

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

COMMUNICATION

from

**THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, THE
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

transmitting

**2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIS-
ABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 36 U.S.C. 50308
AND 44 U.S.C. 1332**



**November 27, 2012.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans'
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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

October 10, 2012


Hon. John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As business manager of Disabled American Veterans, and as secretary of its National Convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and proceedings of our National Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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, 2011, 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 2012-13
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

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

Senior Vice Commander

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

1st Jr. Vice Commander

Ron Voegeli, 702 Battery Creek Rd., Beaufort, SC 29902

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

Ron F. Hope, 4140 Clemmons Rd., Clemmons, NC 27012

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

Moses A. McIntosh Jr., 1124 Fox Den Rd., Hephzibah, GA 30815

4th Jr. Vice Commander

David W. Riley, 11140 Cricket Hollow, Semmes, AL 36575

National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

Ronald R. Ringo, Jr., 3216 Monte Vista Circle, Montrose, CO 81401

Past National Commander

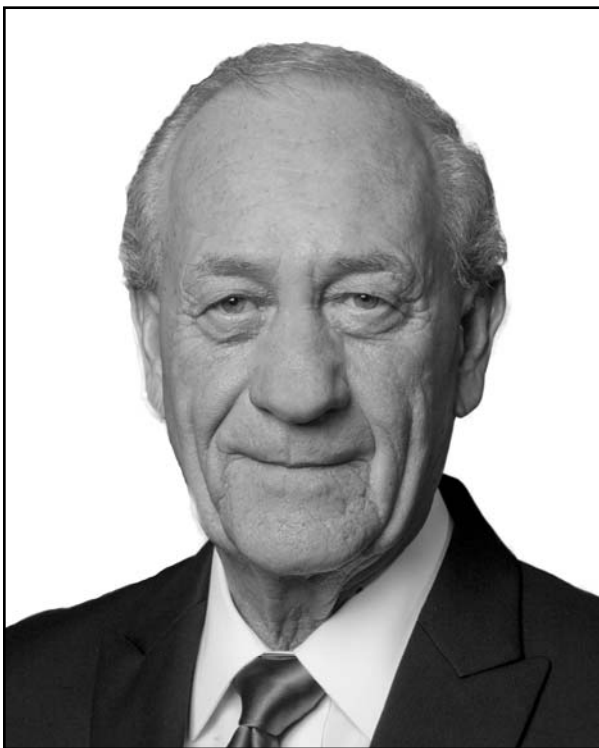
Donald L. Samuels, 544 Douglas Bend Rd., Gallatin, TN 37066

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district:	Mr. Leo R. Mooney, 379 W. Royalston Rd., M-2, Athol, MA 01331
Second district:	Mr. David Wilson, 641 Beaumont Pl., Deerfield, NY 13502
Third district:	Mr. Richard W. Schatz, 20 East St., Cumberland, RI 02864
Fourth district:	Mr. H. Mark Wischmann, 1679 S. State St. #A71, Dover, DE 19901
Fifth district:	Mr. Robert Frederick Cudworth, 203 Stone St., Moosic, PA 18507
Sixth district:	Mr. Glynn E. Parker, 1520 Birchwood Dr., Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Seventh district:	Mr. Phil Condon, 8030 Casuarina Dr., Port Richey, FL 34668
Eighth district:	Mr. Chad Richmond, 7538 Misty Ln., Pinson, AL 35126
Ninth district:	Mr. Brian E. Wilner, 5464 Silver Fox Way, North Augusta, SC 29841
Tenth district:	Mr. John Lamphere, 220 E. Cass St., Cadillac, MI 49601
Eleventh district:	Mr. Joseph R. Lenhart, 14982 Cemetery Rd., Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Twelfth district:	Mr. Dennis W. Thompson, 11840 S. Springfield, Alsip, IL 60803
Thirteenth district:	Mr. James V. Thureau, 10917 Cocoa Beach Ln., Indianapolis, IN 46229
Fourteenth district:	Mr. H.G. Krosschell, 4706 Copper Hill Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702
Fifteenth district:	Mr. David Bolton, 1685 Waters Edge Dr., Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
Sixteenth district:	Mr. Marlowe Benner, 2904 E. Yellowstone, Stockton, CA 95205
Seventeenth district:	Mr. Tim Timmerman, P.O. Box 58, Flora Vista, NM 87415
Eighteenth district:	Mr. Edward Kawamura, 6266 Opaeka'a Rd., Kapaa, HI 96746
Nineteenth district:	Ms. Pamela Fay Beale, 6704 Notting Hill Dr., Anchorage, AK 99504
Twentieth district:	Mr. Edgar Meiser, 2405 Carleton Dr., Big Spring, TX 79720
Twenty-first district:	Ms. Marilyn Smith, P.O. Box 23, Fulton, AR 71838



Larry A. Polzin
National Commander
2012-13
Disabled American Veterans



Donald L. Samuels
National Commander
2011-12
Disabled American Veterans

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2011-12
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

