 was Roberta Bugbee; District 6, Leona Reeder; District 7, Betty Hess;

District 8, myself; District 9 was Kim Hampton; District 10, Loraine Connelly; District 11, Denise Proffitt. District 12 was Janet Bateman; District 13 was Melissa Walker; District 14 was Cheryl Knispel;

District 15 was Shirlene Rath; District 17 was Elaine Timmermann; District 18 was Yvonne Pitts; District 19 was Robi Riley; and District 20 was Ursula Cunningham. I'd like to thank everyone that helped. (Applause)

We also had some issues with the history book where there was smudges on there. There was coffee stains and that's one thing that really cost some points on some of them. I'd like to thank you all. (Applause)

Michigan. Is Michigan? And I think I saw we had three male state commanders this year or two. (Applause) (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. SNELLING: I have one more thing to say about your history books. This has really been a fantastic time for me. I love to do history books but this will be my last time doing them.

In the future when you do your books pay close attention to your book and the directions. A lot of people had fantastic books but the directions – you just sort of threw those out the window.

And be sure to check for smudges before you turn that book in. Make that your last thing that you do because sometimes you may just touch something and forget that you did that. But be sure to check your book before you do that.

And make lots of books because they are fantastic to look at after your years are finished and your commanders will certainly enjoy them. Thank you so much for all your participation. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Frances Costa on VAVS.

(Whereupon, Frances Costa came to the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'll tell you, when I was sick in Colorado this woman really, really took care of me, babied me, got me to the doctors and came to the hospital eight miles down the hill with me. Thank you, Fran.

MS. FRANCES COSTA: You're welcome. (Applause) It was an experience.

COMMANDER EGAN: I'll bet.

MS. COSTA: It certainly was an experience. (Laughter) National Commander Egan, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests, it has been a pleasure serving as the VAVS chairman.

It was an enjoyable week, again, at the Winter Sports Clinic. And I thank you all for the VAVS participation that has evolved in the past three years and I've enjoyed reading all the reports. Could I ask Amy Buterbaugh to please come forward, the chairman.

(Whereupon, Amy Buterbaugh came to the podium.)

MS. COSTA: It was nice to have someone so young serving on the committee.

MS. AMY BUTERBAUGH: Okay, well, I guess it is still morning. All right, I want to thank my Committee members and would they please stand as I call their name.

(Whereupon, Ms. Buterbaugh adjusted the height of the microphone.)

MS. BUTERBAUGH: Better? Okay. Nancy Mooney; Matilda Books; Donna Folcarelli; Dorothy Kashner; myself; Elizabeth Swift; Phyllis Powell; Dorothy Robinson; Nancy Spangler; Barbara Macomb; Vicki Johnston; Rose Williams; May Ewing; Lois McCarron; Joselyn Brown; Dori Bogan; sorry; (Laughter) Gail Bocage; Flo Riley; and Katie Critz.

Thank you, ladies. (Applause) Yes. Okay, for Group Number 1, 10 to 50, is Unit 27, New York. (Applause) For Number 2, 51 to 100, it is Unit 40, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. BUTERBAUGH: Number 40. Oh, you mean New York? I'm sorry, we're not very together. I don't have the papers.

COMMANDER EGAN: You know, if we were running a television show they'd be very upset with us – too long a time with no noise. (Laughter)

MS. BUTERBAUGH: Okay. Then our Number 3 is Unit 5 Sumter, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. BUTERBAUGH: And Number 4 is 201 and over with Unit 7 – sorry?
(Response of “State.”)
MS. BUTERBAUGH: C-O, Connecticut?
(Response of “Colorado.”)
MS. BUTERBAUGH: Colorado. Sorry.
COMMANDER EGAN: Colorado. (Applause)
MS. BUTERBAUGH: Georgia? Okay, for our Number 1, 10 to 50, it’s 27, Georgia, not New York. (Applause)
(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)
MS. BUTERBAUGH: Okay. I’m going to say them all again. Group 1, 10 to 50, is Number 27, Georgia. Group 2, 51 to 100 is Number 40, South Carolina. (Applause)
101 to 200 is Unit 5, South Carolina. (Applause) And 201 and over is Unit 7, Colorado. (Applause)
Okay. And some of our recommendations were to please check your totals when you’re adding everything down and that we only need one report per state per category.
And you need to combine your medical center into one report. And then on the form itself everything goes right down the line. We need to make sure all our numbers are correct. And then for our final one, this one – do you want to tell them? You can.
MS. COSTA: All right, we did have one situation and it’s probably something advisable that in the future if you serve on a judging committee and you see that one of the reports in the group that you might be in for judging has your own unit, it might be wise to maybe switch to another group because it did cause a little bit of a problem. And if we had known ahead of time we could have alleviated a lot of the stress for the individuals on the Committee.
COMMANDER EGAN: Could you read the winners again?
MS. BUTERBAUGH: Go ahead.
MS. COSTA: All right, I’m going to read the winners again just so that everyone is clear. It was Dick M. Lynch Number 27, Georgia; Anderson Number 40, South Carolina; Hancock Number 5, Sumter, South Carolina; Murphy-Borelli-Klumker, Lakewood, Colorado, Number 7. (Applause)
COMMANDER EGAN: At this point we are now going to have the first reading of our Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Oh, okay. In the meantime they can please, the Pages or somebody help pass out the forms.
We’ve got a big crowd. It will take us a good while to get things passed out. And, quite frankly, we’re going to need all the help we can get.
(Whereupon, the Pages began passing out papers to all the delegates present.)
COMMANDER EGAN: Don’t forget the officers. You know, you all make me feel like God – ask and I shall receive. Anybody who wants to stand up, stand up.
(Whereupon, Commander Egan was given a peach pin.)
COMMANDER EGAN: I just got a Georgia peach to go with my baked potatoes and my peanut. Anybody want to come for lunch? (Laughter) Please settle what you’re doing, ladies. I’d like to get on with the meeting. We’ve got a lot to cover.
Okay, what I’d like to do is call on the Junior Activities Chamander – Chamander? (Laughter) – Chairman Kim Stake. Would you – you know, we’re flexible.
We kind of bend the program to our needs and to yours. Wait a minute, before Kim, would you please make your announcement.
UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you. The Nor’easter will be held downstairs in the Grand Hall, Rooms A and B, at noon.
COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you.
UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.
COMMANDER EGAN: Please repeat the room it’s in.
SENIOR VICE CHAIRMAN HENRY: Grand Ballroom.
UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Nor’easter will be held in the Grand Hall, Rooms A and B at noon. I’m looking at her, sorry. The Grand Hall, Rooms A and B.
UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: What floor?
UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Downstairs on the Exhibit Level.
COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, let’s go on with the meeting. Kim, please.
(Whereupon, Ms. Stake advanced to the dais.)
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KIM STAKE: I would like to call up our Chairman for Junior Activities, please. Micki, are you here?
MS. MICKI KRAFT: Yes.

(Whereupon, Micki Kraft advanced to the dais.)

MS. KRAFT: National Commander Kay, National Adjutant Judy – I don't know where Pat went; oh, there she is – National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, guests of this 88th National Auxiliary Convention, the National Junior Activities Convention Committee met in the University Room at 1:00 o'clock on July 31st, 2010. Our advisor was Kim Stake and Sandy Resner was the secretary.

And the other people that were involved, District 2 was Nickole Barbuto – if you will please stand if you're in the room; oh, there you are; stand up; (Laughter)

Wanda Furbish, District 3; District 6, was Shelly Kennedy; District 7, Julie – I cannot read your last name, dear; District 8 was Cornelia Cobb; District 9, Lynn Prosser; District 10, Victoria Lee; District 11, Judy Uetterling; District 12, Sandy Resner; District 13, Amanda Roberts; District 14, Mary Lou Weber; District 17, Jean – District 17, is Pam Hogan, that's 16;

17 is Sharon Hardin; 18 was Nancy Chavira; District 19 was myself; District 20 is Angelyn Scott; 21 was Mary Hall. (Applause) District 17 was Sean Tatham. (Applause)

Okay, the following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Junior Activities Awards: Group 1, 1 to 25, D.P. Houston Memorial 57, Heber Springs, Arkansas. (Applause) How do you pronounce that? Heber? Heber Springs? I'll get used to it. I'm going to be saying it enough. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: District, Group 2, 26 to 50 members is Titusville, Number 109, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: Group 3, 51 to 100 is Willingboro, Number 42, New Jersey. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: Group 4, 101 and over is Clarence Tom Lemley Number 24, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: The Junior Activities Book, J.P. Houston Memorial 57, Heber Springs, Arkansas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the unit came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: And the National Junior Award for Age 15 to 17 goes to Casey Stake, Arkansas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, someone came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: Age 11 to 14, Kitana Bishop Riley from Washington. Yes, she did. I wouldn't tell Robi. (Applause)

(Whereupon, someone came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: And from Age 7 to 10 is Derrick Burns from Arkansas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, someone came forward to accept the award.)

MS. KRAFT: Okay, and we had recommendations. If your report is not signed it wasn't disqualified but please try to make sure that it is filled out. All your hard work, you know, it's going to go to waste. And it's sad to see that happen.

Also, the description of what was done for an activity should be written down, not just that a visit was made. All information must be correct.

The winner of a unit was disqualified – no, okay, I read that wrong. Okay, you want to explain what we did, what happened? Okay.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: I would just like to say on behalf of all the Junior members, they did an incredible job this year. If you look at the – (Applause) if you look at the handouts, there was over 40,000 Junior hours logged. (Applause)

And I think that's been a – I think that's been one of the highest numbers in a long time. And I told them yesterday when we had our pizza party it was awesome.

And I told them that it was going to be really cool to watch them grow up through Junior Auxiliary and when they got to Senior members they would be very productive and that it was possible that one of those kids that are learning and being guided would be in the same situation that I am right now. And so it's just been amazing.

And we want to say that when you fill these applications out, the very first three points are your header. We need your name of your unit. If you go by the town that you live in, that's the name of your unit.

You don't put "Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary" because that's all of us. So you put the name of your unit then your number and then where you're from.

You lose three points if you don't fill that out. It doesn't disqualify you but it could cost you a National award. So thank you very much and thank you for the opportunity, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Moving right along, because we really have a lot to cover, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman will come forward for the first reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

(Whereupon, Lucille McCarthy advanced to the dais.)

COMMANDER EGAN: This is only a reading. We are not voting on them. This is just a reading. And, please, hold all questions and comments when we have our second reading later on in the course of the Convention.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LUCILLE O. MCCARTHY: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Or is it almost afternoon (Laughter) or lunchtime at least. As the Commander mentioned, this is strictly reading and on the second reading will be the time that we will vote and discuss.

The first amendment is the National Constitution, Page 1, Article III, Eligibility for Membership. Delete Section 1 through 6 and substitute the following:

"Section 1. The family and extended family members of any person or any deceased person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

"Section 2. The family and extended family members of any person injured and may still be in active service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

"Section 3. The family and extended family members of any person who served with the armed forces of any nation associated with the United States of America as an ally, was honorable discharged, and became an American citizen are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

"Section 4. The family and extended family members of any person who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

"Section 5. The family and extended family of Auxiliary members who are not otherwise eligible for membership are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

"Section 6. Any member in good standing and eligible for membership in both the parent organization and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall be eligible to vote, hold an elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary when not holding an elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the Disabled American Veterans."

And the rationale: to expand the eligibility of Auxiliary membership in order to attract new members and volunteers who will support the mission and objectives of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

National Constitution, Page N-4, Article IV, Administration, Section 5, Line 5, delete "Chaplain". Section 5 will then read:

"Each National Convention shall elect a National Commander, a National Senior Vice Commander, four National Junior Vice Commanders, and a National Judge Advocate."

Rationale: a National Chaplain should be selected for their natural ability to be a spiritual leader for the organization and for the position and the position should not be used as a progression to an elected office.

When the amendments to the National Constitution are adopted and ratified, the following Bylaws will be changed to agree with the amended National Constitution:

National Bylaws Article II, Section 1 and 2; Article III, Section 5; Standard State Department Bylaws, Article III, Sections 1 and 2; Article IV, Section 6; Article V, Section 1; and Standard Local Unit Bylaws Article III, Section 1; Article IX, Section 1; Article 10, Section 2; Regular Meeting, Page U-21, Junior Vice Commander, and Installation of Officers, Paragraph 5.

Now, you will see these proposed amendments will, that are connected with the Constitution will be found Page 2 through Page 4. But they are as follows: Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1, Item F, delete entire item.

Rationale: to agree with the National Constitution.

Page U-21, Regular Meeting, Paragraph 3, Junior Vice Commander, delete and substitute the following:

“The family and the extended family members of any person or a deceased person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.”

The rationale is this will agree with Article III, Section 1 in the National Constitution.

Page N-13, Article II, National Officers, Section 1, Elected National Officers, Line 7, delete “a National Chaplain”. Section 1 will then read:

“Section 1. Elected National Officers. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, a National Senior Vice Commander, a National First Junior Vice Commander, a National Second Junior Vice Commander, a National Third Junior Vice Commander, a National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, and a National Judge Advocate. Not more than one Vice Commander shall be elected from any one state or territory.”

The rationale: Section 1 will then agree with Article IV, Section 5 in the National Constitution.

Page N-14, Article II, National Officers, Section 2, Appointed Officers – Appointed National Officers, Line 4, insert “a National Chaplain” following “Assistant Adjutant or Adjutants”. Section 2 will then read:

“The National Commander, with the consent of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a National Adjutant, a recommended National Assistant Adjutant or Adjutants, a National Chaplain, and a National Sergeant-at-Arms.”

Rationale is Section 2 will then agree with Article IV, Section 5 in the National Constitution.

The next is strictly housekeeping but I will read it. Page N-16, Article III, Duties of National Officers: renumber Section 4 to read “Section 5: National Chaplain”; renumber Section 5 to read “Section 3: National Judge Advocate”; renumber Section 6 to read, “Section 4: National Adjutant”; delete Section 6, Auxiliary Service/Support Fund; make this the fourth paragraph of National Adjutant/National Adjutants duties.

Bold the words “National Auxiliary Service/Support Fund” and renumber Section 8 to read, “Section 6: National Sergeant-at-Arms”.

Page S-4, Article III, State Officers, Section 1: Elected State Officers, Line 3 and 4, delete “a State Chaplain”. Section 1 will then read:

“The State Convention shall elect a State Commander, a State Senior Vice Commander, a State First Junior Vice Commander, a State Treasurer, and a State Judge Advocate.

“If deemed desirable, a State Second Junior Vice Commander, a State Third Junior Vice Commander, and a State Fourth Junior Vice Commander may be elected and National Headquarters so advised on the Supplement to State Bylaws.”

Rationale: Section 1 will then agree with Article IV, Section 5 in the National Constitution.

Page S-4, Article III, State Officers, Section 2: Appointed State Officers, insert “a State Chaplain” following “State Adjutant”. Section 2 will then read:

“The State Commander with the approval of the State Executive Committee shall appoint a State Adjutant, a State Chaplain, a State Sergeant-at-Arms, and may appoint any additional State Officers when deemed necessary.”

Rationale: Section 2 will then agree with Article IV, Section 2, in the National Constitution.

Page S-6, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4: State Chaplain. This is also housekeeping. Move and renumber Section 4 to read: “Section 7: State Chaplain” and old Section 5 will become Section 4. Section 6 will become Section 5 and Section 7 will become Section 6.

Page S-9, Article V, Tenure of Office, Section 1: Elected State Officers, delete “State Chaplain”. Paragraph 4 will then read:

“In the case of the removal for cause, death, resignation or inability of the lowest ranking State Junior Vice Commander, State Treasurer or the State Judge Advocate to discharge the duties of their office, the State Commander shall, with the concurrence by majority vote of the State Executive Committee, appoint a successor to fill these vacancies.”

Rationale: this paragraph refers to filling vacancies of elected officers.

Page U-1, Article III, Unit Officers, Section 1, Line 3, delete “Chaplain”. Section 1 will then read:

“Officers shall be elected as follows: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and Treasurer.”

(Whereupon, a cell phone rang.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Rationale: this section will then agree with those officers elected on State and National level.

Page U-4, Article IV, Appointed Officers, Section 1, Line 2, insert “a Chaplain” after “Adjutant”. Section 1 will then read:

“The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and a Chaplain and may appoint a Color Bearer, Banner Bearer, Patriotic Instructor, Conductor, Sergeant-at-Arms, and shall appoint chairmen of all committees.”

Rationale: this section will then agree with National and State Bylaws by adding Chaplain as an appointed officer.

Page U-4, Article X, Vacancies in Office, Section 2, Paragraph 1, delete Paragraph 1 and substitute the following. Section 2 will then read:

“In the event of a vacancy in the office of Commander, the Vice Commanders shall move up according to their rank. And the election shall be held for the office of Junior Vice Commander.

“In the event of a vacancy in the office of Senior Vice Commander, the Junior Vice Commander shall move up then an election shall be held to fill the vacancy of Junior Vice Commander.

“An election is also held when filling a vacancy in the office of Treasurer.”

Rationale: this section addresses filling vacancies in office for only elected Unit officers.