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

Senior Vice Commander

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

First Junior Vice Commander

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

Second Junior Vice Commander

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

Third Junior Vice Commander

Ron Voegeli, 702 Battery Creek Rd., Beaufort, SC 29902

Fourth Junior Vice Commander

Frank Maughan, 731 W. 3750 North, Ogden, UT 84414-1448

National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

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

Past National Commander

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

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district:	Mr. Leo R. Mooney, 379 W. Royalston Rd., M-2, Athol, MA 01331
Second district:	Mr. Dennis L. Krulder, 5 Hopkins Commons, Yaphank, NY 11980
Third district:	Mr. Richard W. Schatz, 20 East St., Cumberland, RI 02864
Fourth district:	Mr. Joseph Harris, P.O. Box 48, Green Creek, NJ 08219
Fifth district:	Mr. Robert Frederick Cudworth, 203 Stone St., Moosic, PA 18507
Sixth district:	Mr. Jacob N. Stafford, 95 Chestnut St., P.O. Box 274, Oceana, WV 24870
Seventh district:	Mr. Phil Condon, 8030 Casuarina Dr., Port Richey, FL 34668
Eighth district:	Mr. Gerald E. Humphries, 108 Melrose Circle, Florence, MS 39073
Ninth district:	Mr. Moses A. McIntosh Jr, 1124 Fox Den Rd., Hephzibah, GA 30815
Tenth district:	Mr. John Lamphere, 220 E. Cass St., Cadillac, MI 49601
Eleventh district:	Mr. Joseph R. Lenhart, 14982 Cemetary Rd., Wapakoneta, OH 45895
Twelfth district:	Mr. Charles Vandenplas, 33 East 12th St., Clintonville, WI 54929
Thirteenth district:	Mr. James V. Thureau, 10917 Cocoa Beach Ln., Indianapolis, IN 46229
Fourteenth district:	Mr. Joseph M. Litzinger, 4591 Homestead Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201
Fifteenth district:	Mr. David Bolton, 1685 Waters Edge Dr., Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
Sixteenth district:	Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Ln., Vallejo, CA 94590
Seventeenth district:	Mr. Tim Timmerman, P.O. Box 58, Flora Vista, NM 87415
Eighteenth district:	Mr. William C. Baumann, 2033 Rose Cottage Way, Henderson, NV 89052
Nineteenth district:	Ms. Pamela Fay Beale, 6704 Notting Hill Dr., Anchorage, AK 99504-4563
Twentieth district:	Mr. Jay E. Johnson, 4915 Stoneleigh Dr., San Antonio, TX 78220
Twenty-first district:	Ms. Marilyn Smith, P.O. Box 23, Fulton, AR 71838

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)
Aug. 16, 1941-Aug. 15, 1943:	Lawrence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978)
Aug. 15, 1943-Sept. 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:	Willard 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
 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
 2010-11: Wallace E. Tyson, Fayetteville, North Carolina

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
AUGUST 4, 2012
Joint Opening Session**

- - -

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 91st National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday morning, August 4, 2012, and was called to order at 8:33 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Donald L. Samuels.

COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Las Vegas. (Applause) I now call to order the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, will read the Call to Convention.

ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual convention, composed of the National Officers, the representatives of state Departments and Chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, declare the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened in Las Vegas, Nevada, at 8:30 a.m., Saturday morning, August 4th, 2012. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I would like to ask everyone in attendance to please turn off your cellular phones or any portable devices. Present the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were presented and posted by the Department of Arizona Color Guard.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem as presented by the New Directions Veterans Choir.

(Whereupon, the New Directions Veterans Choir sang the National Anthem, followed by a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the members of the Department of Arizona Color Guard for posting of the Colors. (Applause)

Members of New Directions are formerly homeless veterans who have received substance abuse treatment, counseling, remedial education, job training, job placement and other services thanks in part to a grant from the DAV Charitable Service Trust. Please join them as they perform "America the Beautiful."

(Whereupon, the membership joined New Directions Veterans Choir in singing "America the Beautiful," followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Ladies and gentlemen, please give our special guests another round of applause. (Applause) Now, please join me in reciting our Pledge of the Allegiance.

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

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Please be seated. I'd like to call on our National Chaplain, Dr. Charles Edwards, Jr., to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN DOCTOR CHARLES W. EDWARDS JUNIOR: Let us go to our God in prayer. In this moment of quietness and reflection, we acknowledge You, our God, as creator and sustainer of all life. As we come together today as Disabled Veterans and Auxiliary members from the many states and territories we gather this day, August 4th, 2012, to celebrate the beginning of our 91st 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, those held as 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 services and who one day will be members of the Disabled American Veterans. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Before we begin our activities this morning, we will pause to recognize our POWs and MIAs.

We call your attention to this small table near the stage which occupies a place of dignity and honor near the head table. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks.

They are referred to as POWs and MIAs. We call them comrades. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families today so we join together to pay our humble tribute to them.

This table, set for one, 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 the country's call to arms.

The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood they may have shed in sacrifice to ensure our freedom. It also reminds us of those they love who await 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 today.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of the families as they wait. The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us this day. 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 forever watch over them and protect them and their families.

It is my pleasure to introduce Convention Chairman William Baumann, a member of Chapter 12 in Henderson, Nevada. Bill joined the DAV in 1971 after his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

His military career included wartime service in Korea and Southeast Asia. He is currently the National Executive Committee man for District 18, serving Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada.

Bill has served in all elected Chapter offices and he is currently the Chapter treasurer, legislative chairman, VA Voluntary Service Coordinator and fund-raising chairman. He is also the Department of Nevada VA Volunteer Service and Legislative Chairman.

An award-winning volunteer, Bill started a wheelchair donation program in Nevada to help needy veterans and their families. This program has recycled wheelchairs valued at over \$900,000 during the last four years. He has planned a truly remarkable convention. Let's give a big thanks to National Convention Chairman Bill Baumann. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILLIAM C. BAUMANN: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN BAUMANN: National Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Wilson, National Line Officers, Auxiliary National Commander Rapisand, fellow DAV members and distinguished guests, it is again my honor and privilege to welcome you back to Las Vegas, Nevada.

On behalf of Commander Jeff Carson and the entire DAV membership of Nevada, it is our honor as the Department to host the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

Quoting the words of all who have visited our beautiful city, "What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas." (Laughter) That is, of course, does not apply to this Convention. (Laughter) What is said and done here becomes a part of our history of our organization.

There is a lot of work to do and precious few days to do it. There are many seminars on the DAV programs to give you a wealth of information, answer your questions, and provide an avenue of feedback.

We will permit our—we will present our awards, recognize our most dedicated volunteers, and get the latest information on issues impacting the national – the nationwide community of veterans and their families.

But, most importantly, we'll make critical decisions and develop strategies to serve their interests through America's premiere veterans' service organization.

As we welcome you to Las Vegas, it's important to take a quick moment to introduce you to some of our, some of your hosts here, the VA and the DAV Department of Nevada. We are a team in Nevada out here.

We have a great relationship with the VA Sierra Medical Center in Reno, Nevada, under the direction of Dr. Kurt and his staff as well as several volunteers, DAV volunteers. In Las Vegas, on Monday the 6th of August, we will dedicate a new VA Medical Complex – the first of its kind and the first VA hospital built in 20 years. (Applause)

Thank you. It has all of the latest modern technology and equipment. And through our advocacy our veterans will also open, have opened four new Primary Care Clinics in the past year. They are strategically located throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

In our rural areas of Pahrump, Nevada, we will open a new CBOC this month. And in Laughlin, Nevada, we will open a new CBOC in March 2013. All of this was achieved under the careful stewardship of Mr. John Bright. Thank you, John. (Applause)

And he is the VA Southern Nevada Health Care System Director who oversaw the design and construction of each facility. I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank Secretary Shinseki and the Nevada Washington legislators for their support in this effort.

For our part, we have – we are adding 750 new volunteers to these facilities. And let me tell you, volunteers rule. (Applause)

There is another area I'd like to boast about a little here and that is about DAV's partnership with the Nevada Office of Veterans Services whose generosity is appreciated more than I can begin to describe.

For three consecutive years the Nevada Office of Veterans Services has purchased a van for the DAV Transportation Network. This year they added two vans in the partnership with DAV Black Mountain Chapter 12. Let me give a quick shout to Executive Director Caleb Cage who has been a true friend and a partner to the veterans of Nevada. Thank you, Caleb. (Applause)

There is a lot of work to be done but there is also a lot of fun to be had. Enjoy Las Vegas. Catch a show. Check out many of the many famous restaurants on the Strip. See the bright lights and the sidewalk shows. There is plenty to do beyond gambling.

There is a new attraction, like the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement (Laughter) – better known to us as "The Mob Museum." Now, dig this: it opened on Valentine's Day. (Laughter) How fitting was that? (Laughter)

Okay. The new Smith Center for the Performing Arts has recently opened here in Las Vegas as well, in addition to two new casinos on the Strip: The Cosmopolitan and the Aria. You will have plenty of time to visit casinos and I hope that you will all return home winners. Even those of you who aren't so lucky at the games of chance will leave here winners because of what you carry home from the Convention to help veterans in your community.

I want to thank Commander Samuels for giving me the honor of serving as your 91st National Convention Chairman. And on behalf of the Department of Nevada I wish you a productive, informative,

fun-filled Convention. And remember, I want you to keep Nevada green, please. Okay? (Laughter)
Better known as donate regularly at the tables and the slots. (Laughter)

A little serious note here, I thank each of you for your service, sincerely. God bless you. God bless the Disabled American Veterans, and God bless the United States of America. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Bill.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN BAUMANN: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. (Laughter)

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 Clearwater, Florida, a rousing welcome for Wally Tyson; (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 Pleasant View, Utah, Frank Maughan; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice Commander, from Beaufort, South Carolina, Ron Voegeli; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from Williamsburg, Ohio, Joe Johnston; (Applause) your First Junior Vice Commander, from Toms River, New Jersey, Mary Bencivenga; (Applause) and last, but certainly not least, your Senior Vice Commander, from Sylmar, California, Larry Polzin. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER LARRY POLZIN: I am pleased to have the honor of presenting National Commander Donald L. Samuels to the National Convention. Don is a combat-disabled Marine veteran of the Vietnam War and a retired DAV National Service Officer. He was elected our National Commander at the organization's 2011 National Convention in New Orleans.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Commander Samuels served in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1969. He was discharged due to injuries sustained in the Battle for Hill 881 North near Khe Sanh.

While leading his infantry platoon in a ground assault against North Vietnamese Regulars as the Platoon Sergeant he sustained multiple gunshot wounds, resulting in the partial loss of his right hand.

After joining the DAV, Commander Samuels was assigned as a National Service Office Supervisor in Nashville in 1970, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1989.

Since 1989, Commander Samuels served as the Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs until his retirement last year. He has oversight of all claims activity, outreach, legislation, and played a part in establishing state veterans' cemeteries and veterans' nursing homes in Tennessee.

As a member of Chapter 3 in Nashville Commander Samuels has held a wide variety of Chapter and Department positions, including Chapter Commander. He currently serves as the Department Adjutant as well as being a past member of the National Legislative Interim Committee and Past Chairman of the POW/MIA Interim Committee.

Let's give a rousing applause and welcome our National Commander, Don Samuels. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. Good morning. I can tell you are in a great time – for a great time. And I know you are ready to get down to business. We have much to do over the next few days. Our work here is a labor of honor, an appreciation extended to those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as your National Commander. It has been a year in which I witnessed DAV's work from a wholly new perspective. I can say, without reservation, it was an amazing year in my life and one which I will treasure.

I want to thank my wife, Sandra, and my family for all the support they gave me during this very busy year. I also want to thank my Chief-of-Staff George Martin, Vader Stultz, the Officer-of-the-Day, and Sammy Rogers, Sergeant-at-Arms, and my brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bob and Patti Peacock. Incidentally, Bob is a DAV member. This has been one of the busiest and most productive years of my life and I can thank all of you for your support.

Among the most exciting events during my year of service were visits to the White House to discuss veterans' issues with the President and First Lady. I was impressed that they consider veterans a national priority. In particular, it was an honor to represent DAV at a special White House dinner for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; and as our National Adjutant Art Wilson can tell you, it was such an inspiring event.

During this year I also met with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki about many DAV issues. I found these meetings to be very productive and informative. We discussed the needs of injured and ill veterans and ways to better serve – to better serve them.

We all witnessed landmark results of cooperation as the VA engaged DAV and other veterans' service organizations to improve progress in claims processing, care giving, homelessness, and other vital issues.

On Capitol Hill I met with Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairs Patty Murray and Jeff Miller to discuss our vital legislative issues. She is a powerful and vocal advocate for our veterans and a great friend of the DAV.

It was a great honor to represent our 1.2 million members at a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee during our Mid-Winter Conference. The support provided by the hundreds of DAV and Auxiliary members in the audience was both empowering and humbling.

They were the thunder of the DAV storm supporting veterans' legislation. There are no better advocates than our members to drive our message home to Congress. (Applause)

Among the most rewarding opportunities I had this year was meeting with DAV members at Department conventions across our nation. It's truly heartwarming to greet so many who are the heart and soul of our organization.

They are the forces that make our legislative, service and voluntary services programs work. Without doubt, you are the most dedicated members of any veterans' service organization.

Those conventions also gave me the opportunity to meet with volunteers who donate their time as Transportation Network drivers, service officers, VAVS volunteers, and Local Veterans Assistance Program volunteers who work on behalf of veterans in communities around the nation.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention one more personal highlight. In May I was able to attend a DAV Airshow at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. In addition to seeing one of DAV's signature outreach programs in action, I was able to speak before a class of first graders whose parents were serving. Some of their folks had been wounded and many of their grandparents had served.