Page U-26, Installation of Officers, Paragraph 5, Line 3, delete “Chaplain”. Paragraph 5 will then read:

“(Officers names are called in order of their rank: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer elected Executive Board members and Alternates.

“The Commander stands to the left of the Conductor, and the other officers to the Commander’s left.)”

Rationale: the officer listed for installation – the officers listed for installation are elected officers/board members.

Page N-15, Article III, Duties of National Officers, Section 2, National Vice Commanders, Line 4. Delete “Loan” and insert “Scholarship”. Section 2 will then read:

“The National Senior Vice Commander shall be responsible for the Mae Holmes program and shall serve on the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee and preside in the absence of the National Commander.”

Rationale: National Education Loan Fund Committee will now be referred to as the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee.

Page N-16, Article III, Section 3: Immediate Past National Commander. Delete Section 3. The rationale: this duty is outlined in Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 2.

There is a printing error on the following one. It’s Page N-19, Article IV, Tenure of Office. Insert a new Section 2. New Section 2 will read “National Adjutant” – will then read “National Adjutant”. So insert “National Adjutant”.

“Notwithstanding any other section of this Bylaws, the National Adjutant shall not be removed from office by the National Commander other than by failure and/or inability to fulfill the duties of the office.

“Such removal shall require the concurrence of two-thirds of the voting members of the National Executive Committee.

“In the event the National Adjutant is removed from office, the employment of such person shall terminate as of the date of removal.

“The removed person shall be entitled up to one month’s severance pay for each year of employment with the Auxiliary, not to exceed twelve months.”

Rationale: this new section will cover the appointment that was not addressed in old Section 2.

When new Section 2 is adopted, old Section 2 will become Section 3 and old Section 3 will become Section 4.

Page N-23, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 2, National Education Loan Fund. Delete entire Section 2 and substitute the following:

“Section 2: National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund.

“The National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund shall be administered through the Auxiliary National Headquarters.

“The National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee shall be a revolving committee composed of the National Senior Vice Commander, the National Commander, the Immediate Past National Commander.

"The Immediate Past National Commander shall serve as Chairman of the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee.

"The National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Chairman shall direct the activities of the Scholarship Fund Committee and submit the Committee's report to the National Convention.

"The administration of the previous National Education Loan Fund shall be through Auxiliary National Headquarters until all loans are cleared."

Rationale: this section will now provide up-to-date information concerning the operation of the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund and the National Education Loan Fund in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service and the DAV National Bylaws Section 14.6.

Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, add a new Section 2 which will read:

"Section 2: Membership Basic Rights and Privileges

"No member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall be expelled or limited within any of the rights – within any of the rights and privilege of membership, except as specified in Article XII of these Bylaws."

Rationale: this moves information previously included in Article XII of the National Bylaws.

When adopted old Section 2 would become Section 3; Section 3 will become Section 4; Section 4 would become Section 5; and Section 5 would become Section 6.

Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 5: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership, Paragraph 3, delete last sentence which reads, "If payments are not completed within the prescribed period of time the membership will be cancelled" and substitute "If not paid in full at the end of the prescribed time, the membership shall continue only as long as there are sufficient funds to make annual distributions." Paragraph 3 will then read:

"A Life Membership may be secured on a payment plan, having three full membership years to complete payments after the first payment has been received.

"If not paid in full at the end of the prescribed time, the membership shall continue only as long as there are sufficient funds to make annual distributions."

The rationale: this will enable National Headquarters to transfer the partial paid membership into State-at-large.

Page N-28, Article VII, Membership, Section 5: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership, Paragraph 4, Line 5, delete "\$40.00" and insert "\$20.00". Paragraph 4 will then read:

"Life Membership fee shall be as follows: Age 18-30, \$250.00; 31 to 45, \$230.00; 46 to 50 – 46 to 60, \$200.00; 61 to 70, \$180.00; 71 to 79, \$140.00; 80 or over, complimentary.

"Minimum down payment is \$20.00. Birth date must be indicated on the membership application."

Rationale: lower down payment may encourage new members to become life members.

Page N-35, Article VIII, Finances, Section 3: National Mandates, Paragraph 1, Line 5, delete "Loan" and insert "Scholarship". Section 3 will then read:

"Each membership year National Headquarters shall withhold the sum of \$25.00 from each unit's per capita distribution to cover the following National mandates: National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund, \$6.50; National Auxiliary Service/Support Fund \$6.00; and Convention Expenses, \$12.50.

"The mandate must be paid in order for the unit to be eligible to vote at a National Auxiliary Convention. Effective July 1, 2007."

Rationale: Education Loan Fund was changed to read National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund.

Page N-36, Article IX, State Departments, Section 2, State Department Charter, delete Paragraph 1 and substitute the following:

"A State Department Charter may be granted upon application to National Headquarters following a majority vote of local units in good standing within a State where there is a minimum of one hundred fifty members."

Rationale: this will make it easier to grant and/or retain a State Department Charter.

Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 3, B., Line 1, delete "ten" and insert "four". Section 3, B. will then read: "B. which olds at least four business meetings per year."

Rationale: this will then allow units to meet the required minimum number of business meetings in correlation with the parent organization.

They're sticking together.

Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 4, Paragraph 2, delete entire paragraph. Rationale: purchasing of Auxiliary supplies is covered on Page U-16, Article XVII in the Standard Local Unit Bylaws.

Page N-43, Article XII, Offenses, Penalties, Appeals and Lawsuits, delete all of Article XII and substitute the following:

“ARTICLE XII, Disciplinary Actions

“Section 1: Offenses and Recommended Penalties.

“The State Commander may recommend to the State Executive Committee that it suspend, transfer or expel a member for:

“a. violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the National Organization or of the State Department Bylaws or State Standing Rules or of the Local Unit Bylaws;

“b. refusal to comply with the lawful order of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Commander, the State Commander, or the State Executive Committee;

“c. conduct not conducive to the best interests of the Organization or contrary to the maintenance of proper order and decorum within the – maintenance, excuse me, of order, of proper order and decorum within the Organization.”

I guess I’m reading too fast. (Laughter)

“Section 2: Notice and Hearing

“A member may be subjected to the penalties assessable under the Article only after notice and hearings as follows:

“a. Violations by a unit member or members shall be addressed by the unit. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the State Department;

“b. When needed, the State Commander shall appoint an investigative committee of three to perform a thorough examination of the violation or violations.

“c. The State Department shall notify the member or members by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, of the specific violations which, with which they are being charged. All concerned parties shall be notified of the date, time and place of the investigative meeting.

“d. If unresolved, the following steps shall be taken:

“1. The State Department shall notify the member or members by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, of the specific violations with which they are being charged.

“2. The State Commander shall set a date, time and place for a hearing before the State Executive Committee.

“The hearing shall be conducted in a way designed to ensure that the accused member or members had the opportunity to understand the charges and evidence and to offer any rebuttal.

“3. The decisions of the State Executive Committee affirming, modifying or rejecting the recommendation of the State Commander is subject to the approval of the National Commander.

“4. The State Department hearing must be transcribed by a certified court reporter with a copy of all evidentiary materials appended to the transcript.

“The State Department is responsible for payment of the reporter and for providing a free copy of the transcript to the appellant.

“All other expenses of the appellant arising in connection with the disciplinary proceedings are the responsibility of the appellant.

“Section 3: Definition of Penalties.

“The Penalties imposed under this Article are defined as follows:

“a. Suspension shall remove the member from membership and/or from any office held for not more than one year.

“b. Transfer shall be the permanent transfer of membership to the State or National At-Large Unit.

“c. Expulsion shall permanently remove the member from membership.

“d. Penalties imposed on a member under this Article shall apply to all memberships wherever held.

“In addition, penalties of suspension, transfer, and/or expulsion imposed by the DAV under Article 16 of its National Bylaws shall be given identical effect by the Auxiliary to those who hold dual DAV and DAV Auxiliary memberships.

“This provision shall apply to all DAV penalties in effect or imposed on or after August 13, 2006.

“Section 4: Appeal

“The decision and penalty imposed shall be final unless the penalty determined by the State Executive Committee and approved by the National Commander is expulsion.

“Expulsion shall be final unless a written notice of appeal to the National Executive Committee stating the grounds therefore is filed by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested with the National Adjutant within thirty days after mailing notice of the penalty to the member.

“Under such appeal the burden shall be upon the appellant to demonstrate that the decision is clearly erroneous. The appeal of any expulsion shall be based solely upon the evidence presented to the State Executive Committee.

“The appellant must submit to the National Adjutant a written statement in support of the appeal within thirty days of filing the notice of appeal or receiving a copy of the transcript, whichever is later. The statement may not exceed ten pages.

“There is no personal hearing. The decision of the National Executive Committee on an expulsion – on an expulsion appeal is final.

“Section 5: Disciplinary Proceedings Originating at the National Level.

“The National Commander may recommend to the National Executive Committee that it suspend, transfer or expel a member on the grounds specified in Article XII, Section 1, of these Bylaws.

“The same procedures outlined in this Article XII apply except that the hearing shall take place before the National Executive Committee.

“The decision of the National Executive Committee affirming, modifying or rejecting the recommendation of the National Commander is final for all purposes and there is no appeal.”

The rationale for all of this is to update and clarify the DAV Auxiliary’s disciplinary action on the State and National levels.

Page S-5, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 1: State Commander, Paragraph 3, Line 5, insert “VAVS”. Section 1, Paragraph 3 will then read:

“The State Commander shall appoint the State Chairman of the following committees: Americanism, Community Service, History, Hospital, Junior Activities, Legislation, Mae Holmes, Membership, and VAVS, and may also appoint such other chairmen as deemed necessary.”

Rationale: these committees will then agree with the committees serving on the National level.

Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees, Section 3: State Nominating Committee, Line 7, insert “(This does not apply to State Departments with three or less chartered units.)” Section 3 will 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.

“No two members from the same unit shall be elected to serve on this committee. (This does not apply to State Department with three or less chartered units.)

“The State Standing Rules shall provide the procedures of the committee. The number of members shall be provided on the Supplement to State Bylaws.”

Rationale: for small State Departments this change will make it easier to elect members to serve on the Convention Nominating Committee.

Page S-13, Article VI, State Committees, Section 5: State Standing Rules, Paragraph 1, Line 4, insert “(This does not apply to State Department with three or less chartered units.)” Section 5, Paragraph 1, will then read:

“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. (This does not apply to State Departments with three or less chartered units.)

“The number of members on the Committee and the procedure shall be provided in the State Standing Rules and Supplement to State Bylaws.

“Any vacancy shall be filled by an appointment made by the State Commander and approved by the State Executive Committee.”

Rationale: for small State Departments this change will make it easier to appoint/elect members to serve on the State Standing Rules Committee.

Page U-6, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officer, Section 3: Adjutant, Number 3, delete Item Number 3. Renumber the balance of Section 3. Number 4 would then become 3.5 – will become 3, excuse me; 5 would become 4; 6 would become 5, etc cetera.

Rationale: duplication of duties was covered in 4.

U-9, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 1: Regular Business Meetings, Paragraph 1, Line 1, delete “ten” and insert “four”. Paragraph 1 will then read:

“A Unit shall hold at least four regular business meetings per year at a time and place set by vote of the unit.”

Rationale: this will then allow Units to meet the required minimum number of business meetings in correlation with the parent organization.

Page U-12, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 1, Subsection 3, delete “Duties of this Committee include: frequent visits to veterans, their families and Auxiliary members hospitalized in local or governmental hospitals.”

Also insert new “Section 8, VAVS”. Section 1, starting with Subsection 3, will then read:

3. Hospital
4. Community Service
5. Legislation
6. Junior Activities
7. History
8. VAVS”

Rationale: adding VAVS to the list of Unit Committees. This will then agree with the Committees in National and State.

Page U-15, Article V – XV, excuse me, Unit Finance and Dues, Section 4: Forget-Me-Not Drives, Paragraph 2, delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

“Income from Forget-Me-Not Drives shall be used solely for service to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors and for no other purpose.”

Rationale: this will then agree with the DAV Regulation 5 regarding use of Forget-Me-Not income.

Page U-22, Order of Business, Item 8, insert “VAVS” prior to “Ways and Means”. Item 8 will then read:

“8. Report of Committees: Membership, Americanism, Hospital, Community Service, Legislation, History, Junior Activities, VAVS, Ways and Means, and any other appointed committees.”

Rationale: to provide for the addition of a report by the VAVS Chairman. That completes – (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much, Lucille. You did a yeoman’s job in presenting that. As indicated earlier, there will be a time for questions with the second reading.

Sandy Dobmeier is our Education Loan Chairman. Would you please come up and give your report? We have not forgot about you.

(Whereupon, Sandra Dobmeier advanced to the dais.)

NATIONAL EDUCATION LOAN FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDRA DOBMEIER: DAVA National Auxiliary Commander Kay Egan, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, Assistant National Adjutant Pat Kemper, National Officers, Past National Commander, delegates and guests, thank you for the privilege of serving as Chairman of the National Education Loan Fund Committee.

This year we received 15 new applications and 10 renewal applications. A total of \$53,250 was awarded from the Education Loan Fund to help students with their education.

The Education Loan Fund Committee held a meeting at National Fall Conference to further discuss changing the Education Loan Fund to an Education Scholarship Fund after the discussion at the 2009 National Convention in Denver and during our 2009 National Fall Conference.

Items discussed at the meeting included eligibility, amounts, number of years students could apply, students with disabilities and various other criteria.

The Committee felt a scholarship fund could be set up and administered very similar to our present loan fund. Changing the fund to a scholarship rather than a loan definitely would provide a great service for students because – because they would not have to pay the money back.

With the cost of education today the funding we could provide would be very helpful and appreciated. There are sufficient funds available for us to provide scholarships rather than loans.

In order to change our present Education Loan Fund to the Education Scholarship Fund the change of our National Bylaws will need to be approved at this National Convention.

It is the Committee’s hope that the delegates of our Convention this year will vote in favor of changing the fund to a scholarship so the program can be put into effect for our 2011 applicants.

The Committee has prepared drafts of criteria and application forms as well as judging criteria so the program can be ready to get started without further delay.

I would like to thank the DAV Auxiliary members for all of their input and ideas to consider for this program and also for the Committee members: National Commander Kay Egan; Senior Vice Commander Susan Henry.

The Committee is hopeful this change will take place at our Convention so we can move forward with the new program and start making a difference for many students furthering their education. Thank you. Sandy Dobmeier, Education Loan Fund Chairman. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Donations may be presented at this time for Education Loan, Service Support Program and any other donation you would like to make.

I think we're going to put that off until after lunch. (Applause) I'm going to call on our National Adjutant Judy for some remarks.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Just a couple of things. Just real quick, we have to be back in here at two o'clock this afternoon. The Juniors are going to do a program and we will be having the DAV National Commander come in.

We're going to have to be a little bit flexible because they have meetings, so. But if everybody would be back at two o'clock so we can start the afternoon session.

Those that need a Forget-Me-Not ticket, please get it today, as quickly as possible, so we can give them a final count. And that is scheduled for 12:30 but you all know the reason it has to be – that also has to be flexible tomorrow.

So we, everything depends on the president, when he gets in here and when he gets out. But the hotel is aware of everything and they will get us in there and fed just as quickly as they possibly can.

The seminar that we had scheduled for tomorrow morning had to be cancelled, also, because of the president coming in.

But, we are looking at things for the Fall Conference so maybe we can catch up on some of the things then. I apologize but it was just something that was taken out of our hands.

So, again, please be back at two o'clock today and ready because it will be in – what? Maybe caucus at the beginning of the, when you come back, she said, because there is a Nor'easter luncheon going on now and is that okay? Okay.

Please come back, get to your District signs at two o'clock and you'll do a ten minute caucus at that time. And would someone from Alabama please come to the podium.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed for lunch at 12:35 o'clock, on Sunday, August 1, 2010.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
88th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel Atlanta, Georgia
August 1, 2010
Second Business Session
- - -

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Regency VII, Ballroom Level, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday afternoon, August 1, 2010, and was called to order at 2:07 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Kay Egan.

COMMANDER EGAN: Would you please take your seats.

(Whereupon, Commander Egan rapped the gavel.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Would you please take your seats?

(Whereupon, Commander Egan again rapped the gavel.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Would District 9 please take your seats?

UNIDENTIFIED DISTRICT: We don't have enough seats.

COMMANDER EGAN: The find some. There are seats over here. There are seats over here. Find some. Before we begin I have some news that Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy has had some very serious surgery; however, she is recuperating nicely.

Rose Schilpp has also had surgery. I don't know if she is still in the hospital but I'm going to pass a good well – a get well card out for her, for you to sign for Rose. She is from Missouri, District 15?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, while we're in a kind of get-together mood I am going to call for anybody who has donations to make to please come forward for any of our service programs, any that I named before.

(Whereupon, delegates advanced and lined up to make donations at the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Also, while we are waiting if anybody on the end seats and rows picked any of the numbered sheets up would you please return it? Return it to our Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Taylor over there in the corner.

Would you all please come to the left of the altar? Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, we need a Page to help people up these steps as well.

(Whereupon, a Page advanced to assist people on the stairs.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, we're coming. Would somebody please open the Bible?