It was a reminder to me that the impact of war takes many forms. In the sky I thought of our brave World War II veterans and how they experience combat. On the ground I saw how military service and sacrifice is a shared experience that impacts generations.

I was also reminded of how important it is to educate our fellow citizens about military service and our mission. When we speak to children we plant a seed that will make all the difference for the veterans who need future leaders who are in tune with our cause.

DAV Mobile Service Offices help us deliver benefits, education and counseling to small towns throughout the nation. Staffed by highly trained professional National Service Officers who are skilled experts in developing and prosecuting veterans' claims, the MSOs bring service to veterans in communities far from our offices.

Another heart-warming event was the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic where I witnessed the transformation of veterans from being unsure of their future to men and women filled with hope and confidence. The Winter Sports Clinic is truly "Miracle on the Mountainside" where we help fulfill our promise to men and women who served.

I want to give my special thanks to our professional National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers who each day bring great honor to our mission in its most meaningful way. They are dedicated men and women who devote their lives to service for veterans. They, along with our Department and Chapter Service Officers, are at the core of our service to veterans.

Working with leaders like National Adjutant Art Wilson, National Headquarters Executive Director Marc Burgess, and Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski was a rewarding experience.

On a daily basis they manage our organization with an unsurpassed level of professionalism. I thank them for sharing their wisdom and their leadership with me. They and their capable staff made my job easier and quite enjoyable. I became a better National Commander because of them.

To advance our mission we clearly need the support of the American people. That means helping them understand who we are and what we do. This is being accomplished by the wide variety of outreach programs and initiatives we offer to serve injured and ill veterans.

Throughout this year I have experienced the spirit of the DAV wherever I went – this remarkably inspiring spirit of veterans helping veterans, who deliver service to those who have brought honor to our nation and are proclaiming the good work the DAV does to honor those who have served.

Each of you can help do that this fall. As you are aware, we are in an election year. It is for that very reason that we invite both presidential candidates to attend our National Convention.

It is critical that all of you go to the polls to vote this November for the men and women who will stand up for veterans. Congress next year will have an opportunity of great service to injured and ill veterans. We must give them the mandate to do so. Please vote – and vote with your heart.

I truly believe we are entering a critical time in the history of our organization. We have and continue to welcome home new generations of veterans. They need our leadership and mentorship. They need to know that we are there for them.

Every day we hear more and more about what Chapters and Departments are doing in their communities to serve our veterans and reach out to the public. More and more often we're seeing the DAV in print and on television.

Outreach is important. Our ability to clearly communicate who we are and what we do in our local communities is critical. Our fellow citizens want to be a part of our cause.

When we engage them through our activities we plant an important reminder in their hearts. Over the course of nine decades we've seen generations of veterans return from battle. We've seen different outcomes.

Fewer and fewer of our fellow citizens are serving in the military. The more we can do to tell our stories, the more likely it will be that our fellow veterans will remember and honor our organization as our needs grow.

In an over-communicated world we, as veterans and as an organization, need to have an active relationship with the public on whom we rely for support. Now is the time to seize on the momentum of history. Now is the time for us to embrace new ways of spreading our message, to think strategically about how we can own the place we deserve in their hearts and minds.

This year, in addition to your efforts, DAV released two public service announcements that are reaching a growing audience of more than 102 million. The popularity of these releases show the value our fellow citizens and the media place on our cause. We must "strike while the iron is hot." We must be open to change and evolve in how we spread our message.

As I close my year as the National Commander, I am giving special thanks to all our members. You serve your fellow veterans with pride and dignity, with the same honor and courage that you served our nation. For you, war has not ended, nor will it ever. Service is what sets you apart, earning you the proud distinction as honored veterans.

This is an exciting time. I am proud to have been your National Commander at this juncture in our history. And I'm even more excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our organization.

May you, DAV, and our nation always be blessed. Thank you. (Standing Ovation) Thank you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER POLZIN: Commander Samuels, under your inspiring leadership and devotion to our mission I think we can all agree that this has been a remarkable year for the DAV and thank you, Don. I move to accept the National Commander's report.

MR. DOUG SHEPHERD: Doug Shepherd, Commander, Department of Tennessee, second that motion.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. And now let me introduce the governing body of this organization, your 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 SAMUELS: Thank you for all you have done for us this year. When he was seriously injured and grievously burned by an IED explosion in Iraq, J. R. Martinez suffered the type of devastating injury that is difficult for many of us to imagine. He was burned over 40 percent of his body and his lungs were severely damaged by smoke inhalation.

Where some would allow the injury to stop their forward progress in life, J. R. used it as a springboard from which he would reach incredible heights.

Through his incredible courage and unbreakable ability – will – J. R. has become an inspiration to his fellow veterans, a television star, and a pretty good dancer. (Laughter) Please enjoy this video.

(Whereupon, the following remarks were made via videotape:)

J. R. MARTINEZ: "Service does not end just because you are not wearing a camouflage uniform on your body. I made it a very important part of my life to say I won't forget those men and women that still serve, that come home every single day, whether it is physical wounds or mental and emotional wounds, to help them understand that they, too, can overcome, that they, too, can persevere.

"Well, I was fresh out of high school and I looked at it as it would be a great opportunity for me to be able to travel, be independent, you know, learn a lot of things about life. It would give me an amazing opportunity to be able to give back to a country that was attacked just a few months before.

"However, I never really grasped the idea or accepted that I could find myself in Iraq. On the 5th of April in 2003 we received orders that we were going to have to meet up with another company and go secure an area just north of Karbala."

MR. JUSTIN HART: "On our way up north we were clearing every city all the way up, sometimes working 36-48 hours straight."

MR. MARTINEZ: "They said, 'Okay, Martinez, it's your turn to drive, jump in the driver's seat.' And without hesitation I jumped in the driver's seat and my passenger, the TC, jumped in, the guys behind him and the gunner which was Justin Hart."

MR. HART: "I got back into the truck. I was manning the .50 cal. J. R. was the driver. We got our TC which was the truck commander, and we all moved into the city. And the next thing I know I woke up and I was laying on the ground."

MR. MARTINEZ: "I felt the boom but then there was this, this – everything slowed down."

MR. HART: And I heard someone screaming and yelling in the back."