(Whereupon, the Bible was opened.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The State of Illinois would like to present you with \$500 for the Service Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Florida, \$1,000 for the Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. (Applause) Dirty money. (Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Department of Idaho for the Education Program and for the Service Program.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Ohio for the Service Support Fund and Education Loan Fund or Scholarship, whichever you want to call it.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. (Applause) Thank you so much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of New York, Educational Loan Fund and Service and Support Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Maryland for the Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Kentucky Commander, I have two checks, one for National Education and one for National Service Fund.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam Commander, we have a visitor in our midst.

COMMANDER EGAN: Can we do this real fast? Okay, move it up?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Arkansas for the Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of New Hampshire, Winter Sports Clinic and the Educational Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Unit 42 of Willingboro, New Jersey, we have checks for the Service Fund and also the Education Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'm from the Department of Georgia. And I have some checks for you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Who are they for?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: No, because I can't even see what they're made out for. I haven't got my glasses. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: They are for the – oh, well – Veterans' Writing Program, Department Service Fund, National Education Loan. Thank you very much, Gloria. (Applause) Scholarship Fund. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Montana.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Massachusetts, checks for the National Service Support Fund and for the National Education Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Virginia, Freedom Foundation Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Pennsylvania. We're giving to the Service Support, the Winter Sport Clinic and also Education.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MS. ELLEN M. GRIGGS: I'm Ellen Griggs and I'm from Wood County 32, West Virginia, and in our Unit we have a food kitchen.

We have a lot of veterans in our area that have nothing. They have no home, no way to buy extra food. And I can't give much but what I am giving is for the Support Fund.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. (Applause) Thank you all very, very much. Trust us; it will be put to good use.

All right, our visitor. I don't know – I can't imagine who it could be – (Laughter) the one and only Commander Bobby Barrera. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera was escorted to the podium.)

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTO "BOBBY" BARRERA: Thank you. Thank you. Boy, I'm spoiled, aren't I? (Laughter) Kay, thank you so much for the invitation.

And thank you all so much for giving Kay and myself a beautiful year. It was a year full of accomplishments, a year of friendship, and a year that I definitely will never, ever forget.

I am going to share something and this story some of you have heard me talk about but I am going to repeat it because that's how strongly and how sincerely I feel about the relationship between the DAV and the DAVA, our Auxiliary.

And I compare that relationship in a positive manner to my relationship with my wife. Even though the Auxiliary is a separate unit, a separate organization from the DAV, just like my wife and I are two separate individuals, we have developed a relationship that makes us one.

We have developed a relationship that allows us to share our goals, allows us to share our direction, allows us to share our commitment to disabled veterans, like my wife and I have developed a relationship to commit to our family.

And we became one in 1974 and since that time we are committed to our same goals, just like the Auxiliary and the DAV are committed to the same goals of building better lives for disabled veterans and their families.

And I will tell you that a lot of the Chapters could not exist without the support of the Units. And I will tell you that I could not exist without the support of my wife.

The DAV, to a certain extent, owes its status to the Auxiliary. Without the Auxiliary a lot of the Units, a lot of the Chapters would be struggling, just like I would be struggling without my wife.

Without my wife I would not have achieved all of the things that I have achieved. And that I think is also true of the DAV.

My wife gives me credit for all the things and she stands in the back, puts me in the spotlight, just like the Units put their Chapters in the spotlight, just like the Units provide the support that the Chapters need to function, never willing to take the credit, always giving the credit to the Chapters, always giving the credit to the DAV, just like Maricelia always gives the credit to me.

But I know and I know deep down in my heart that I would never be the person that I am without the support that my wife has given me.

And I also have seen, as I traveled throughout the country to the different Departments, that a lot of the Chapters would not achieve the successes that they have without the support, without the commitment, of the Auxiliary.

And for that I take great pride in having served as the Commander. I take great pride in having served as the Commander working with Kay.

A lot of times I started wondering if the people would start talking about Kay and I, that we had something going on because – (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: Mari was always there.

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER BARRERA: She says “Mari was always there.” (Laughter) Most of the time. (Laughter)

No, I just wanted to say that it’s been a beautiful, beautiful year and that I had the honor of being escorted up here – Chris, where are you? Where did you take off on me, Chris?

I am a member of Unit 5, and Chris has been a friend. Chris has been always there for me, as has the Unit. So it takes great honor in saying that this National Commander is also a member of the Auxiliary. (Applause) And just let me close by saying that it has been, again, a wonderful year.

And I thank you for all that you have done not only for me, not only for the DAV, but also for my wife, for the service that you continue to provide for disabled veterans, that we may help them build better lives. Thank you so much and I love you. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER EGAN: We have a new dynamic duo. Remember Rick Patterson?

(Response of “Yes.”)

COMMANDER EGAN: Unfortunately, Rick has retired. We have in his place Marc Burgess who has promised to continue the “Rick and David Show.” (Laughter) But now it’s Dave and Marc. You’re on, guys. (Applause)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Art Wilson.

COMMANDER EGAN: Art Wilson, sorry about that. Art, I have trouble. I really have trouble. I call Art-Dave and Dave-Art. But this is Art this time. (Laughter) Got it straight. (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV Acting Executive Director of National Headquarters J. Marc Burgess and DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson were escorted to the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Let’s be flexible, ladies. The gentlemen from the DAV will wait while we have a presentation. And if these faces look familiar, they are. It’s our Juniors.

(Whereupon, the members of the DAV Auxiliary Juniors advanced to the podium to make a presentation; at which time they had an unfurled American flag.)

MISS KATIE HERZING: The first fold of a flag is a symbol of life.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded once.)

MISS HERZING: The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a second time.)

MISS HERZING: The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a third time.)

MISS HERZING: The fourth fold represents our weaker nature.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a fourth time.)

MISS HERZING: The fifth fold is a tribute to our country.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a fifth time.)

MISS HERZING: The sixth fold is where our hearts lie.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a sixth time.)

MISS HERZING: The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a seventh time.)

MISS HERZING: The eighth fold is a tribute to the ones who entered into the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded over an eighth time.)

MISS HERZING: The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a ninth time.)

MISS HERZING: The tenth fold is a tribute to the father.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a tenth time.)

MISS HERZING: The eleventh fold in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower position of the seal of King David and King Solomon and it glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded an eleventh time.)

MISS HERZING: The twelfth fold in the eyes of a Christian citizens represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a twelfth time.)

MISS HERZING: The thirteenth fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God we Trust."

(Whereupon, the flag was folded a final time.)

MISS HERZING: After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of the cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Commander Barrera, could you please join us?

(Whereupon, Commander Barrera joined the Juniors at the podium.)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: At the request of the Arkansas Disabled American Veterans Junior Auxiliary, this was flown for you on Veterans' Day and as National Junior Activity Chair we wanted to fold it for you from the Nation.

COMMANDER BARRERA: Thank you so much. Thank you. (Standing Ovation) Thank you all so much. Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Do you want to say something, Bobby? (Applause)

COMMANDER BARRERA: Phew. This is quite an honor for me to receive the flag of our country, the flag that we all defend and to have it done by the Juniors who will pick up the slack, who will continue going in the direction that you have taught them is extra meaningful. Thank you so much. I appreciate that. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, you can all put your Kleenexes away. (Laughter) I would like to present Mr. Art Wilson. (Standing Ovation)

DAV NATIONAL ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON: Oh, please. I don't have any jokes. (Laughter) Thanks, Donna, I really needed that – a/k/a David Gorman. Good afternoon. (Response of "Good afternoon.")

DAV NATIONAL ADJUTANT WILSON: It's good to see you all. I bet we saw most of you yesterday morning somewhere among that mass of people we had.

It's a great pleasure and an honor for me to just come and talk to you for a couple of minutes and let you know how much we appreciate what you do.

And I won't repeat what the Commander has told you but it, it holds through, true through our entire administration. We've had a very, very successful partnership with the Auxiliary for many, many years.

I think the Auxiliary is a very vital, vibrant, relevant organization and for all the right reasons, as Bobby explained to you just a few minutes ago.

It has certainly proven over time that it is an organization that not only supports the organization but makes our parent organization so much better with all of your activities and your good will and the things that you do to support disabled veterans throughout the country.

It's just, it's just a pleasure to be around you and work with folks like Kay and Judy and Maria. I see you out there, Maria. (Laughter) We go back probably a lot longer than we want to remember. (Laughter)

But it is; it's just a great opportunity. And I might say this, too. I haven't been to your Fall Conference in a while only because the Dave and Rick Show was on. (Laughter)

And I told them I wouldn't have any part of that. (Laughter) No, in all honesty, it generally conflicts with some of the other things at that time of year for my schedule. But it's just good to be here and it's good to see you all at this Convention.

And, by the way, our overall Convention registration has surpassed last year and the year before, so it's – (Applause) I guess we all get better with age. (Laughter) At least that's what we try to believe or make ourselves believe.

We are stronger. And we're better organizations because we work together and we are able to fulfill our joint mission.

We've had a lot of great victories that you've heard about at this Convention, that you already know about because you participated in, and things like Advanced Appropriations and Caregivers Support and Women Veterans' care and homeless veterans programs and the like.

We've had a great year legislatively. We have great support from the Congress, great support from the Administration. And things right now are in pretty good shape.

We've got a long way to go. We have an awful lot of things in our plate. But it's one of those times in our history; it's a very patriotic time.

And there are an awful lot of people that are trying to do the "politically correct" thing and they try to do that. And most of the time they don't get it right.

But that's why we're there and that's why we like to have communications with those important folks who make those decisions and get the job done the best way we can.

I wanted to – in thinking about all of this I wanted to talk to you a little bit about your strategic planning effort. I've talked with Kay and I've talked with Judy on a number of occasions.

Judy was kind enough to fill me in more recently about the progress that you've made to date. And I must tell you that I'm thrilled about it because I had that idea and that concept about ten years ago.

And we developed, as you know, a Strategic Plan for the organization. And it has really been the driving force for us to keep going.

Instead of kind of bouncing all over the place it puts you on a path so you can define who you are, what you are, where you want to go and how you are going to get there.

And when you've developed the objectives and the goals and your business plans and it all comes together, it keeps you on track. It just, it keeps everybody focused on the golden ring at the end of the line.

And I think we have redesigned or had a check of our Strategic Plan. We've done that probably every five years now for at least twice and we revised the plan, which you have to do eventually.

But it's a good thing to do and it's a very, very valuable tool. And it gets people interested in you. And you develop a mission and you go for that mission and you stay focused on a mission and you don't, you know, sidestep and do all kinds of things.

And I know that this has been a subject or a topic that Judy and the staff at National Headquarters have been talking about for some time. And I'm thrilled to see that it's on the move.

You know, we've always been kind of a forward-looking organization. And I'm a firm believer that we have to be a proactive as opposed to a reactive organization.

We are trying to make ourselves attractive to the newer generation – I don't want to say "younger", the newer generation of disabled veterans and what they're interested in and to make sure that we can bring them and their families into our organizations.

As I indicated, we are fully supportive of your Strategic Plan efforts. I have talked to actually Judy several times and made our doors open.

We will be happy to talk with you at any time, share the information we have, provide available staff at National Headquarters to assist you in this effort and where it goes from there.

And I think you have a lot of ground to cover. And I think it is good ground and it is good effort and it will be an awakening to the organization. I think it will make you more relevant and more active and hopefully attract an awful lot of new people, which is critical to your organization.

I have told Judy that in my lifetime – I shouldn't say it that way. (Laughter) My lifetime has been a long time ago. (Laughter) And my feeling is and my effort, I want to make sure that the Auxiliary succeeds.

And as long as I'm in the position I'm in, I'm going to do everything in my power to make that happen. And we can – Judy and I work pretty close together. Every once in a while – as Maria and I did.

And every once in a while I would look up and there is someone sitting in front of my desk and it was either Maria or it's been Judy lately. (Laughter) And with, you know, like ummmm. (Laughter)

So we'll do whatever we can to help you out. It's important – I mean it makes us both succeed. It's a no-brainer for me.

As you move forward in defining these goals and defining the future as you can see it and whether you get professional advice or – and I know you've had some from your strategic planner, when you get it all down and where you want to be and what you want to look like, we're

an organization that thrives on service and advocacy and I know that your business plans will surround those type of terms to make sure that we're all going the same direction, whether it be in a support an active role, however you want to define it.

It's a great, dramatic process. But I am a thinker about the organization. And I know you've changed your Bylaws and other documents in recent past to expand on your eligibility.

And I think you have to continue to look at that and look at that very closely to make sure that you can bring in an awful lot of people who are out there willing to help.

And I don't – I'm not suggesting what you do or how you do it but I know we get a lot of calls from people now and then to say I don't have – I want to help but I have no organization that I can join that's related to DAV.

And we all understand that. I don't know how you're going to redefine your future but it's one of those things that you must keep in the back of your mind because membership, as you know, is the base.

It provides the strength. It provides the numbers of people. And it provides the cash. And money is what it takes to do things. The more you build an active membership, and it just grows on from there. And I think you can succeed very well.

I know and hope desperately and honestly that you will succeed in these efforts. And I can promise you that we will help you in any way that we can.

Anything that I can do, even standing here today if you wanted to ask me a couple of questions I'd be happy to have Marc answer them for you. (Laughter) Is he still here? Oh, yes, he's still here.

Marc is the Assistant Executive Director at this moment. We haven't got through this Convention yet. Rick has got a perpetual smile on his face. (Laughter) Didn't even come to my early-morning meeting this morning because he told me he didn't give a damn any more. (Laughter)

In all honesty, he's here as a delegate. He's going to stay very active in the organization in his new home in Alabama. And we'll stay in touch with him constantly.

Having said all that, I'll get out of your way but I want you to know that anything that I can do to help you, I hope you contact me and don't let me get away and hold our feet to the fire. We'll certainly help you where we can. Thanks very much.

(Whereupon, the members gave Adjutant Wilson a standing ovation as he withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER EGAN: With cooperation like that from the parent organization, we surely will stay connected and move ahead. (Applause) Do you want to do the reading of the Bylaws?

Art mentioned the magic words "Strategic Planning Committee." You've been hearing about this for a year. Some of your questions have been asked; some of them have not.

As we indicated a year ago, this was not a process that we could achieve overnight. But we have made a lot of progress. And Sandy Dobmeier, the Chairman of this Committee, will give her report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDRA S. DOBMEIER: Good afternoon, everyone. Are we still awake?

(Response of "Yes.")

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Okay. All of you should have received on your chair or close by you somewhere a copy of the Strategic Plan update.

Basically it's a summary of where we're at and what has taken place so far so you have something to take back with you. Please share it with the members of your unit and your state so that everyone is aware of where our organization is moving forward.

If you didn't get one just quietly raise your hand and a Page will try to locate the pile and get some to you. In the meantime I'm going to move forward.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your approval at last year's National Convention for our National Auxiliary to create a Strategic Plan to move our organization forward and, secondly, for all of the wonderful ideas, suggestions, and comments that all of you were providing for us to help develop a plan.

Next, I would like to thank the Strategic Plan core Committee members for their dedication, time and work that they have given to help develop a plan for our organization. It hasn't been easy. There is a lot of work to still be done.

Please stand when I say your name: Kay Egan, Susan Henry, Craig Johniken, Sylvia Heath, Renee Jones, Pat Kemper, and Judy Hezlep. These people deserve a big round of applause. They have done a great deal of work for our organization. (Applause) Thank you.

Let me start off by letting all of you know that a strategic plan is a working document. It is not a final plan. It's a document that we create and it's not one that we just create and we put it on a shelf for five years and don't worry about it.

It's a document that is developed with short and long-term goals and they are continually being worked on to achieve the various goals. And it is reviewed and updated as the work progresses and as the circumstances change around us.

I want to tell you a little bit so that you're all informed of the history of kind of what has been taking place with the Strategic Plan and how we've gotten to where we're at now.

The Committee started working with Marty Densmore who is a SCORE counselor based out of Cincinnati at our Fall Conference last year. Many of you may not be familiar with SCORE.

And what SCORE is, it stands for Service Corps of Retired Executives. They're an organization that volunteers their time and expertise to assist organizations and people in business. They match up a counselor with expertise in the area that you are looking for assistance with.

Marty, who we're working with, did strategic planning and this type of work before he retired and he does still continue to do this type of work on a contractual basis for many other companies.

The difference being is that when he works as a SCORE, as a SCORE counselor with his clients all of his services are free of charge. He has been very helpful and wonderful for all of us to be working with.

We've been doing most of our Committee meetings – and we've had several, and most of them we've been doing online using gotomeetings.com.

By using this we are able to all go online at a certain time with a code and we can hold a meeting where everyone can talk to each other, we can see documents and things on the computer screens and hold a meeting without everyone having to travel back and forth to get together and have a great deal of expense with that.

Marty has been working with all of these meetings as well. And he's been a part of the meetings, no matter what time they are held. Evenings, weekends, Sundays, it doesn't matter.

It's kind of we work with the schedule of what works for the people on the various committees and he's been very generous and very giving of his time to help us.

And this type of meeting has worked well and it hasn't made it necessary for us to travel, like I mentioned earlier, which also has helped save a great deal of funds for our Auxiliary because we can get our business done without having to all travel to one place.

We've only had a few meetings that were not online. And those were held in conjunction with our National Fall Conference, also the Midwinter Conference.

And we did have a meeting last April that was a two-day extremely intense, as anybody on the Committee will tell you, planning meeting with Marty to finalize goals and objectives so that we could get working on the written document for our plan.

The handout that all of you have provides you with the information regarding the plan. Starting out with that you see the mission which has basically stayed the same and it is very similar to the DAV mission.

With the DAV as our parent organization of course our mission needs to be very similar, making a difference for disabled veterans and their families.

The vision statement I will read to you. You have it in front of you but I will read it anyway.

"The DAV Auxiliary is committed to supporting the principles of the Disabled American Veterans and fulfilling purpose and goals to which our organization is devoted.

"As advocates for the wellbeing of disabled veterans and their families we are dedicated to the pursuance of veterans' legislative initiatives, instilling patriotism in our fellow Americans, promoting the youth involvement in all programs, and encouraging volunteer service."

Our core values, another area that we had to cover, we decided to leave the same of comradeship, loyalty, devotion and service, things we thought we could have all of those falling into our main core values that we already had established.

From the ideas that came forth at last year's National Convention most of them all fell into three major areas: technology and communications, standard operation policies, as well as membership.

And we divided and we have three subcommittees or three committees that have been developed. And the chairmen of those committees are: Technology and Communications is

Renee Jones; Susan Henry chairs the Standard Operating Policies; and Craig Johniken chairs the Membership.

And each of these committees has core committee members on them and a few additional Auxiliary members that are subcommittee members that are also helping work with certain activities and work for that committee.

You will see a list of long-term objectives moving forward to the year 2014. Now these are goals and they are not in any particular order. But the hope is that they could be accomplished by the year 2014.

The long-term objectives: membership growth to 200,000; achieving a sustainable financial basis; up-to-date technology and communications techniques; review, update and develop standard operating policies for national, state, and unit officers and members; achieve an unprecedented level of involvement, support and cooperation with the DAV; DAVA culture will be more flexible, tolerant, local, and welcoming of change and less structured, centralized and directed.

Those were long-term goals. Also short-term goals which are referred to as “SMART” goals and the reason the word “SMART” comes to reason with those is it stands for SMART, yes, for SMART, yes, okay: specific, measurable, accurate, realistic, and time-oriented.

The SMART goals are strategies and ideas that are developed for the purpose of achieving them to get our long-term goals achieved as well in the future.

Our short-term goals: to encourage Bylaw changes to expand membership eligibility in order to meet a net positive gain in one year; to review and enhance recruitment efforts and develop new programs of interest to current and potential members.

I want to touch on something here from our Strategic Plan and I will read it from here and it is dealing with membership and the committee. We were all very shocked when this information was compiled. And it's a real eye-opener of how important membership is for our organization.

“Membership in the DAV Auxiliary is currently around 160,000 and is suffering from a long-deliberating(sic) decline. About 90,000 of the 160,000 members on the roles are over the age of 70. Attrition will accelerate in coming years.

“If the average age of members is 70, standard actuarial tables suggest the organization will lose a quarter of its membership, approximately 27 percent, to normal mortality. That's 43,665 people in the next five years.

“Add to that the losses that will occur because of fading interest, physical infirmity, or because of declining socialization and the loss of local units closing.

“One projection suggests that only 50,838 of the current 160,000 may still be members in five years. Clearly, retention of current members is important but recruitment of the new members is absolutely essential for the DAVA to remain viable.”

I think that's kind of an eye-opener and it spells it out pretty clearly of what needs to be done, that membership is so important for us.

We had a membership survey that the Committee sent out and I would like to thank all of you who did complete the survey. Just so you know, we have received over 950 responses to that. Most of those have been compiled already.

Many of the responses to those were very similar responses we found coming in over and over again which is excellent. It really stresses the points. And I would like to share some of those responses with you so that you know the results of that.

The vast majority of our members are spouses of veterans. That's probably no surprise to any of us. Why most of them joined, asked by a family member or friend or to show support of veterans and their family.

Why don't people join? To busy with family and career was one of the main reasons people have not joined.

To attract younger and eligible people suggestions and things for that that came in were open up eligibility, advertising, through family, working with the DAV, units being more involved in the community and getting the word out about what we do.

What encourages you to continue to be an active member? That question, the Number 1 response was to support veterans and their families.

Preferred method of communication. Number 1 was meetings and newsletters. Then it was phone calls and emails.

The interesting part on the, one of the whole groups that I did, the phone calls and emails were almost even which tells you we have a lot of technology-based people in our membership as well as those who are not so it's very important we keep both ends of the scope open.

Our Auxiliary has been very fortunate and working with our SCORE counselor has been great for all of us but in addition to that I'd like to tell you that last Christmas season Action Coach, which was one of the top business coaching companies, was asking for businesses or people to make requests for a Christmas wish because they were going to grant something.

To make a long story short, Renee Jones entered a wish for one year of coaching for the DAV Auxiliary to assist with our Strategic Plan. Well, she won. (Applause)

And so in addition to our work with SCORE and the help we are receiving from them we are also going to be receiving the services of one of Action Coach's top coaches, Wayne Bergman, to help us with some of the short-term goals that we have that we're planning to accomplish in the next year.

The Auxiliary has already had a meeting with the DAV which Art referred to at National Headquarters. And in that meeting Art was there, Dave Gorman as well as Marc Burgess so it was a very good meeting.

We discussed the plan with them, goals as well as ideas that we have. And I am pleased to report they were very supportive of the plan and are willing to help us achieve our goals, just as Art stressed earlier when he was in.

The plan is a working document and comments and suggests are always welcome for it. So if you have any comments or suggestions the best way is to email them or to write them so that we have them because sometimes if you just tell us we could easily forget.

But if you get them to Headquarters, someone on the Committee, we are not losing track of any of the ideas and stuff. There are, you know, brainstorming ideas and stuff that are all things that we are not losing track of.

We keep them all because many times it isn't important now but it is something that may work later. So please do get those to us if you have any ideas and suggestions at any time.

I'd like to thank you again for all of your input to help us create the plan and to all the Committee members for your work and dedication for this organization. Thank you very much. (Applause) Does anyone have any questions?

MS. RENATE OGLE: Yes. Renate Ogle, Black Mountain Unit 12, Henderson, Nevada. The question I have is where you got your information on the actuary table.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: The actuary table work came from our SCORE counselor that works with that type of information. You know, that's part of what he does, actuarial tables.

MS. OGLE: I don't want to be contrary but in 1997 I was – I was a banker up until 1997. And the actuary table at that time – and I would trust and with IRA accounts, that insurances that do actuary tables, the actuary table was 75 years which throws off all the numbers that you just have presented because the actuary table is off.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: The 70 that we came up with was our average age of what our membership is based on.

MS. OGLE: That's what an actuary table is. The actuary table isn't average, isn't average age. And it's off by five years.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Ours was based on our membership is how he based what we have. He was giving us where our membership that we have now, where we're at. The majority of our members are 70 or older that are members of the DAV Auxiliary.

MS. OGLE: Well, I don't plan to die at 70 because I'm 70.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Well, I sure don't either. (Laughter) No, no. Not saying that they die. Their age. Not that they're going to die at 70.

This isn't – it's just that they're – the average age of our membership basically is 70-plus and which means we have a great deal of people that will pass away in the very near future so membership – it's to stress the point that membership is very important.

MS. OGLE: Okay, you're going to die right now. Thank you very much.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Thank you. Maria.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARIA TEDROW: Yes. It's me.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: State your name and your unit, please.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: My name is Maria Tedrow, Unit 103, Ohio. No, I only want to make a couple of comments. I think the strategic Plan is very good. I was involved years ago with the DAV when they first started with theirs.

And I can see what this lady is saying over here because about six months ago I got a notice from my insurance company – I had paid a lump sum at one time – that I owed some money because there was not enough to distribute. And I said, “In other words, I’ve lived too long.” (Laughter)

And she says, “Yes, because we based it on 75.” Okay, so I’ve passed 75. But another thing – but I think the Strategic Plan is great. I think ideas should come from all parts of the organization.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: They have been.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: And they should not be – what do I want to say? They shouldn’t be suffocated because they came from members that other people thought didn’t have a brain in their head. I think all ideas should be looked at, reviewed and see how useful they would be.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Definitely. Definitely.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: The only one other comment, in 1987 the Auxiliary went over 200,000 members, if you will check the records.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Yes. It was over.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Thank you.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOBMEIER: Thank you so much. (Applause) Thank you very much. And if any of you have ideas or suggestions, please get them to us at any time. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thanks, Sandy. You put a lot of time and effort into this as has your Committee. We now have come to the time where we’re going to have the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Lucille, would you please come to the podium? Oh, Dorothy Reed, would you come and give us an updated Credentials Report, please?

(Whereupon, Ms. McCarthy advanced to the podium for the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee report and Ms. Reese advanced to the podium for the Credentials Committee report.)

COMMANDER EGAN: We need this updated Credentials report because there is a possibility of having a roll call vote or some kind of vote go on with some of the proposed amendments and we need to know what our voting strength is at that time.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: Good afternoon.

(Response of “Good afternoon.”)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: Ah, we all had lunch so we’re a little on the sleepy side.

COMMANDER EGAN: Sort of, kind of.

(Whereupon, a delegate called out “Good afternoon” from the audience.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: Good afternoon. (Laughter) Madame Commander, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests, the Credentials report is as follows.

The Units registered, 184; total Departments registered, 44; for a total of 228. Delegates registered, 382; alternates registered, 21; guests registered, 100; for a total of 503.

Total Unit votes, 1,141; total Department votes, 44; National Officers votes, 7; PNC votes, 8; for a grand total of 1,200 even. Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER EGAN: Do I hear a second? Please.

MS. MARY E. GHEE: Madame Commander, Mary Ghee, Department of Montana, second that motion, Unit 2.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. It’s been moved and seconded. Discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried. Thank you, Dorothy. So now we have that information, let’s hear the second reading of the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Thank you, Kay. Before we read the amendments for adoption I would like to read a report of the Committee.

The Convention Constitution and Bylaws Committee was called to order by National Judge Advocate Carol Gray at 1:15 p.m. on July 31, 2010, in the Green Briar Room, Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel.

Lucille McCarthy was elected chairman and Judy Steinhouse was elected as secretary. I would like to recognize the members who were serving on the committee and will you please stand when your name is called.

Liz Eldridge from Massachusetts, District 1; Diane Wisnesky – if I don't pronounce everybody's name correctly, you have to forgive me – New York, District 2; Sylvia Heath from Maine, District 3;

Sarah Kashner from Delaware, District 4; Loretta Nosko from Pennsylvania, District 5; Grace James from Virginia, District 6; Lucille McCarthy from Florida, District 7;

Fariece Bridges from Alabama, District 8; Renee Jones from North Carolina, District 9; Hilda Cool from Michigan on District 10; Joyce Hutchinson from Ohio for District 11;

Patti Davis from Wisconsin for District 12; Brigitte Rice from Kentucky for District 13; Judy Steinhouse, North Dakota for District 14; Veronica Bergquist from Kansas, District 15;

Joseph Plescia from California, District 16; Jean Jackson from Colorado, District 17; Sharon Linton from Arizona, District 18; Rickie Gunn from Oregon on District 19;

Sylvia Shurgot from Texas for District 20; and Andrea Hall from Arkansas, District 21. (Applause) I thank you all. You all were very diligent during the Committee.

Prior to our closing the Committee meeting Renee Jones from District 9, who was a representative for District 9, I should say, moved that the Convention Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommend that the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and the Strategic Planning Committee communicate on a regular basis. The motion was seconded and adopted.

And I would be remiss at this time if I did not thank National Judge Advocate Carol Gray for serving as advisor. Her expertise was really welcomed by this chairman and, of course, by the Committee.

We will now have the first reading – I mean the second reading for the following amendments. This is National Constitution and Bylaw Page N-1, Article III, Eligibility for Membership. Delete Section 1 through 6 and substitute the following:

“Section 1. The family and extended family members of any person or any deceased person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

“Section 2. The family and extended family members of any person injured and may still be in active service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

“Section 3. The family and extended family members of any person who served with the armed forces of any nation associated with the United States of America as an ally, was honorable discharged, and became an American citizen are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

“Section 4. The family and extended family members of any person who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

“Section 5. The family and extended family members” – excuse me. “The Family and extended family of Auxiliary members who are not otherwise eligible for membership are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

“Section 6. Any member in good standing and eligible for membership in both the parent organization and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall be eligible to vote, hold an elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary when not holding an elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the Disabled American Veterans.”

The rationale is to expand the eligibility of Auxiliary membership in order to attract new members and volunteers who will support the mission and objectives of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. I move the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that this section be amended. Do I hear a second? It still isn't on.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KATHRYN WILEY: It turned green, red. Are we working now?

(Response of “Yes.”)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Perfect. Kathryn Wiley, Past National Commander, Washington State, Unit 45, I second.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that we pass this amendment. Is there any other discussion?

MS. OGLE: Yes.

COMMANDER EGAN: Come to the mic, please. Well, we've got two. Whoever gets there first. Okay, here we go.

MS. OGLE: Renata Ogle, Henderson, Nevada, Black Mountain Unit 12, I'm trying to contain myself.

Section 2, Section 3, Section 4, Section 5 have absolutely nothing to do with the disabled American veteran. As a matter of fact, with all due respect, it undermines the basic foundation of our existence.

If we allow any member serving in the military to enter the Disabled American Veterans, we are no longer "disabled American veterans."

We can might as well join the VFW, the American Legion, or any other – we are not a, a get-together veterans' organization. We are disabled American veterans and nothing else.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I believe that you will find that I cannot refer this to the Section 2 but if you will go to your old Bylaws or the present Bylaws we're operating under you will find that Section 3 coincides with the – let's see.

It coincides with our old Section 4. The, what is, what you're probably referring to is probably the extended family members. But as far as –

MS. OGLE: No, I –

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: But as far as, if you read the old Section 4 you will find that it refers to in there it is injured or disabled while serving with any of the armed forces of the nations associated with the United States of America and that is in our old Section 4 or our present Section 4 I should say.

And far as that, that is – and as far as five, I mean Section 4, and is, we were told, I think you heard today from Mr. Wilson that we need to extend our eligibilities.

And I believe when he was, when the parent organization was consulted it was suggested that we do incorporate other members of the family and of extended members is really what we're doing and we're getting other people to be involved in the organization.

And I – anybody that has been honorably discharged in our estimation of the Committee was that they should be considered for membership in our organization.

MS. OGLE: If they are a family member in some way or another. It does not specifically say this. It says specifically that if you have been honorably discharged and cannot enroll in any other organization you can apply for the Disabled American Veterans.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: That isn't what we said.

MS. OGLE: It says Number 5.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: That isn't what it says.

MS. OGLE: Family and extended family of Auxiliary members who are not otherwise eligible for membership are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans.

(Whereupon, the audience became loud.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: All right, read your Section 2 also in the present ones –

MS. OGLE: The family and extended family –

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: – and it spells it out as children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of members of the Auxiliary who are not otherwise eligible for membership are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

It's always been – it's been that way for, I don't know for how long but I would say for a number of years. We are not – what we're primarily changing is family and extended family members.

MS. OGLE: Madame Chairman.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Yes.

MS. OGLE: With all due respect but we've always had family and extended family members.

(Response of "No, we have not.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: No, we have not. I am sorry to say we have not. We have just spelled it out as children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MS. OGLE: Does Maria Tedrow – Maria Tedrow is going to have to tell me, “Renata, go back to the blue book.” Are you going to tell me?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I don’t know what Maria is going to say.

MS. OGLE: Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Thank you for your comments. Go ahead, Maria.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Thank you. Nobody knows what I’m going to say. I’m not even sure what I’m going to say. (Laughter) First of all, I want to say something about the 200,000 members that we did achieve in ’87.

COMMANDER EGAN: Excuse me, Maria.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Yes.

COMMANDER EGAN: Just to be on the safe side, I recognize you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: One-oh-three. All right, thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Could I have your unit and state, please?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: You certainly can. Maria Tedrow, Past National Commander and member of Unit 103, Ohio. I want to go back to the fact that I said in 1987 we had 200,000 members and we carried that for a couple of years.

But we could not sustain it because the members were getting older, didn’t join up again or passed away or moved away or got on their computers and their cell phones and for whatever reason did not renew.

And the thing about this organization is that it takes a war to have a member. And I don’t think that we want wars to get new members but we do want to help those members that are already disabled and may become disabled and the whole thing is extended family.

We’re not changing the quote, eligibility. We’re just saying that now if you’ve got a niece – and correct me if I’m wrong. If you’re got a niece or a nephew or maybe a sister-in-law or an aunt that would love to join, let them join. (Applause)

(Response of “Yes.”)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Amen.

COMMANDER EGAN: Let’s see, who was next? Amy, I think.

MS. AMY BOWSER: Amy Bowser, Unit 48, Prince William County, Virginia. My question was going to be is there anywhere where there is a definition of “extended family?” I mean how far are we taking extended family? Is it going to be great-great-great-granddaughters? I mean –

(Response of “Yes.”)

MS. BOWSER: We need that somewhere. We need to know how far down the line. I mean I would love to see that. But I think we need a definition of that somewhere.