MR. MARTINEZ: "And the next thing I remember is being pinned inside the vehicle and screaming and yelling at the top of my lungs for someone to please come pull me out of the vehicle and save my life."

MR. HART: "And they went out back to, you know, try to get J. R. He was still screaming and yelling at that time."

MR. MARTINEZ: "I felt completely hopeless and I thought to myself, 'My life is going to completely end here.'"

MR. HART: "His uniform was literally like sticking to the skin."

MR. MARTINEZ: "And then I felt this excruciating pain coming over my face and I kept trying to touch my face and every time I got close to my face I had, my sergeant came in and he knocked my hands down."

MR. HART: "But they got him out and they pulled him back to the cargo and we were medivaced out together."

MR. MARTINEZ: "I remember laying in the hospital bed and coming out of my coma I saw nurses and doctors in the room all wearing green scrubs.

"And then I finally looked over to the right and I saw my mom standing by my bedside and I, you know, raised my hand up and you know told her I loved her.

"As a burn survivor depending on the severity of your injury, the severity of your burn, they literally still have to clean your body in the shower. That is – and that is extremely painful, extremely painful.

"And then, of course, the second difficult part was seeing my face and seeing my body for the first time. And when I saw my face and saw my body I initially just kind of fell to this place where 'my life is over. What's the point of all of this?'

"And one morning my mom walked in my room and she pretty much, you know, laid it down. And she said, 'Listen, whoever is going to be in your life for whatever reason they're going to be in your life for who you are as a person and not what you look like.'

"I'm a strong believer that everything in life happens for a reason. One of the nurses came up to me and asked me to visit one of her patients that had just arrived from Iraq and was having a tough time after seeing his body.

"I went into the room and I just walked up to the bed and I just had a conversation with the guy. After about 40 minutes I walked out of his room and I was able to realize that I had this positive effect on him.

MR. DANIEL CONTRERAS: "When he was having treatment you know he chose to be a mentor and to help others through that pain. To see someone like him really gives you hope that, you know, you can do it, too."

MR. MARTINEZ: "And so I got involved to actually become a spokesman to help raise awareness and raise money. And I found myself all of a sudden doing all this press. And I thought to myself, 'I want to keep doing this.'

"And then in 2008, you know, I get this email from a friend of mine saying, hey, there is an opportunity on a show called 'All My Children' where they are looking for a real-life veteran that possibly had some acting experience.

"I called. They said, 'We'd love for you to come in and visit.' I went in a couple of days later and I visited with them and who would have thought it that, you know, I would have – I would have ended up getting the part."

MR. CONTRERAS: "Here is someone who not only is charismatic, is inspiring to others, but he has taken on a considerable challenge, a physical challenge."

MR. MARTINEZ: "I was kind of nervous, you know, when I joined Dancing and thinking how the military guys are going to give me a hard time, seeing me in those rhinestone outfits. And I thought to myself, 'Man, they are never going to let me live that down.'"

MR. HART: "I watched every episode. And I can say that. I also voted as many times as I possibly could."

MR. MARTINEZ: "To know that there was a community of service members, you know, of our troops, you know, on Facebook or social media pulling for me, it really was an amazing honor.

"I've known about the DAV for years. Everybody hears about it. They do. You know. Continuously providing resources, continuously helping individuals, fighting for their benefits, fighting for their rights."

MR. CONTRERAS: "That's what our organization really is all about, you know, is going ahead and finding out not only how to help yourself but how to help others."

MR. MARTINEZ: "I signed up for three years in 2002. It was cut short in 2003. And, you know, but I kind of reenlisted and said, 'I want to do a lifelong membership of service.'"

(Whereupon, the conclusion of the videotape, followed by a Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUEL: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and privilege to present the 2012 DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award to J. R. Martinez. (Standing Ovation)

MR. J. R. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I will read the inscription.

"To all who shall see these presents, greetings.

"The Disabled American Veterans is honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment to veterans, your local community and the nation. From the earliest stages of your rehabilitation after suffering severe burns during combat action in Iraq, your optimism and strength of character provided inspiration to your fellow disabled veterans, their families and the rest of the nation.

"Through your willingness to become a role model through personal counseling, television appearances, and public speaking engagements, you have provided a shining example for all disabled veterans to follow.

"When confronted by the challenges of your injuries you provided time and time again that you were prepared to rise above any difficulty. Your humble spirit and positive attitude have charmed a nation and are a living testament to DAV's core beliefs.

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

On behalf of all of us, J. R. thank you for all you have done for your fellow veterans. (Standing Ovation)

MR. MARTINEZ: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. MARTINEZ: I jokingly tell people now that I've become an actor I don't know what to do unless I have a director telling me where to go, so (Laughter) thank you for telling me which podium to use.

It was cool like being up here when they were introducing all the officers. I thought the 2012 Olympic basketball team was about to come out on stage. (Laughter) I did. I really did. I want to be introduced like that from now on, like the music – da-da-da-da-da-da, and I come out.

But then the problem is with that people would think I am going to dance which is not going to happen today. Sorry guys. (Laughter) I know a lot of you men showed up because you wanted to see me do a jive or something but maybe later tonight. (Laughter) Not now.

On a serious note, I want to apologize to everybody if there was any kind of inconvenience caused by my security team. (Applause) I may lose a follower on Twitter after that one. (Laughter) Damn. (Laughter) No, no, no, no. Just, you know me, joking around.

It really is a pleasure for me to be here this morning with all of you. It's actually extra special for me to be here because of the fact that a gentleman that, you know, who you guys saw in that video which, by the way, it was a great piece put together but I just want to clear up.

One the sound bite where it said that I do, when I'm doing press and I'm doing media, they showed a picture of my face painted as if I was a wrestler. I just want to clear – I just wanted to be clear that I don't normally do press that way. What it was, I was actually, you know, doing a face painting, you know, fun thing.

So I didn't want you guys thinking I am out there representing you in the press with my face painted all the time. (Laughter) Which wouldn't make any sense at all. (Laughter)

But, you know, it is great for me to be here today because the gentleman that was with me on the 5th of April of 2003 in Iraq who was a gunner is Justin Hart who is also here and is a, works with the DAV. And so it's kind of cool for me to be here not only for myself but for him as well, in a sense, and to be able to spend that time with him.

Growing up I always was – I talked a lot and I enjoyed being around people. I enjoyed trying to uplift people. If I saw somebody in the classroom or when I was playing sports that was having a

bad day I always tried to find a way to kind of, you know, keep their spirits up and pick them up in some way, shape or form. And humor was usually my way of doing that.

Now, one of those – one of those tools was, helped me when I joined the military in September of 2002. The other one really didn't work that well. The talking part didn't really help when I joined the military. (Laughter)

Justin will remember this, when Sergeant O'Shea was our platoon sergeant, was always smoking me. And you guys know what that means. I was 19 years old and I found myself doing more pushups than anybody in the company (Laughter) because I would tell my sergeant, "Relax. It's all good." (Laughter) "I'm good sarge." "Oh, sarge, we're cool like that." "Yes, you know." (Laughter)

But being around people and finding ways to be able to help people definitely did help me when I joined the military. But it was enhanced because I learned about service. I learned what service really is. I learned the importance of understanding your role.

I was taught and I was – I learned about this brotherhood that we're all a part of – sisterhood as well. But I learned about that and I loved it. (Applause) The one lady in the back. (Laughter) "We hear you. We hear you." (Laughter)

No, you guys roll deep. I'm not going to mess with the ladies in the room. (Laughter) That's right. There is a reason why I won "Dancing with the Stars". I'm – I'm just going to say as I guy I know. I know where my votes came from. (Laughter)

Because all the guys are too cool to think that they watch "Dancing with the Stars". Yeah, right. You watch not for me. You watch for Karina. It's okay. (Laughter) I will take it. Balance. Balance in life.

But, like I said in the video, when I joined the military in September 2002 right out of high school it had been seven months after 9-11 happened. It was a great opportunity for me. And I enlisted thinking it was going to be a three-year commitment and that was it.

And I thought three years, I will be out, I will move on with my life. I will be 22 years old, still young enough to go out and do a lot of great things that I had plans to do with my life. Well, on the 5th of April of 2003 driving a Humvee in a city called Karbala in Iraq on a hot day that tour was completely cut short.

It was cut short and I remember every detail about that day. And here recently I completed a memoir and I was able to talk to Justin and a lot of the other guys that were with me and they helped me with those details.

And coming home I had no idea what I was going to do, where my life was going to go, how I was going to find a way to continue to serve. And that was probably the biggest thing that I missed was I was taught how to serve and I was a part of something bigger than me and I wanted to continue to do that.

And when the doctor told me that I would not be able to go back to Iraq to link up with Justin Hart, to link up with the 2nd and 5-0-Deuce with the 101st and continue my tour, my duty, I was devastated.

What am I going to do? What purpose does my life have now? How am I going to live like this in a world where all we care about is how flat your stomach is, how long your hair is, the facial features that you have? What's the point?

But I learned something in this short life of mine. I learned that every single one of us in this room, every single one of us in this city, every single one of us in this state, in this country, in this world, we have a role. Every single one of us have a role. And it's important for every single one of us to understand what our role is and to carry it out the best way possible.

And I learned just a few months after I was injured, while recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, that my role was going to be completely different and something that I never thought in my wildest dreams: that I now was going to become this motivator on the burn

ward, I was going to become this individual that was going to try to find a way to help inspire and uplift all the patients that were now starting on this long road to recovery. And I loved it.

And I loved it, honestly, selfishly, because I got a lot out of it. It made me feel good. And it made me feel like I was back in service. I was finding a way to continue to serve, in a different capacity, and with no M-16 in my hand, with no camouflage uniform on my body but it was a different way for me to serve.

And I kept doing it every single day. And over time it grew and it grew and then the two things, the two, you know, things that I pretty much did growing up, the talking and enjoying being around people, played a factor because then, all of a sudden, someone realized that I was a pretty good communicator and they said we would love for you to kind of be a spokesman, you know, for our troops and to help them and to be a voice for them.

And I stepped up to the challenge. Even though I didn't know and even though it wasn't a part of my plan I stepped up to the challenge and I said, you know what, I'm going to try to find a way to adapt and overcome because that's what the military taught me and taught a lot of us: adapt and overcome. And they did give you all the tools and everything you need to adapt and overcome. (Applause)

And, of course, I enjoy being around people so it was a smooth transition for me to be a voice, whether it was on the local, you know, TV station, whether it was on the radio station, whether it was print, whether it was some national media. No matter what it was that I was doing, I was representing and I enjoyed that feeling.

And then, of course, in 2008 it was enhanced when I got the opportunity to jump into the entertainment industry and really be given a platform to be even more of a voice, where my voice reaches even more. And I understand what I have today is not necessarily just for my enjoyment and the benefits of me and my family and those around me.

I understand that it's important to use that power and to use that platform and to use the voice that I have for others. And those others consist of every single one of you in this room and the hundreds and thousands that are not here with us today.

I represent every single one of you because I now understand that even though, as I said in the video, my tour was cut short, I have now raised my right hand again and I have said I am going to serve for the rest of my life in whatever capacity that I can.

And whatever role that I have I will accept that role and I will understand that as long as I am walking alongside every single one of you and as long as every single one of you are walking alongside me, as they taught me in infantry, we'll be able to flank the enemy and we will be able to surprise the enemy and defeat the enemy.

And the enemy here is unemployment, it's PTSD, it is addiction, it is all the issues that we face out there – health care. (Applause) We can do those things. (Applause) We can do those things together. Not necessarily saying, okay, everybody that's on the stage, they're going to take care of it. They're going to go be a voice. Or J. R. is the one that's on TV, let's just sit back and let him do it.

No, it's important for you to go into your community, for you to go into your facility, And if you are talking to one person or if you have the outreach of 5,000 people or 5 million people, be that voice. Speak up. We're all here because the DAV. And it stands for Disabled American Veterans.

But the great thing about what the DAV is, is that even though it is named "Disabled American Veterans" it enables every single one of you to understand and know what resources and benefits are out there and how you can take advantage of it and how your voice and your experience and your story matters. So, please, take advantage of the opportunity that you have of being here. Take advantage of everything that you are going to hear. Soak it up. Take it up.

That's the only thing you should take back home from Vegas is all the information that you are going to get of understanding how you can continue to grow and how you can be the change that

we all want to see in the next minute, in the next year, in the next decade and hopefully in 50 years from now.