COMMANDER EGAN: Go to a dictionary or go to your friendly social worker or sociologist. (Applause) Okay? You, I think. I’m sorry. I didn’t mean you, the lady from Idaho.

MS. SANDY DOUTRE: Yes, Sandy Doutre and I’m current commander for the Department and also Unit 9, Fort Sherman. This Convention that our state just held my sister who cannot be a member until this gets passed ran our hospitality room.

I have brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews that cannot be members because our family was Quaker down to my father and we’re not in active in any war.

But, my husband is a 100 percent disabled veteran. Because he is and they are related to him they would be allowed to be members now which is just an absolute awesome thing because they are already doing the membership stuff. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. Thank you. This lady here, please.

MS. LINDA SIPES: Linda Sipes, Arkansas. I’m senior vice commander. I’m also commander for Unit 7. The question I have – I think extended family is fantastic.

But in Section 3, 4 and 5 it does not say that the member has to be disabled. It says a member, family or extended family member of any person who served. It doesn’t say served and was disabled. Does the sponsor not have to be disabled?

COMMANDER EGAN: No.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: No, they do not. What we are doing, we are trying to incorporate other people who are honorably – other veterans and their families who are honorably discharged and this was one of them.

MS. SIPES: Regardless of disability.
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Regardless of disability.

MS. SIPES: Then how can it be Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary?

JUDGE ADVOCATE CAROL A. GRAY: Excuse me. These do not refer to being related to a disabled veteran. This is being related to someone who served in the armed forces and they want to honor that member's, that person's service by joining an auxiliary that helps disabled people who were disabled in the war and, heaven forbid, we'd love to have them not injured in the war.

That's the only way they could have been eligible. But this way if they served their country honorably we can do something to help them and their families without them having to have been disabled to serve, to join the DAV.

MS. SIPES: So it would be anybody who is related to anybody who was ever in the service?

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: As long as they were honorably discharged.

(Response of "No.")

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: No, on 4 it says if they were not dishonorably discharged. Number 3 talks about if they're still in the military and are eligible, they've been injured and are eligible for the DAV they would be eligible here.

MS. SIPES: That one says it but the others don't.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Pardon? Okay, but we're trying to make it so that you can increase membership and extend the membership to more family. Other than just go out and just get any member you're getting someone who already has been involved with the military in their family and they want to do something to honor their family member. And they can do it this way.

COMMANDER EGAN: Lynn Helms, I believe you're next.

MS. LYNN C. PROSSER: Lynn Prosser, Grand Strand, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm sorry.

MS. PROSSER: I'm too confused, myself, about extended family members. On our application when we sign someone up it says that we have to verify eligibility. I'm not so sure with this rule of extended family members any of us would be able to verify anything.

We could just sign up anybody that wanted to actually join because there is no way to verify all the people that we would be able to sign up.

So the eligibility verification signature would probably have to be removed from that application because I would not want to personally have to say I can verify something that I cannot verify.

And that's what it would be doing because somewhere down the line, especially in today's society where you have people, you have your children moving in with other children, they're having babies, they're not getting married, living together three or four years, going their separate ways, and the families are separated for ever and don't even go back together, I mean, you know, this is kind of one of those things where where do we actually define where you're going to be eligible?

And where are we going to define where we can stop and say I don't think that you're going to actually be eligible? Are we saying anybody is eligible? I mean if we can, then we don't need the eligibility signature.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I believe it is anticipated if this amendment is adopted that applications will need to be changed, adopted and ratified, excuse me. Yes.

MS. PROSSER: And that's another thing I'd like for you to explain, too, because it has to be adopted and ratified.

And this, am I right or wrong by saying that this will have to go out to all of the units throughout the United States and they will have to vote to either pass this, even though what we decide on the floor it will have to go out to all members throughout the United States to be voted on in each individual units?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Letters will be going out – if this is adopted here on the Convention floor, this amendment and the following one, if these two amendments are adopted ratification will be required and all, and notices will be sent out to all units in existence at the time of this Convention and it will require three-fourths vote on the affirmative in order for these to become adopted or the change in the Constitution.

MS. PROSSER: According to the Committee, is there any actual lines drawn in the sand to where we can stop and say, they're not eligible?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I don't believe that was under consideration by the Committee.

MS. PROSSER: So actually, we're actually saying that anybody can join the Auxiliary no matter what circumstances there are?

(Response of "No.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: We didn't address it that way.

MS. PROSSER: We just need to be more clarification on, you know, not having to come back and revamp, you know, some people that we've signed up.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Did this come up in your caucus and was it discussed there?

MS. PROSSER: We kind of discussed it in our caucus but we were confused and actually didn't have enough time actually to discuss it because of the noise.

It was very noisy and we could not have time, really, to finish our caucus so I apologize for that. But thank you very much.

COMMANDER EGAN: The lady behind her.

MS. NICKOLE BARBUTO: Hi, Nickole Barbuto, state commander, Unit 88, for New York. Sorry. Regarding 3, 4, and 5, I just want to say something.

I have a friend of mine who served in the service. And he was very curious about what I did for this organization and with the people of this organization.

And when I told him and now he is not a disabled veteran, he is just a veteran, or not just – I don't mean it that way, but he is a veteran and he is not disabled.

When I explained to him what it was that I did he was so moved. He said "What can I do? I want to be a member. I helped my comrades that were hurt on those fields. And it weren't for me they may not be here because I pulled them off. Who wants to help them more than I do? How can I be a member?"

And it broke his heart when I told him he couldn't. This organization needs members. We need people that have it in their hearts.

And the men and women that served with our disabled American veterans have the heart, the will, the strength and the drive to make our organization and our Auxiliary grow. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. Are you finished?

MS. BARBUTO: Yes, I am.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very, very much. I recognize Pam Hogan.

MS. PAMELA J. HOGAN: Pam Hogan, Department of California, Unit 13. All I can say is she took the words practically out of my mouth. Plenty of our veterans who are not disabled and their family member are here, ready, willing and able to help.

We have plenty of family members who have service members that were not disabled, by the grace of God, or admit to being disabled but they want to help disabled veterans.

We are the Auxiliary. We are the helpers for our disabled veterans. And who are we to say, oh, I'm sorry, you're just living with him; you can't help. That's extended family. If you call yourself a family, you're a family. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm sorry, ladies, we're going to take one more question from Oklahoma. Katie.

MS. JEWEL K. HAUSER: I'm Katie Hauser, commander of Oklahoma. I have two comments. On Section, okay, 2, any veteran who was injured and I think injured is the operative word.

All injuries do not end in loss of limb, loss of organs, loss of facilities, loss of life. There are lots of energy – injuries.

I dare anyone tell me that PTSD, which does not show is not an injury. (Applause) I live with it. Trust me. It is an injury. It just doesn't show.

Secondly, many of us come from blended families. My daughters cannot be a member of DAVA because their stepfather is the sponsor. My granddaughter who knows no other grandfather is not qualified because her father, real grandfather, died several years ago.

They are as much a member of any extended family as ever existed. So, you know, I think we're splitting hairs and playing a game of semantics that doesn't need to be played. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. Thank you. We're going to call for a vote. All those in favor; opposed. Carried. (Applause)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: The next amendment is National Constitution, Page N-4, Article IV, Administration, Section 5, Line 5, delete "Chaplain." Section 5 will then read:

"Each National Convention shall elect a National Commander, a National Senior Vice Commander, four National Junior Vice Commanders, and a National Judge Advocate."

Rationale: a National Chaplain should be selected for their natural ability in being a spiritual leader for the organization and the position should not be used as progression to an elected office. I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: There is a motion to adopt this amendment. Do I have a second?

MS. BEATRICE VIEIRA: Madame Commander, Beatrice Vieira from Unit 77, California, I second the motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: The amendments that you will find on Page 2 through 4 which consist of the National Bylaws, Article II, Section 1 and 2; Article III, Section 5; Standard State Department Bylaws, Article III, Sections 1 and 2; Article IV, Section 5; Article V, Section 1; and in the Standard Local Unit Bylaws Article III, Section 1; Article IV –

(Response of "Nine.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: – and Section 1 – I mean, excuse me, IX, Section 1; Article 10, Section 2; Regular Business Meeting, Page U-21, Junior Vice Commander, and Installation of Officers, Paragraph 3.

(Response of "Five.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Five. Excuse me. Thank you. I move the adoption of these amendments which will become effective upon ratification of the constitutional amendments.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDY STEINHOUSE: Madame Commander, Judy Steinhouse, Unit Number 24, Valley City, North Dakota, I second this motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that we adopt this. Any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: On Page 5 we'll now start, then. Page N-15, Article III, Duties of National Officers, Section 2, National Vice Commanders, Line 4.

COMMANDER EGAN: Lucille, excuse me. You jumped to Page 5.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Yes. Because two through four are all based on the Constitution and they could not be effected unless the Constitution is ratified.

So upon ratification of the Constitution, the amendments that are listed on your Page 2 through 4 will become effective.

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, is that clear? Page 5.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: So five we will start now. All right, Page N-15, Article III, Duties of National Officers, Section 2, National Vice Commanders, Line 4, delete "Loan" and insert "Scholarship". Section 2 will then read:

"The National Senior Vice Commander shall be responsible for the Mae Holmes program and shall serve on the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee and preside in the absence of the National Commander."

The rationale is National Education Loan Fund Committee will now be referred to as the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee. I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: You have heard the motion. There has been a motion to accept. Do I hear a second?

MS. CAROL GOODMAN: Madame Commander, Carol Goodman, Unit 2, I second that motion – I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: The motion has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion granted.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: N-16, Page N-16, Article III, Section 3: Immediate Past National Commander, delete Section 3. The rationale: this duty is outlined in Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 2. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that this amendment be adopted.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander.

COMMANDER EGAN: May I have a second, please?

(Whereupon, a member attempted to second from the audience.)

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm sorry; you did not come to the microphone. This lady did. Would you speak, please.

MS. BARBARA MALONE: Madame Commander, Barbara Malone, State Commander of New Jersey and Unit 81. I second the motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: All right, this next, on N-19, is the one that we had a printing error so it now reads N-19, Article IV, Tenure of Office, insert new Section 2: National Adjutant. New Section 2 will then read:

"Notwithstanding any other section of these Bylaws, the National Adjutant shall not be removed from office by the National Commander other than by failure and/or inability to fill the duties of the office.

"Such removal shall require the concurrence of two-thirds of the voting members of the National Executive Committee.

"In the event the National Adjutant is removed from office, the employment of such person shall terminate as of the date of removal.

"The removed person shall be entitled one month's severance pay for each year of employment with the Auxiliary, not to exceed twelve months."

Rationale: this new section will cover the appointment that has not been addressed in old Section 2.

COMMANDER EGAN: We have a motion on the floor. Is there a second?

(Response of "She didn't.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Oh, I'm sorry. I move that this amendment be adopted. Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MS. GHEE: Madam Commander, Mary Ghee, Department of Montana Commander, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

MS. IRISH SPENCER: Yes, there is, Madame Commander. Good afternoon. I am Irish Spencer, great state of North Carolina, Unit 20. I oppose Article IV because no one should hold an office indefinitely.

That is not the democratic way, nor the American way. I hope everyone and all delegates will oppose this motion. It also takes away the right of the Commander to appoint the Adjutant because Adjutant is an appointed position.

In addition, no office, even the President of the United States of America, is an appointed office and known as a life-time appointment.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. Is there any other discussion?

MS. RAMONA GANONG: Yes, Madame Commander. I also oppose this amendment. Ramona Ganong, Unit 38, New Mexico. You take away all the power of the National Commander when you take this out and do not have her as an appointed position.

You will also have to change that for the states and the units that also appoint their adjutants. Yes, you would because it's an appointed position.

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm sorry; who was next?

MS. BARBARA MALONE: All right, Madame Commander –

COMMANDER EGAN: I think this lady first.

MS. MALONE: All right, Madame Commander, Barbara Malone, Commander, State of New Jersey, Unit 81, that was my question, though, does it take the new incoming commander's right to choose a new adjutant away?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER R. RENEE JONES: Yes, it does.

MS. MALONE: It takes it away? Because my thing is if it didn't every time a new commander came in and wanted to change adjutant we'd be giving them one year's pay. For every month they worked when they leave they get one month's pay.

(Response of "One Year.")

MS. MALONE: So if you look at it this way, if the commander, the new commander came in every year when a new commander came in and they changed adjutants, the adjutant outgoing gets paid one month for every year.

(Response of “No.”)

MS. MALONE: Oh, so they get an extra month’s pay. Okay, I was a little off on my math there. But you’re saying the commanders no longer have the choice of adjutant.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Correct.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Correct.

MS. MALONE: Thank you. I just wanted that clarification.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Madame Commander.

COMMANDER EGAN: Just a minute, Renee. There is a question that I want the Judge Advocate to answer. It takes it away?

JUDGE ADOVCATE GRAY: You’re not actually taking it away but you are having to prove that the current National Adjutant, if she has been there for any considerably period of time, is no longer qualified by, due to failure to or the failure to fulfill their office or their duties. You’re not really taking it away.

COMMANDER EGAN: Renee.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Madame Commander, Renee Jones, Past National Commander, Unit 18, North Carolina, as a member of the Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws this amendment was the one that was most discussed during our meeting.

And I, personally – and I’m not sure if anyone else would agree with me, was led to believe that this change was being proposed because we were trying to match up with the DAV’s Bylaws and their HR policies.

And when I obtained a copy and did a little research I found that I was misled and based on that I move to table this motion.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I believe when this was originally presented to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Interim Committee –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Madame Commander – Lucille, may I interrupt you, please?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: You sure may.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: She moved for a table. I’m making a second. It eliminates any further discussion. I move – I second it.

My name is Kathryn Wiley, Past National Commander, Washington State, 46 – this time. Now it goes straight to a vote without discussion. It was a vote to table; now this is not the original motion.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: We understand that.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: But the rest of these folks might not have understood what a table is.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Right. I know. But that’s what we’re going to do.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Okay.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Since this is before a Convention, since there was a motion to table and a second, should that subsidiary motion be adopted, this would have to go back to Committee for reconsideration.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: At this Convention.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: It can go back at this Convention.

COMMANDER EGAN: We’re checking on our next legal step because, quite frankly, I don’t know at this point whether we vote on the table which will automatically negate the original motion. Okay, I just want to know what we’re voting on. Is that the way it goes?

(Whereupon, a sidebar conversation was held at the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Madame Commander.

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, Renee.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: I have a definition if you’d like me to read that.

COMMANDER EGAN: Surely.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JONES: Lay on the table – cause a – I move, I move – la-la-la. I moved the motion be tabled. Calls for a second and an immediate vote without discussion. If passed the main motion is removed from consideration at the meeting and from future meetings until a motion is stated and passed that the main motion be taken from the table.

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, what we're voting on right now is the tabling of the original motion –

(Response of "At convention.")

COMMANDER EGAN: At Convention. All those in favor; all those opposed. I think the ayes have it. (Applause)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: The next amendment – are you ready? Page N-23, Article V, National Committees and Chairmen, Section 2: National Education Loan Fund, delete entire Section 2 and substitute the following:

"Section 2: National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund.

"The National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund shall be administered through the Auxiliary National Headquarters.

"The National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee shall be a revolving committee composed of the National Senior Vice Commander, the National Commander, and the Immediate Past National Commander.

"The Immediate Past National Commander shall serve as the Chairman of the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Committee.

"The National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund Chairman shall direct the activities of the Scholarship Fund Committee and submit the Committee's report to the National Convention.

"The administration of the previous National Education Loan Fund shall be through Auxiliary National Headquarters until all loans are cleared."

Rationale: this section will now provide up-to-date information concerning the operation of the National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund and the National Education Loan Fund in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service and the DAV National Bylaws Section 14.6. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: I'll beat you, Sandy. (Laughter) Kathryn Wiley, Past National Commander, Washington State, Unit 46, I wholeheartedly second this.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that we accept that this motion be amended. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, add a new Section 2 which will read:

"Section 2: Membership Basic Rights and Privileges

"No member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall be expelled or limited within any of the rights and privileges of membership, except as specified in Article XII of these Bylaws."

Rationale: this motion, I mean this moves – don't mind me. This moves information previously included in Article XII of the National Bylaws. Madame Commander, I move that this motion be, I mean this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: Wait a minute. What about this down here?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I read it.

COMMANDER EGAN: No.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: All right, when adopted old Section 2 would become Section 3; Section 3 would become Section 4; Section 4 would become Section 5; and Section 5 would become Section 6. Madame Commander, I move that this be adopted.

MS. ROBERTA "ROBI" RILEY: Robi Riley, State Department Commander of Washington, Unit 4, I second that.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that we adopt this amendment. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion adopted.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 5: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership, Paragraph 3, delete last sentence which reads, "If payments are not completed within the prescribed period of time the membership will be cancelled" and substitute "If not paid in full at the end of the prescribed time, the membership shall continue only as long as there are sufficient funds to make annual distributions." Paragraph 3 will then read:

"A Life Membership may be secured on a payment plan, having three full membership years to complete payments after the first payment has been received.

"If not paid in full at the end of the prescribed time, the membership shall continue only as long as there are sufficient funds to make annual distributions."

The rationale: this will enable National Headquarters to transfer the partial paid membership into State At-large. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

MRS. JACKSON: Madame Commander, Jean Jackson, Unit 7, Colorado, I second the motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; okay, hold on, please.

MS. VIEIRA: Beatrice Vieira from Unit 77, Freemont, California, what I was worrying about, it says "if their membership isn't paid, life membership, their membership goes in, pays so they can continue membership but it goes into the State At-Large.

Why can't they stay in the same Unit that they were a member in until their life membership runs out if they don't have enough money rather than going into –

If I have a member of 77 that maybe has 50 percent or a little more of the Life Membership, and they don't continue paying on it in three years, why can't the membership part that they have left over go into the Unit just as a regular member rather than – an annual member rather than a life member rather than going into the membership at, National At-Large?

COMMANDER EGAN: Judy, would you want to answer that?

MS. VIEIRA: That's my point of question.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: This – with the way we've done it in the past if they're not paid in three years they're dropped.

Now we learned that the DAV, the parent organization, the way they handle it is to put them in State At-Large. There is no money to distribute but maybe somewhere down the road they will pay \$10.

MS. VIEIRA: Yes.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We don't know. But that way they're not dropped from the records. Once they're dropped, they don't get a magazine. They get no information whatsoever.

MS. VIEIRA: My thing was they wouldn't have to be dropped but why couldn't they stay in the Auxiliary they plan –

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Because all the programming it is, they cannot keep them on the membership records forever.

MS. VIEIRA: They can't?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: No.

MS. VIEIRA: Oh, okay. I didn't mean they was staying there forever.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And we're just going along because previously after three years from the Auxiliary records they were considered a dropped member.

MS. VIEIRA: Just dropped.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: They didn't count. Of course they won't count towards your quotas. They won't count in your Unit because there is no money to distribute.

MS. VIEIRA: Yes.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: But, yet, they will still continue if they put them in a State At-Large to get the quarterly notices and if they would pay, which they say their percentage is very low –

MS. VIEIRA: Yes.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: But this way they would continue to get a magazine. They would – if the units write or ask for labels they could still be contained on that and you could try to get them back.

MS. VIEIRA: Thank you.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: But the only way that we can do it and monitor it is to put them in State At-Large.

MS. VIEIRA: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You're welcome. Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, Judy. Let's take the vote again. All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Page N-28, Article VII, Membership, Section 5: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership, Paragraph 4, Line 5, delete "\$40.00" and insert "\$20.00". Paragraph 4 will then read:

"Life Membership fee shall be as follows: Age 18-30, \$250.00; 31 to 45, \$230.00; 46 to 60 \$200.00; 61 to 70, \$180.00; 71 to 79, \$140.00; 80 or over, complimentary.

"Minimum down payment is \$20.00. Birth date must be indicated on the membership application."

Rationale: lower down payment may encourage new members to become life members. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second? The lady over on my left.

MS. ELLEN M. GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, Unit 32, West Virginia, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

MS. PROSSER: Lynn Prosser.

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, Lynn.

MS. PROSSER: Lynn Prosser, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Unit 30, we've had much discussion here about our Junior membership being so important and at this point in life I don't think there is anything more important right now to our organization than our Junior membership.

And it appears to me that with the economy like it is that we're hitting that age group really, really hard with our membership. Two hundred fifty dollars for an 18-year old, even a 21-year old with today's cost of living.

I think that we are losing a lot of our juniors because either their parents or grandparents or even themselves cannot come up with that kind of money, even in a three-year period because some of them right now in two years can't even find a job right now. So I think we're losing a lot on that end of the spectrum, also.

So I would suggest that we go back to the Membership Committee and see if we can't do some type of change in this \$250 to allow our Juniors to ease into our membership right now even at this maybe Convention because we can't afford to lose any more of our members and our Junior, on the Junior end.

And I don't know if the membership, if they've ever done a study to see how many actual Juniors we are losing totally coming off of this 18 year to this 20 year era right there.

But we really need to adopt something at this Convention that's going to keep our Junior members in this next year that's turning 18 years old, we need to hold on to those members and keep them active and keep them going.

COMMANDER EGAN: Agreed. Is there any further discussion on this particular amendment?

MS. PROSSER: I'll make a motion that we make some changes today in this and bring up –

COMMANDER EGAN: There is a motion already on the floor that I'm trying to get a vote on. Maria.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Madame Commander, my name is Maria Tedrow. (Laughter) And I'm Past National Commander and also a delegate for Unit 103, Ohio. I want to comment on something that you've said.

We have worked – a lot of the things that we have wanted to do we cannot do because we don't have our own data processing system. Am I right, Judy?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: And so we tried to – we tried to – what do I want to say – kind of roll with what they can give us. And every time we come up with an idea they say that it can't be done.

Now, I was discussing the idea of having a Junior member Life Membership when they're Juniors. But, but they cannot hold the distribution. Now, you're talking about lowering – are you listening to me? (Laughter)

MS. PROSSER: I'm trying. I'm trying, Maria.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Now, now.

MS. PROSSER: Yes, I was listening to you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Okay, hon. Now you're talking about lowering it. And that would be great. But if you stop and think if they get, that \$250.00, say at 18, within a few years – I know it sounds, we've done a lot, but pretty soon it's going to start coming out of Life Membership, paying their dues.

And how many in this room are still having Life Membership distribution on their membership? And, in other words, you paid maybe \$125; you've been in this organization for, say, 25 years, and now we're paying you from money that you never put in.

MS. PROSSER: And, Maria. –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: That's the danger with lowering it to 250. I understand what you're saying.

MS. PROSSER: And, Maria, I'm tickled to death that you've lived to be as long as you have and I'm tickled to death that anybody in here lives above that 80 years old. I'm glad for that.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Well, I'm not there yet. (Laughter)

MS. PROSSER: I'm not talking about you, personally, Maria. It sounds like we've got something going on here. (Laughter) No, what I am saying is, though is it better –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: I can understand –

MS. PROSSER: – is it better to try to hold on to maybe a fourth of these 18-year olds for \$250 and lose three-fourths of the 18-year olds because I have a feeling we have a number here that we're not looking at because I don't think that we're keeping – on that end of the spectrum I don't think that we're keeping the majority of our 18-year olds.

I think we're losing them. And I think that we can come up with a plan – maybe even 18 to 21 – that we could give them maybe an incentive to stay for \$150.

I'm just saying that I think \$250 is a strong amount for an 18- to 21-year old to pay.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: That's a big amount for any age, whether they're 80 to 18. However, like I said, it's distribution.

Now, you could always extend the time, the Life Membership time, maybe, to five years, you know, and get around it.

But you've got to think right now Life Membership is in trouble because we are paying out more than we are getting in because – here we go again, you're living too long, we're living too long.

MS. PROSSER: I understand that.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: And there is not enough money in there to take care of it.

MS. PROSSER: I understand that, Maria, but I'm going to go back to my –

COMMANDER EGAN: Excuse me. Excuse me. I think we can discuss – it's an emergency so let's cut this discussion right now. Yes, sir. Oh, you're going to make it.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: A Mrs. Frisby, Portsmouth, Virginia.

MRS. APRIL J. FRISBY: I'm right here.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Accompany this gentleman, please.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: But at this time I'm going to sit down but I'm sure that they'll think about that. I'm not stupid; \$250 is a lot for me. I don't go out and spend \$250.

And I hold onto my money because I have to. And for kids, for an 18-year old kid, they're worried about college and everything else, I can understand that.

But I'll tell you one thing; it's not just the amount of Life Membership that keeps people from joining this organization. It's this power play that goes on and all the politics that keep them from joining this organization. (Applause)

MS. PROSSER: I totally agree.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: I have one comment that I would like to make. I know a lot of 18-year olds. I've got teenage grandchildren. Not one of them would hesitate to pay over \$200 for an X-Box, an iPod or anything else. And neither would their parents. And in some cases they have grandparents that do. (Applause)

MS. PROSSER: I totally agree.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: So they have to set their priorities. They all set their priorities. We should encourage them to make this their priority. (Applause)

(Responses of "Thank you" and "Amen.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Madame Commander. Madame Commander.

COMMANDER EGAN: I'm sorry. I am trying to get an amendment passed.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: That is correct. And they're talking about something that isn't even part of the amendment.

COMMANDER EGAN: Exactly.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: The only thing we're discussing is reducing the down payment.

COMMANDER EGAN: That's exactly right. And I'm trying to find out if there is any discussion on that amendment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: Just that thing. They're discussing everything else but that.

COMMANDER EGAN: So, Kathy, do you have anything to say about this amendment?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILEY: I think it's a good one. I love the down payment being reduced. And I'm all for it. And it's Kathryn Wiley, Past National Commander, Washington State, Tri-City, 46.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. Thank you. Aura Lee.

MS. AURA LEE NICODEMUS: Aura Lee Nicodemus, Byron Morris Unit 3, Vermont, probably from having a larger percentage of kids in this age group than most of you in the room do that have used this benefit, I think what we have to look at is the \$20 down payment is indeed very reasonable.

They can all afford that. And what you have to look at is that's an investment into the Education Loan Fund or Scholarship Fund. I know for my kids that's made a world of difference.

It's an investment into having the Service Support Fund for their use later on. So the \$250 with the \$20 down payment is really nothing for what they're going to get out of it.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. (Applause) I'm going to call for the vote. All those in favor; opposed. Thank you, ladies for your contributions. Motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: A lot of discussion out there. Are you ready?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes. Let's move on.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page N-35, Article VIII, Finances, Section 3: National Mandates, Paragraph 1 through Line 5, delete "Loan" and insert "Scholarship". Section 3 will then read:

"Each membership year National Headquarters shall withhold the sum of \$25.00 from each unit's per capita distribution to cover the following National mandates: National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund, \$6.50; National Auxiliary Service Support Fund \$6.00; and Convention Expenses, \$12.50.

"The mandate must be paid in order for the unit to be eligible to vote at a National Auxiliary Convention. Effective July 1, 2007."

Rationale: Education Loan Fund was changed to read National Auxiliary Education Scholarship Fund. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: I have an amendment; I have a motion for the adoption. Do I have a second?

MS. GANONG: Madame Commander, Ramona Ganong, Three Crosses, Unit 38, New Mexico, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that we adopt this amendment. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed? The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: N-36, Article IX, State Departments, Section 2, State Department Charter, delete Paragraph 1 and substitute the following:

"A State Department Charter may be granted upon application to National Headquarters following a majority vote of local units in good standing within a State when there is a minimum of one hundred fifty members."

Rationale: this will make it easier to grant and/or retain a State Department Charter. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: I have a motion that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second?

MS. GANONG: Madame Commander, Ramona Ganong, Unit 38, New Mexico, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Madame Commander, just a question, Maria Tedrow, Past National Commander, Ohio 103, if I understand this correctly you are eliminating the fact that they need three units. Is that correct?

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, ma'am.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 3, B, Line 1, delete "ten" and insert "four". Section 3, B will then read: "B. which olds at least four business meetings per year."

Rationale: this will then allow Units to meet the required minimum number of business meetings in correlation with the parent organization. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: We have an amendment to adopt this – we have a motion to adopt this amendment. Do I have a second?

MS. RILEY: Robi Riley, State Commander for, or Commander for the State of Washington, Unit 4, I second that.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that we adopt this amendment. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 4, Paragraph 2, delete entire paragraph.

Rationale: purchase of Auxiliary supplies is covered in Page U-16, Article XVII in the Standard Local Unit Bylaws. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MS. GANONG: Madame Commander, Ramona Ganong, Unit 38, New Mexico, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted. All in favor; opposed? The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page N-43, Article XII, Offenses, Penalties, Appeals and Lawsuits, delete all of Article XII and substitute the following:

“ARTICLE XII, Disciplinary Actions

“Section 1: Offenses and Recommended Penalties.

“The State Commander may recommend to the State Executive Committee that it suspend, transfer or expel a member for:

“a. violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of the National Organization or of the State Department Bylaws or State Standing Rules or of the Local Unit Bylaws;

“b. refusal to comply with the lawful order of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee, the National Commander, the State Commander, or the State Executive Committee;

“c. conduct not conducive to the best interests of the Organization or contrary to the maintenance of proper order and decorum within the Organization.”

“Section 2: Notice and Hearing

“A member may be subjected to the penalties assessable under the Article only after notice and hearings as follows:

“a. Violation or violations by a unit member or members shall be addressed by the unit. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the State Department;

“b. When needed, the State Commander shall appoint an investigative committee of three to perform a thorough examination of the violation or violations.

“c. The State Department shall notify the member or members by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, of the specific violation or violations with which they are being charged. All concerned parties shall be notified of the date, time and place of the investigative meeting.

“d. If unresolved, the following steps shall be taken:

“1. The State Department shall notify the member or members by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, of the specific violation or violations with which they are being charged.

“2. The State Commander shall set a date, time and place for a hearing before the State Executive Committee.

“The hearing shall be conducted in a way designed to ensure the accused member or members had the opportunity to understand the charges and the evidence and to offer any rebuttal.

“3. The decision of the State Executive Committee affirming, modifying or rejecting the recommendation of the State Commander is subject to the approval of the National Commander.

“4. The State Department hearing must be transcribed by a certified court reporter with a copy of all evidentiary material appended to the transcript.

“The State Department is responsible for payment of the reporter and for providing a free copy of the transcript to the appellant.

“All other expenses of the appellant arising in connection with the disciplinary proceedings are the responsibility of the appellant.

“Section 3: Definition of Penalties.

“The Penalties imposed under this Article are defined as follows:

“a. Suspension shall remove the member from membership and/or from any office held for not more than one year.

“b. Transfer shall be the permanent transfer of membership to the State or National At-Large Unit.

“c. Expulsion shall permanently remove the member from membership.

“d. Penalties imposed on a member under this Article shall apply to all memberships wherever held.

“In addition, penalties of suspension, transfer, and/or expulsion imposed by DAV under Article 16 of its National Bylaws shall be given identical effect by the Auxiliary to those who hold DAV and DAV Auxiliary memberships.

“This provision shall apply to all DAV penalties in effect or imposed on or after August 13, 2006.

“Section 4: Appeal

“The decision and penalty imposed shall be final unless the penalty determined by the State Executive Committee and approved by the National Commander is expulsion.

“Expulsion shall be final unless a written notice of appeal to the National Executive Committee stating the grounds therefore is filed by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested with the National Adjutant within thirty days after mailing notice of the penalty to the member.

“Under such appeal the burden shall be upon the appellant to demonstrate that the decision is clearly erroneous. The appeal of an expulsion shall be based solely upon the evidence presented to the State Executive Committee.

“The appellant must submit to the National Adjutant a written statement in support of the appeal within thirty days of filing the notice of appeal or receiving a copy of the transcript, whichever is later. The statement may not exceed ten days.”

(Response of “Pages.”)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Oh, excuse me. Okay. You’re right. (Laughter)

“The Statement shall not exceed ten pages.”

I have a line completely through mine here. (Laughter)

“There is no personal hearing. The decision of the National Executive Committee on an expulsion appeal is final.

“Section 5: Disciplinary Proceedings Originating at the National Level.

“The National Commander may recommend to the National Executive Committee that it suspend, transfer or expel a member on the grounds specified in Article XII, Section 1, of these Bylaws.

“The same procedure is outlined in this Article XII except – oh, apply except that the hearing shall take place before the National Executive Committee.

“The decision of the National Executive Committee affirming, modifying or rejecting the recommendation of the National Commander is final for all purposes and there is no appeal.”

The rationale: to update and clarify the DAV Auxiliary’s disciplinary actions on the State and National level. Amen. (Laughter) Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: Do I have a second?

MS. TRACY TUCKER ARNETTE: Madame Commander, Tracy Tucker Arnette, Unit 1, Kentucky, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion?

MS. RILEY: Yes, I have one question, Robi Riley, State Commander for or Commander for the State of Washington, Unit 4.

What if there is a case if a state cannot afford to pay for the mailing or for a certified court reporter? How would they proceed? And would that mean that there would be no action taken against the person or persons involved?

COMMANDER EGAN: Did you hear that Lucille?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: No.

COMMANDER EGAN: Would you please repeat that, Robi?

MS. RILEY: Okay, it says if the state cannot afford to pay for mailing or for the certified court reporter, how would they proceed? And would that mean there would be no action taken against the person or persons involved?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: We were told by the legal advisor of National DAV that just to use a – that to use just a, take the minutes or not to have a court reporter would not be legally binding, that you need a court reporter to do it.

If you can't afford it, I would say you're going to have to have other means of trying to settle whatever the problem might be.

MS. RILEY: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: And that was – in the first place, it would depend on what the problem would be and why would you need to have this hearing. And so that would be part of your basis.

But I would venture to say that a lot of the times that some of these could really, if you sat down and really discussed you wouldn't need to have a hearing of any sort. I don't know.

MS. RILEY: I understand that, but if it goes to the extreme, that means if this, if the state cannot afford it this person, there will be no action taken against them.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I would say –

MS. RILEY: If the extreme.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: The way it now stands, it's true.

COMMANDER EGAN: Is there any other discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Next is Page S-5, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 1: State Commander, Paragraph 3, Line 5, insert "VAVS". Section 1, Paragraph 3 will then read:

"The State Commander shall appoint the State Chairman of the following committees: Americanism, Community Service, History, Hospital, Junior Activities, Legislation, Mae Holmes, Membership, and VAVS, and may also appoint such other chairmen as deemed necessary."