To see the progress that we have made over the last nine years since my injury is amazing but we still have a long way to go. (Applause) And I am glad and I am honored and it is a great feeling just to know that there is a great organization like DAV that is out there advocating for every single one of us.

When I am too tired to advocate and I just kind of want to be in my room by myself and just kind of be away from the world, there is every single one of you that is out there that says, you know what, don't worry about it, J. R., we've got your back. And that's an amazing thing to have and to know that you can fall back on.

Understand, guys, you are an important part of this organization. You are an amazing tool to allow us to accomplish the things that we want to accomplish. I hope that my story is just a simple example of the many examples that exist in this world of individuals and what the human spirit can overcome and what the human spirit can do if you put your mind to it and if you are committed and if you have will and if you continue to find ways to adapt and overcome.

It's a pleasure for me to receive this award and this will proudly go into my home and hang above that mirror ball trophy. He-he-he. (Laughter) None of you got that. (Laughter) I'm kidding. I'm kidding. I'm totally joking, totally joking. (Laughter)

But please know that as I walk by it every single day in my house I will look at it with great pride and I would also look at it with the great challenge to continue to do the things that I am doing and the role that I currently have and the role that I continue to plan to have for the rest of my life.

I wish you guys nothing but the best. I wish you guys an amazing conference. I wish – I hope you guys take in a lot of information and take it all home and figure out ways to be that change that we all want to see, starting from the very top to the very bottom.

And, again, I hope you guys are able now to get to your Starbucks because I know this morning probably you were slowed down because of security. (Laughter) Coffee, it's important in our days.

And I just want to give a quick shout out to the New Directions Choir who I met a couple of years ago. Amazing individuals. Amazing organization that does a lot of great things so. (Applause)

Thank you guys again for the time. Enjoy your conference. It's a pleasure to be one of your spokesmen. And I will continue to do that. Thank you, guys. Take care. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: On behalf of all of us, J. R., thank you for all you have done for your fellow veterans. Thank you. (Applause) DAV Auxiliary Commander Patrice Rapisand was elected to her current post of leadership last year at our National Convention in New Orleans.

A resident of Benbrook, Texas, Commander Rapisand has been a member of the Auxiliary since 1980. Her membership eligibility is through her husband. Patti is a member of Unit 10 in El Paso. She served as State Adjutant of Texas for 20 years.

A graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in Business Administration, Patti is the mother of three sons, all members of DAV Auxiliary.

With her annual report on the activities of the Auxiliary, I am pleased to present the National Convention Auxiliary National Commander Patti Rapisand. (Standing Ovation)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER PATRICE RAPISAND: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER RAPISAND: I don't know who scheduled me after J. R. but thank you very much. (Laughter) Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Wilson, DAV National Officers, National Auxiliary Adjutant Judy Hezlep, Auxiliary Officers, and you, members of the DAV and Auxiliary, I bid you greetings as we begin the 91st DAVA – DAV National Convention. And I want to tell you that this is actually the 90th Anniversary for the Auxiliary. (Applause)

The first thing I would like to do is introduce the Line Officers of the Auxiliary. Please stand when I say your name: Senior Vice Commander Donna Adams; (Applause) First Junior Vice Commander Susan Miller; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg; (Applause) Third Junior

Vice Commander Linda Stake; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice Commander Laurie Stopyra; (Applause) Immediate Past National Commander Susan Henry; (Applause) Judge Advocate Kathy Wiley; (Applause) National Adjutant Judy Hezlep; Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper. (Applause)

We all know the phrase, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." Well, I'd like to change that and share with you a few thoughts which, hopefully, when you leave Vegas you take them with you.

Since joining the DAV Auxiliary in 1980 I have been humbled by the opportunity to be part of an organization doing immense and important work, the DAV and the Auxiliary.

As I served on the Auxiliary line these past years and my year as a DAV Auxiliary National Commander I witnessed many experiences which have deepened my resolve. The work of the DAV Auxiliary is as – and the DAV is as important now as it was when we were chartered 91 years ago.

To fully understand the legacy of the DAV and Auxiliary make this mental comparison. The household names we take for granted like McDonalds, Microsoft, Apple, Verizon, Best Buy and Starbucks – you know there is a long list – and we think of these companies as being successful in the fabric of American culture yet all of these companies are less than 60 years of age.

In DAV terms, these are just kids. (Laughter) To think, an organization to be 91 years and going strong can only mean one thing: the organization has the right mission and it is successful in its execution.

Traveling as National Commander this year I witnessed the outstanding work of Auxiliary members volunteering at the VA hospital and in the Transportation program where we excel beyond other organizations. We must continue this work as the need is as critical today as ever in our lifetimes.

During this travel there are three experiences which I, which validate what we do and why we must always continue. First, traveling on a riverboat in Pittsburgh with veterans from VA hospitals my heart ached as I witnessed these veterans with no families, veterans who are alone in life. It was heartbreaking. However, these veterans were not forgotten. The DAV is there for them, making time for them to ensure that they know someone cares and has not forgotten them.

As I rode through the streets in the Birmingham Veterans Day parade I was overwhelmed by the tremendous turnout, one city's unconditional appreciation and love for those who preserved their freedom.

And, last, while attending the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington I had the distinct honor to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington Cemetery. To stand at attention while the bugler plays Taps with the Capitol and Washington Monument in the clear background of the Tomb, experiencing an unwavering appreciation for the price of freedom and why those who provide it can never be forgotten.

These stories are just a few of why the DAV and the Auxiliary mission of 91 years must continue. We must never forget those who served.

As we look back it is a time to think of what we've achieved and where we are going. We must remember the legacy we inherited and ask ourselves, "What can we do to make our movement forward?"

An extremely proud member – I'm an extremely proud member of the Auxiliary and to have served as your Commander during this past year. And I believe the time is right for the Auxiliary to take a progressive step forward alongside the DAV. Why? Because the needs for our services, our programs, our advocacy, are urgent.

Veterans of every era need more than just support. The families of today's warriors bear heavy burdens. And, like us, these veterans and their families are busy people. For them to become involved in our mission we need to involve every family member.

When I was elected Auxiliary Commander in New Orleans last year, at last year's Convention I spoke about the "Same Team, the Same Dream," recommitting ourselves to working with the DAV to best serve injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors.