Rationale: these committees will then agree with the committees serving on the National level. Madame Commander, I move that this be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that we adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MS. ELLEN GRIGGS: Madame Commander, Ellen Griggs.

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, Ellen.

MS. GRIGGS: State of West Virginia, I second.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed? The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees, Section 3: State Nominating Committee, Line 7, insert "(This does not apply to State Departments with three or less chartered units.)" Section 3 will 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.

"No two members from the same Unit shall be elected to serve on this committee. (This does not apply to State Departments with three or less chartered units.)

"The State Standing Rules shall provide the procedures of the committee. The number of members shall be provided on the Supplement to State Bylaws."

Rationale: for small State Departments this change will make it easier to elect members to serve on the Convention Nominating Committee. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: I have a motion that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second? Ramona, I have somebody. Thank you.

MS. SARAH M. KASHNER: Sarah Kashner, State of Delaware, Commander, Unit 1, I say that yes it should be adopted, second.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that the amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees, Section 3, State Nominating Committee, Line 7. Oh, I already did that, didn't I?

(Response of "Yes.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Sorry. I just didn't mark it. I must be getting blind up here. (Laughter) Yes, Page S-13, Article VI, State Committees, Section 5: State Standing Rules, Paragraph 1, Line 4, insert "(This does not apply to State Department with three or less chartered units.)" Section 5, Paragraph 1, will then read:

“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. (This does not apply to State Departments with three or less chartered units.)

“The number of members on the committee and the procedures shall be provided in the State Standing Rules and Supplement to State Bylaws.

“Any vacancy shall be filled by an appointment made by the State Commander and approved by the State Executive Committee.”

Rationale: for small State Departments this change will make it easier to appoint or elect – appoint/elect members to serve on the State Standing Rules committee. Madame Commander, I move that this be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: The chair recognizes Joe for a second.

MR. JOSEPH PLESCIA: Madame Commander, Joe Plescia, Unit 16, California – that’s my Arnold Schwarzenegger (Laughter) –

COMMANDER EGAN: You’re the twin. (Laughter)

MR. PLESCIA: Thank you, Kay. I really appreciate that. (Laughter) I second this motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be accepted, passed. All in favor; opposed? The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: I’ve got to be sure where I left off. (Laughter) Page U-6, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officer, Section 3: Adjutant, Number 3, delete Item Number 3. Renumber the balance of Section 3. Number 4 would become 3; 5 would become 4; 6 would become 5, etc cetera.

Rationale: duplication of duties covered in 4. Madame Commander, I move that this be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: I have a motion that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second?

MS. RUTH ANN WILCOXEN: Ruth Wilcoxen, State Commander for Maryland.

COMMANDER EGAN: What Unit? State Department? Okay, it has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted.

Is there any discussion? Yes, ma’am. Are you getting up to make a? Oh, okay. Hearing no discussion, all those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page U-9, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 1: Regular Business Meetings, Paragraph 1, Line 1, delete “ten” and insert “four”. Paragraph 1 will then read:

“A Unit shall hold at least four regular business meetings per year at a time and place set by vote of the unit.”

Rationale: this will then allow units to meet the required minimum number of business meetings in correlation with the parent organization. Madame Commander, I move this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: I have a motion that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second?

MS. E. BONITA MITCHELL: Bonita Mitchell, Unit 2, Missouri.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that this amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion? All those in favor – wait a minute. Oh, I’m sorry, all those in favor, aye; opposed. The motion carried. Bonita Mitchell, Missouri Unit 2.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN McCARTHY: Page U-12, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 1, Subsection 3, delete “Duties of the Committee include frequent visits to veterans, their families and Auxiliary members hospitalized in local or governmental hospitals.”

Also insert new Subsection 8, VAVS. Section 1, starting with Subsection 3, will then read:

3. Hospital
4. Community Service
5. Legislative
6. Junior Activities
7. History
8. VAVS”

Rationale: adding VAVS to the list of Unit Committees. This will then agree with the committees in National and State. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: I have a motion that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Madame Commander, Judy Steinhouse, Unit Number 24, Valley City, Past National Commander, I second this motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Page U-15, Article XV, Unit Finance and Dues, Section 4: Forget-Me-Not Drives, Paragraph 2, delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"Income from Forget-Me-Not Drives shall be used solely for service to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors and no" – and no "other purpose."

Rationale: this will then agree with DAV Regulation 5 regarding use of Forget-Me-Not income. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Madame Commander, Sandy Dobmeier, Past National Commander, I second that motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: Sandy Dobmeier, Past National Commander, has seconded this motion. Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Page U-22, Order of Business, Item 8, insert "VAVS" prior to "Ways and Means". Item 8 will then read:

"8. Report of Committees: Membership, Americanism, Hospital, Community Service, Legislative, History, Junior Activities, VAVS, Ways and Means, and any other appointed committees."

Rationale: to provide for addition of a report by the VAVS Chairman. Madame Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved that this amendment be adopted. Do I have a second?

MS. GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, Unit –

COMMANDER EGAN: Go to the mic, please.

(Response of "It is not working.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Oh, it doesn't work.

MS. GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, Unit 32.

COMMANDER EGAN: Ellen Grier –

(Response of "Griggs.")

MS. GRIGGS: West Virginia.

COMMANDER EGAN: What Unit in West Virginia?

MS. GRIGGS: Thirty-two.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thirty-two. West Virginia.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HENRY: Seconds the motion.

COMMANDER EGAN: Seconds the motion. I wanted to see if Mr. Fix-it gets it fixed.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: No.

COMMANDER EGAN: No?

(Whereupon, the meeting recorder got the microphone to work.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Is there any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: It works now. It works now.

COMMANDER EGAN: Hot diggity-dog.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: He fixed it.

COMMANDER EGAN: Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carried. (Applause) Amen. Thank you, Lucille.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCCARTHY: Yes, ma'am. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, Lucille, and for all the assisted legal help. Do you want to say something, Judy? Now that I think we've done enough for one afternoon (Applause) I will call upon our Adjutant Judy Hezlep for announcements.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Madame Commander. Madame Commander, can I have just one moment?

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, ma'am.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: First of all I'd like to apologize to you, to the officers and to Lynn, but when I sat up there for all those years I had to be quiet and it's great to sit down here and lose your temper. (Laughter) Okay?

And the Greek-Irish was coming up in me so I want to apologize to Lynn and to you and to the officers. I'm such a sweet person and I've got such a sweet personality. (Laughter) Anyway, thank you.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, Maria. We accept. Judy. We need our tickets for the door prize, please. Somebody back there has them. I hope. Yes, Sue has them.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: I just have one thing. Number 1, if you submitted a history book please come to the office and pick it up. The Forget-Me-Not Luncheon tickets, I don't know where we are on that but I hope everyone has their ticket.

Be sure and bring your ticket with you. You will have to show it when you come in the door because each year we serve more than we sell. It's on your ticket. And I was just informed – I said, "I can't see anything past this podium."

In the back of the room are the two Auxiliary members standing in the corner where they belong. (Laughter) Melody Whittaker, Brenda Webster, and – is Bunny there?

(Response of "Yes, Bunny's here.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: There, she's sneaking around that side. (Laughter) This consists of the Auxiliary staff but I just wanted you to know who everybody was. Thank you. (Applause) Now we're going to do door prizes.

MS. KAREN BOLTON: Tomorrow, with President Obama here – I'm Karen Bolton, South Dakota, Unit 22.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Yes.

MS. BOLTON: I'm just wondering; are there restrictions as to what we can do? Can we bring cameras? Can we bring – what do we bring or not bring?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: I think you can take cameras.

MS. BOLTON: Purses?

(Response of "No, you cannot take pictures.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: They said yesterday you could. Don't take your purses or anything. You have to go through security and metal detectors. So take as little as you can. I know they're going to start letting you in at 9:00 a.m. And go to the bathroom before you go in.

COMMANDER EGAN: Do you have your door prize tickets?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, let's go.

(Whereupon, door prizes were drawn, after which the meeting was recessed at 4:45 o'clock, p.m., on Sunday, August 1, 2010.)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
88th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
August 3, 2010
Third Business Session
- - -

The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Regency VII, Ballroom Level, of the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel on Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday morning, August 3, 2010, and was called to order at 9:02 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Kay Egan.

COMMANDER EGAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Did you enjoy all the hospitality rooms last night?

(Response of "Yes" and applause.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Keep coming to Conventions. We have them every year. (Laughter) The third session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Convention is commenced to begin. May our appointed Chaplain, Louise Bohlinger say the opening prayer.

CHAPLAIN BOHLINGER: Ladies and gentlemen, on your seat you should have found a little memento from me to you of Atlanta, "Footprints." And may I quote at the bottom: "The Lord, please carry me." Join me in prayer.

Oh, Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the things that you have made, I see the stars; I see the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my savior Lord, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Almighty and amazing God, thank you for the gift of today. Thank You for the gift of every one in this room. And thank You that they have the health and strength to be here.

For those who are going to have to leave today, Lord, please give them journey mercies. Take them home safe into the arms of their family. And, Lord, once more, give us wisdom, give us knowledge, give us discernment to know to do Your will this day. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Free your hands, stand at attention, place your right hand over your heart and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Third Junior Vice Commander Miller.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, ladies. The National Adjutant will now call the roll call of the newly-elected – third session, Tuesday, August the 2nd. Am I on the right page? Okay.

National Adjutant will now call the roll call of newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates. As your name is called, please come forward for the purpose of installation. I'm sorry.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Okay. We're just not organized here.

COMMANDER EGAN: Caught them with their sheets down. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the newly-elected National Executive Committeewomen and alternates advanced to the front of the room as the National Adjutant called their names.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: District 2, NEC Diane Wisnesky, Alternate Matilda Brooks; District 4, Lelia White, Alternate Dorothy Kashner; District 6, Etter Bowers, Alternate Ellen Griggs; District 8, Patricia Hicks, Alternate Margaret Powell; District 9, Alternate Barbara Smeal.

Okay, excuse me, District 7, Alternate Diane Franz; District 10, Lorraine Connelly, Alternate Carol Lee; District 12, Ann Glende, Alternate Patricia Davis; District 13, Alternate Bridgette Rice; District 14, Sandy Dobmeier, Alternate Mary Lou Weber; District 16, Josephine Benner, Alternate Dori Bogan; District 18, Yvonne Pitts –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: All right, Yvonne.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Alternate Carol Goodman; District 20, Sylvia Shurgot, Alternate Anglyn Scott.

COMMANDER EGAN: Nice to see new faces here. You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation. As newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates, are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Members, please stand. Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of your office.

"I, Kay Egan, having been selected as a National Executive Committee member 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 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 all property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. Members, be seated. Delegates, members and guests, I now present to you the National Executive Committee members and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. (Applause)

I trust you will aid them in the performance of their office. And with your help their term of office will be highly successful.

Would the newly-installed National Executive Committee members and alternates please return to your seats. (Applause) And congratulations, ladies. If we ever get a man up here I'll say "ladies and gentlemen." (Laughter)

(Whereupon, as members of the National Executive Committee returned to their seats Commissioner Pete Wheeler entered the ballroom.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Speak of the devil. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Would the Sergeant-of-Arms please bring our guests to the podium. Yes.

COMMANDER EGAN: In days past we used to have our musician, Nancy Colombe, play a tinkling little music as guests were brought up to the podium. So clap, ladies. Clap. Nancy, unfortunately, was not well enough to attend.

(Whereupon, the members clapped rhythmically as the guests were escorted to the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. The podium is yours, Mr. Wheeler.

COMMISSIONER PETER WHEELER: Thank you so much. It is always a great honor for me to have the opportunity to be among men and women who love our great flag over there and all it stands for and all it represents.

It reminds us that we need to be thankful that we live in the greatest country in the world, the United States of America. (Applause)

And we appreciate the men and women who have made it possible for this flag to continue to fly and the freedom that we all enjoy, that many of us take for granted.

If it had not been for the men and women of this country standing up for this flag we would not enjoy the freedom that we enjoy as a nation today.

And thank God that the United States of America is still strong and we are still going and thank you for all the troops that are – we are very thankful for all the troops that we have and our armed forces today who are still protecting our freedom.

It's good to be here with you this morning. We appreciate the fact that you are here in the State of Georgia, the largest state east of the Mississippi River land-wise.

And we appreciate the Disabled American Veterans and the Auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans and all you do to make sure that the men and women who are coming back receive the best care that they are entitled to and the best care possible to get them back to themselves again. National Commander of the Auxiliary, Ms. Egan –

COMMANDER EGAN: Here I am. (Laughter)

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: Thank you for all that you and your great organization here continue to do for our veterans and all the people of America. This is a great organization and I appreciate the fact that I've been a Life Member since 1946. (Applause)

I had the honor of serving as the National Chairman of the Advisory Board of the World War II Memorial which we also are very proud of. And I hope you visit it one of these days. Bob Dole, we called him in to raise the money and he raised \$196 million. (Applause) Thanks. Thanks.

And let me tell you this, the man Barry Owenby who designed it and is working on now the Disabled American Veterans Monument there in Washington, he worked and built the World War II Memorial.

And he is a great American and he does a great – and you will have a beautiful memorial for the Disabled American Veterans pretty soon.

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, we will.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: And it will be wonderful and it will be overdue. We should have had it years ago but thank God that you've got it going now and you've got the best

man available to do it. He did the World War II Memorial and there isn't a more beautiful place in Washington.

COMMANDER EGAN: I hear you.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: He will do it. And we want to honor you today, our National Commander of the Auxiliary, Ms. Egan. First of all I'd like to present to you, making you a colonel in our Army here in Georgia. (Laughter) What's that? We are making her – she will be a colonel. (Applause) And, congratulations.

(Whereupon, Commander Egan was presented with a certificate.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: And that is signed by the Commander-in-Chief of our Army, the Governor of the State of Georgia. And I'd like to also present to you on behalf of the State Board of Veterans' Service – if I can get it out of here – it's trying to hide from me – (Laughter) a certificate of appreciation from the Department of Veterans' Service and the State Board of Veterans' Service, a certificate of appreciation to our National Auxiliary Commander of the DAV, Disabled American Veterans, Kay Egan, for the great job she performed during her service as National Commander of this great organization.

And it's an honor for me to present this to you at this time. And I had the honor of signing that.

(Whereupon Commissioner Wheeler presented Commander Egan with the certificate of appreciation.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: We hope you've enjoyed your stay here in Atlanta and I hope you all had a chance to drink our favorite drink here, Coca-Cola. (Laughter) And I will tell you the secret formula, if you'd like to know.

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: It's made out of holy water. (Laughter) And do you know – do you know how to make holy water?

(Response of "No.")

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: You boil the hell out of it. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: It's good to be with you. I've been honored to have this job as Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs since 1949. That's been a few years ago. And I'm in my 62nd year. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Do you realize some people in this room weren't even born yet?

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: I'm only 37 and holding. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: You're holding well. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: Thank you. And God bless all of you. And have a safe trip home and come back and see us often. And drink that holy water.

COMMANDER EGAN: You've got it. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMISSIONER WHEELER: It's really been an honor to be with you. I appreciate the opportunity. And come back many times. God bless you all. And God bless America. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the guests were escorted from the podium by the Sergeant-at-Arms while the members clapped rhythmically.)

COMMANDER EGAN: You know, these are extremely impressive and I am extremely honored to receive them. But I still can't get over why I get stuff like this for doing what I love to do. (Applause)

In case you missed his name, that is Commissioner Pete Wheeler of the Veterans Affairs, State Board of Veterans' Services, Department of Veterans Service. Marvelous man. All these women, I'm sure he's in his glory. (Laughter)

Okay, do I have any more surprises? (Laughter) All righty, proceeding. Would the Credentials chairman please come forward to give the final Credentials report?

(Whereupon, Ms. Reese advanced to the podium for the Credentials Committee report.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: Good morning.

COMMANDER EGAN: Good morning, Dorothy.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REESE: I know this is basically our last day and I know everybody has had a goodtime. I saw several people last night when I got a chance to visit with some of the rooms.

It looked like everybody enjoyed themselves in Georgia and we appreciate you all coming. And you all come back. (Applause)

Madame Commander, National Officers, PNCs, delegates and guests, this will be the final reading of the Credentials report.

Total Units registered 184; total Departments registered, 44; delegates registered, 386; alternates registered, 21; guests registered, 102; for a total of 509.

Total Unit votes, 1,141; total Department votes, 44; National Officers' votes, 7; PNC votes, 8; for a grand total of votes, 1,200. Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials' report.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, Dorothy. It has been moved that the Credentials report be accepted as presented. Do I hear a second?

MS. JUNE ADEMA: June Adema, California Unit 6, anyway, I make a motion we accept the –

COMMANDER EGAN: It has been moved and seconded that the Credentials report be accepted. Is there any discussion? All in favor; opposed? The motion carried. Thank you very much. You may be excused. Oh, got my pages confused. (Laughter)

At this time would the Chairman of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give the Committee report?

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee Chairman Maria Tedrow advanced to the podium to give her report.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, Maria.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARIA TEDROW: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: And if the National Commander would be patient with me for just one second, I'd like to comment about this was my first Convention when I became adjutant was in Atlanta.

And I was privileged at that time to serve with a National Auxiliary Commander that was as crazy as Kay is. (Laughter) And we decided that we wanted to shake up the Nominating Committee because it scared the candidates and we thought we'd play a joke on them.

So with the help of Lucille McCarthy who, at that time, was the advisor because Betty Wimmer could not be there, Lonita filled out a form to run for national office. Now, she was already National Commander.

And she used her maiden name and her address and some of the members just didn't know this lady. Even the sponsor on the board from Arkansas said, "I just don't know who this person is" because she went by her maiden name, Smith.

So, anyway, she was at the podium and the advisor, Lucille McCarthy, came to the door and said, "You are wanted by the Nominating Committee."

So Lonita relinquished the podium to the senior vice, was escorted down to the Nominating Committee, and when she walked in you can imagine the remarks that were made. (Laughter)

So, I think what I'm trying to say is that you can get things done and you can still have some humor go with it because humor is what we need in this life. Life is too short to be too serious. (Applause)

And now, I'd like to introduce the members of our Committee. But before I do, I want to say that we met at approximately 2:15 and we were finished before 6:00 o'clock. (Applause)

And we tried to expedite but we had fun. So, like I said, fun can be a powerful driver. To the members of the Committee: District 1, Donna Tanner; District 2, Lucita Christian; District 3, Aura Lee Nicodemus; District 4, Lelia White; District 5, Suzanne Seyboldt; District 6, Ruth Wilcoxon; District 7, Debbera McLaughlin; District 8, Lynda Shepherd; District 9, Jane Troutman; District 10, Gloria Boozer; District 11, me, Maria Tedrow; District 12, Betty Buck; District 13, Geneva Walker; District 14, Robyn Kenney; District 15, Bonita Mitchell;

District 16, Josephine – now I've got to put my glasses on here – Benner; District 18, Carol Goodman; District 19, Barbara Redding; District 20, Betty Hall; District 21, Linda Oliver. And our advisor, stand up, Sandy, our advisor was Sandy Dobmeier. (Applause)

We had a good Committee. We had some, quite a few resumes. And as in all things you can only have one; somebody has to try again. But, if you didn't get, you know, picked, we always advise that you try again.

You know you don't always win the first time but you might make it the second or third time so don't be discouraged. But I do want to impress upon all of you in this room, if you see talent within your state department or within your unit, encourage them.

And if you know people in your state that would make good national chairmen or national officers, encourage them.

Any one can be selected if they have the eligibility and the requirements and the talent. All you have to do is fill out a form from National Headquarters, send it in, and you will be considered.

But, you know, there is a lot of talent out there that just isn't being encouraged and doesn't think that they can do the job. You know, I'm up here. If I can do the job, anybody could.

So, make sure that you recognize talent. That's what we're here for. Okay, I'm going to read what they've all been waiting for now.

For National Commander, Kay Egan. (Laughter) Oh, I got the wrong slate. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: I must remind you that's not in the Constitution and the Bylaws. (Applause)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: All right, Commander Susan Henry. And I would like all of you to please stand up if you're able because some of the newer members don't know who you are.

Susan Henry for Commander; (Applause) and please remain standing; Senior Vice Commander, Patrice Rapisand; (Applause) First Junior Vice Commander, Donna Adams; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Commander, Susan Miller; (Applause)

Third Junior Vice Commander, LeeAnn Karg; (Applause) and the new kid on the block, Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Linda Stake; (Applause) Chaplain, Christopher Easley; (Applause) and Judge Advocate, Kathy Wiley. (Applause)

And the following recommendations were suggested by the Committee. Candidates should leave blank all positions they wish to be considered for.

Candidates should be sure they are using the current form because some old forms came up in that meeting. So always make sure you have the correct, updated form.

And, again, I want to thank you for your patience and it was a job that the Committee did well. And I hope they continue to do it well. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much, Maria and the rest of the Committee. I know this is not an easy task. Frankly, I'll never be on one. (Laughter) Too difficult, because everybody is my friend and I want to put you all on. All righty, we have room now for an announcement from the National Adjutant.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: When two or more candidates are nominated for any one office roll calls shall continue until completed unless a candidate withdraws. The person receiving the majority of the roll call votes shall be elected.

COMMANDER EGAN: At this time, along with my thanks to the Nominating Committee I would like to take the time to discharge the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees.

At this time would all of the officers please leave the podium and go back to your respective districts for the purpose of nomination and election.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the dais.)

COMMANDER EGAN: And, to save some time, I would like to appoint some tellers. Do I have any volunteers?

(Whereupon, members volunteered to be tellers.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Okay, there is one, Pam. I have two, Ann, thank you. No, I need three. Ann. I need three so you were the third one up. There are steps on this side. Oh, sit at that table to the left. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander, do we remain with our districts or come up?

COMMANDER EGAN: Pardon me? Just come up by yourself.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Okay.

COMMANDER EGAN: Ann, over here. Do they have everything they need over there? Is there any other pre-election business? Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations.

Susan Henry has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander. Are there any other nominations? Is there a seconding speech?

MS. MARY GAIL SUTTON: Gail Sutton, Tennessee, Unit 116, may I approach the podium for the purpose of a seconding speech?

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, you may.

MS. SUTTON: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Sutton advanced to the podium.)

MS. SUTTON: It is my privilege to second the nomination of my friend and unit member Susan Henry. Susan, a charter member of Unit 116 in Millington, Tennessee, joined the Auxiliary as a senior member in 1981 with eligibility through her late father, Robert F. Henry, a Korean-era Marine Corps veteran.

On the unit level Susan has held every elective office and has also held most unit committee chairmanships.

At the state level she has held an office or chairmanship since 1989 and has served as our State Commander in the year 1999-2000.

At the national level Susan has served as a personal page, chairman of the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Sergeant-at-Arms, on numerous Convention Committees, National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, National Third Junior Vice Commander, National Second Junior Vice Commander, National First Junior Vice Commander, and National Senior Vice Commander. She is also a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Susan is a regularly scheduled volunteer at our VA medical center in Memphis and at the Millington Health Care Center. She also volunteers at the Millington Crisis Center and Bogota Community Center.

Susan has received the Tennessee Volunteer Commendation Award from our governor. Susan is employed by FedEx Express as an HR Business Advisor for the Safety Department.

She currently serves on the Community Relations Board for the Goals Division as well as the Safety Department's Coordinator for United Way, Diversity Walk, Operation Feed, and Toys for Tots programs.

She was one of eight worldwide recipients of the FedEx Express Walk for Fame Award for outstanding volunteerism in the community and professional services.

Susan earned a Bachelor of Science degree with honors from Middle Tennessee State University in Psychology and a Master of Arts degree from Purdue University in Indiana in Social Psychology.

Susan resides in Memphis and is the daughter of the late Jo Ellen and Robert F. Henry. Susan is devoted to honoring and serving as well as making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families and their communities.

I've known Susan since 1996 when I became an Auxiliary member. She is energetic, enthusiastic. She is a "get it done" person. She is knowledgeable in constitution and bylaws and a real stickler for them.

She is a real leader and she can lead us forward, just as Kay has led us forward. It, again, is my pleasure to second the nomination of Susan Henry for the office of National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you very much. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, the nominations are closed. All those in favor of Susan Henry becoming National Commander say aye; opposed. Hearing none – aw shucks, she made it. (Standing Ovation)

Patty Rapisand has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Senior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed.

All those in favor of Patty Rapisand becoming our Senior Vice signify by saying aye; any opposed. The motion carried. Patty Rapisand is our Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Donna Adams has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Donna Adams for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; opposed. They ayes have it. And Donna Adams has been elected to the office of National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Susan Miller has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. All those in favor say aye; and I thought Texans were noisy; (Laughter) all those opposed.

The ayes have it. (Applause) And Susan Miller from Colorado has been elected to the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

LeeAnn Karg has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of LeeAnn Karg for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; (Applause) I've finally lost it; (Laughter) those opposed. The ayes have it. (Applause)

Linda Stake has been nominated by the Committee for the office of Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice.

All those in favor of Linda Stake for the position of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it. Linda Stake is our new Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Chris Easley has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Chaplain. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of Chaplain.

All in those in favor of Chris Easley for the office of National Chaplain please signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it. Christopher is our new National Chaplain. (Applause)

Kathy Wiley 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.

All those in favor of Kathy Wiley for the office of Judge Advocate – National Judge Advocate signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it. (Applause) Kathy Wiley is the new National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

Tellers, thank you very much for volunteering. You are dismissed.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Good job.

COMMANDER EGAN: Good job. Fantastic. (Applause) The election having been completed, I now ask for the National Sergeant-at-Arms to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing the National Executive Committee members and those members who have served as Pages.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Taylor and Pages advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: At this time, while the Pages are coming up, I would like to acknowledge our Color Bearers, our National Color Bearers, Craig Johniken and Sylvia Heath's grandson – what is his name?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Edward.

(Response of "Edward.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Edward Heath the Third. (Applause)

MRS. SYLVIA HEATH: He's still sleeping. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: The Georgia Color Bearers were Carol Lee and Cindy Hansen. Thank you very much. (Applause) Those flags are heavy so let's give them an amount of applause. (Applause)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAM A. TAYLOR: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: If I mispronounce your name, don't hold it against me. The Pages for the National Offices start off with Marna Barnshaw; okay, second is Dorothy Robinson; third is Chris Easley; fourth is Iris Brzezinski; Earnestine Bennett; Robyn Kenney; Alma Marie Taylor; Etter Bowers.

And the NECs: District 1, Mary Bixby; (Applause) I think these ladies done a fantastic job, really. They made me look great. (Applause) District 2, Fran Ortiz; (Applause) that's all right; whoop it up a little bit;

District 3, Aura Lee Nicodemus; (Applause) District 5, Sue Seyboldt – excuse me; (Applause) it's like three different syllables here, so; District 6, Etta Bowers; (Applause)

District 7, Jeanne Sursely and Diana Franz; (Applause) keep that applause coming; District 8, Janett Reece; (Applause) District 10, Alma Marie Taylor; (Applause) District 11, Marcella Brewster; (Applause)

District 12, Sandy Resner; (Applause) District 13, Arveeda Gordon; (Applause) District 14, Cheryl Knispel; (Applause) is that the way it's pronounced?

MS. CHERYL LEE KNISPEL: Yes, it is. Thank you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: District 15, Velma Steinman; (Applause) got to back up here to District 4, Leila White; (Applause) District 16, Leona Galloway; (Applause) District 17, Susan Dahlby; (Applause)

District 18, Iris Brzezinski; (Applause) District 19, Barbara Reding; (Applause) District 20, Terry Herrle – (Applause) Herrle – Herrle; give her an extra one for that one; (Applause) and last but not least, Linda Oliver. (Applause)

Do we have any Junior Pages in here?

(Response of "Yes.")

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TAYLOR: Stand up. Stand up. (Applause) I just wanted to make a few comments. When I started out on this job I looked at the wall over here when I first come in and I said, "What do I do first?"

But with the help of these ladies, the NEC ladies serving as escorts and Pages, they led me through it. So, I think it went pretty good myself. (Laughter) Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: I wish to add my personal thanks to what you do. You're unsung heroines. Thank you very much. And you are dismissed. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms and Pages withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER EGAN: Now, the \$64,000 question, is there any further business to come before this Convention? I figured the Adjutant would –

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Commander –

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Sorry. I would just like to make a couple of clarifications for the record. For the Department of Vermont, the state delegate was the State Commander Karen Rediker.

And, also, we had a correction for the Community Service Award, Group 1 was Idaho 22, not Idaho 10. So I just wanted to enter that into the record. (Applause)

Also, the money that was collected at this Convention: Freedom's Foundation, \$50; Hospitalized Veterans Riding Project, \$100; the Winter Sports Clinic, \$100; the Education Loan Fund, \$1,050 – Education Scholarship – got to reprogram me; the Service Support Fund, \$3,113. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Great.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And the collection yesterday that was turned over for the Brass Band was \$725.30. (Applause) I'm sure they're upset that they couldn't accept that. But thank you all so much for your generous donations.

COMMANDER EGAN: Tell them where that money is going.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Where is it going? I don't know. The Finance Committee will determine it.

COMMANDER EGAN: Do you wish to speak Miss Stake?

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Yes, ma'am.

COMMANDER EGAN: Miss Stake, get that? Get that – miss-stake? (Laughter)

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Kim Stake, Arkansas, Unit 57 and I apologize about the voice. The kids and I just had a really good week. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, thank you.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: I was wondering since you know we've got our kids here now, next year's Convention is going to be before they have to go back to school.

How can we get something put in the budget that would give the kids a special day that they could go out and do something? Could we – could we make a motion or something to the Finance Committee that they –

COMMANDER EGAN: Send a letter?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You know, we're willing to work to do whatever we can for the Juniors but you said something about going out and that is sometimes very difficult because of the liability.

We have to get permission if there is transportation involved. There is just a lot of things that we would have to look at. If it's something within the hotel –

(Whereupon, there was a buzzing noise in the room causing laughter among the members.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: – within the hotel, I think it would work better. And perhaps next year we could arrange it so we get a special room instead of a small suite where everybody was sitting on top of each other.

But, yes, we would – it was such a great thing this year to have the Juniors, to have them here, to have them participate, and personally I think it's something that we do have to continue. I really do.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Absolutely. (Applause)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: But, yes, we will certainly look into this. (Applause) But it is a problem with taking them out of the hotel.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Okay, thank you.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And I've got to commend you. You did do a great job. (Standing Ovation) Yes, you did.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: That's not necessary because they are the future of this organization and we have a great group that are here.

And, you know, it's going to take my generation and the gals my age to step up to help to inform them on what they can do to help in every aspect of our Auxiliary.

So, that wasn't necessary. And I just want to say, sorry about sneaking them out last night but we had a great time at the Brave game. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you, Kim. Aura Lee.

MS. NICODEMUS: Madame Commander, I would like to ask consideration of all of the state units and members that are here that we consider as we move forward for this coming year adding more donations for the Service Support Fund.

Due both to the need of the economy as well as great education by the Commander the Service Support fund has obviously taken a very large hit this year and will need our great support as we move forward for the coming year.

COMMANDER EGAN: Thank you. (Applause) Aaaaah. (Laughter) Maria.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TEDROW: Yes. All I want to say is, they've been recognized before. I want to recognize the work that the National Officers did but I also want to make a statement that what supports the Conventions and everything are the dues.

And without the dues you don't have a Convention or a conference. And I think it's great that the Auxiliary can furnish all of this and all of the Conference and pay for officers to come in to those conferences and conventions, on the dues.

I think they do a hell of a good job and I want to congratulate them and thank them. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: On behalf of my fellow line officers for the membership year that has just ended, thank you very much. (Applause) You go to the mic, Miss Jean. Mean Jean, do all of you know Mean Jean Jackson? (Applause)

(Whereupon, the microphone wouldn't work.)

COMMANDER EGAN: That wasn't working yesterday, although Bill got it working yesterday. I think it's a matter of turning it on. (Laughter)

MRS. JACKSON: I think it's on now. Or is that just my big mouth?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Both. (Laughter)

COMMANDER EGAN: Touch it. Bang it.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Jackson banged the microphone.)

MRS. JACKSON: It's on.

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes, it is. Okay.

MRS. JACKSON: It's on.

COMMANDER EGAN: Yes. The chair recognizes Miss Jean Jackson.

MRS. JACKSON: I'd just like to make an announcement. We have – I gave some of you people Colorado honey that was made from the Busy Bee Farm in Colorado and our Colorado Honey is Susan Miller.

And she is a Senior Citizen. Today is her birthday. (Applause) So, so, could we sing Happy Birthday to her? Please?

(Whereupon, Mrs. Jackson led the members in a round of "Happy Birthday" for Second Junior Vice Commander-Elect Miller.)

MRS. JACKSON: Her mom –

COMMANDER EGAN: You know I'm not going to ask if there is any additional business.

MRS. JACKSON: Wait. Her mom, Olive Tomlin, you know, she has been in this organization forever. And she is not feeling well right now. And she was very concerned about Susan coming without her so I let her know the whole Convention took care of Susan. (Applause)

COMMANDER EGAN: Hearing no further requests for business I now declare the 88th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans National Auxiliary hereby adjourned.

We will have a prayer from our Chaplain before we go into the installation of officers followed by the National Executive Committee. I think we can use all the prayers we can get and our Chaplain does have something she wishes to say.

CHAPLAIN BOHLINGER: Thank you, Kay, and Judy and Pat and all the officers for working with me. I appreciate it. If you will join me one last time in prayer.

Precious Lord, take my hand. Lead me on. Let me stand. I am tired and weak. I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Precious Lord, take my hand. Lead me home.

Thank you, Lord, for this assembly, the business that they have prepared and completed in peace and tranquility, Lord. Thank you, Lord, for this.

Now, give us journey mercies to go home to our families and to do the work that You would have us do in the DAVA with the DAV for the coming year. Bring us all back to National Fall Conference in Cincinnati, if it be Thy will. In the precious name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER EGAN: Adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.)

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