I am proud to say throughout the year we have been doing just that, with so many Auxiliary members giving freely of themselves to help our veterans and their families. It is my hope that the DAV and Auxiliary continue to even expand our work together.

It is my dream together we build the momentum we have worked hard this past year and the years prior to establish and move forward with a great influence on those whose lives we have touched.

As I complete my year as Commander I challenge all of you, DAV and Auxiliary, take the eligibility message home and share with others our need to grow the membership. Remember: membership, membership, membership.

We cannot – we cannot take for granted the funding benefits for our disabled veterans and their families. We don't know if these will increase or even continue at current levels. When Congress looks to make cuts in the budget there are no guarantees. Therefore, it is a time when we must concentrate on communicating with our legislators. We know the story. We know the why. Our voice must be heard.

Our bond as members of the DAV and Auxiliary is unique in nature. It is like no other and something each of you should stand tall and be proud of for each of you is here for a reason. Our veterans and/or volunteers, all of you, each have your own story.

You are gathered here because you care. You care because you share a common goal. There is unity of spirit which exists among you. You have that bond that brings you here. It's a bond which respects and cares for each other. It's a bond that brings veterans and volunteers together like no other organization has or can take away from us.

Our message is clear: American disabled veterans deserve the best of everything that we, as Americans, can provide for them. We will not accept anything less. (Applause) It has been a humble experience to serve as your Commander for the past year. I had excellent Line Officers to support me in serving you, the members of this great organization.

I want to personally thank our National Auxiliary staff in Cold Spring, Kentucky. It's been an honor working with National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper, and the entire Headquarters staff.

We overcame lots of challenges yet there will be more on the horizon. But each dream – but each day you truly embrace “Same Team, Same Dream, Serving Disabled American Veterans and Their Families.”

On behalf of the Auxiliary I would like to express our appreciation to the DAV for your support of the Auxiliary and the help provided. There may be no doubt or question, the DAV and Auxiliary, we are the same team. We share the same dream, serving disabled American veterans and their families.

To Commander Samuels, the DAV has truly been blessed with your leadership and unwavering commitment to our veterans. Your support and kindness as we journeyed together these past six years will always be cherished. It's been my honor to serve with you this past year. Sitting at your table at, in Congress, at Congress was just a moving and powerful moment for me. Thank you for including me. May our paths continue to cross as we march forward.

As mentioned earlier, the Auxiliary has been part of my life for over 30 years. My father and father-in-law were World War II disabled veterans. My mother was a World War II Army WAC, although she was not disabled. My husband and my brother were disabled American veterans during the Vietnam Era.

Yes, I have a story and I've told each of you my story. You continue to tell your story, that we honor those who have sacrificed to preserve the freedom of this great nation. We can never take that for granted. The price of freedom never ends, that is why ongoing responsibility was given to us to hold close to our heart. That is why the DAV and Auxiliary, all of us, work so hard and are committed to bond, which brings us together.

As we go forward through this Convention and beyond we do not leave as officers, members or committees. We do not leave as 50 individual states. We do not leave as 21 Districts and Units within.

No, we go forward from this day forward united in one mission: Same Team, Same Dream, Serving Disabled Veterans and Their Families. God bless America. God bless those serving in harm's way. And God bless those still sacrificing because of their service to this great nation. (Standing Ovation)

Commander Samuels, on behalf of the – I don't know what to do here. (Laughter) On behalf of the DAV Auxiliary we'd like to honor you with this award in appreciation of all your distinguished service. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Rapisand presented DAV Commander Samuels with the plaque.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER RAPISAND: At this time I would like to introduce Past National Commander Paula Raymond. (Applause)

DAV AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER PAULA RAYMOND: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

DAV AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAYMOND: National Commanders, Adjutants, Officers, members and guests, it is my privilege to stand before you today to present the Past National Commander's Outstanding Member of the Year Award.

This is a very special award and it is given to not necessarily an officer but it is given to an Auxiliary member that works all of our programs. She works in the background. She doesn't seek recognition but she does everything under the sun.

When people ask about the Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year, you hear a chorus of praise. You will learn of her enthusiasm, idealism and patriotism. These are among the many fine qualities that led to Emily Hall being selected for this honor. But it is her love for the DAV and veterans that drives her.

Emily is totally dedicated to serving our veterans in whatever capacity she can. Her record of accomplishment is distinguished and expansive. She is a remarkable woman and an outstanding Auxiliary member.

I would like to be able to tell you all the things that she does, not just for the DAV but for her community, but they are many and it would take quite a time. Her activism inspires us. She personifies the spirit and purpose of the Auxiliary by her outreach to all segments of the population.

Emily's passion for veterans stems from her father, Linwood, who served in the Army Air Corps and later the U.S. Air Force. She worked at the Department of Defense for 29 years, serving her nation as a civilian employee. As a member of Unit 3 in Annapolis, Maryland, Emily found the perfect outlet for her compassion to serve the veterans she loves.

This year's Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year is Emily Hall. And it is a great honor for me to present this, too. (Standing Ovation)

MRS. EMILY HALL: Thank you so much. I'm not too big on speeches. I'll make it short and sweet. If it wasn't for people like J. R. and the other veterans sitting up here and all you men and women out there, disabled veterans, I wouldn't have the freedom that I have.

I feel it is our responsibility to make sure each and every one of you get what you deserve from the VA, from your community, from your states, and from our nation.

I wish all of you well, your families. Auxiliary, please keep striving to give them what they deserve, working your communities. And remember, there is others that will come after us and may they do the work that we've done. God bless all of you. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. And thank you Commander Rapisand for your great year of service. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. Born in Hawaii, Secretary Shinseki graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Secretary Shinseki served two combat tours in the Republic of Vietnam where he was twice wounded. And he is a Life member of the DAV Chapter 5 in Hawaii. During the Cold War he was the

Commanding General, United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army; Commanding General, NATO Land Forces, Central Europe; and Commander of the NATO-led Stabilization Forces in Bosnia.

In 1999, General Shinseki was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks he led the Army during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

After 38 years of service in uniform General Shinseki retired from the Army in 2003. On December 7, 2008, General Shinseki was nominated by President Barack Obama to lead the VA. He was confirmed by the Senate on January 20th, 2009, and sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs on January 21st, 2009.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Secretary of Veterans Affairs and DAV Life member, the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE ERIC K. SHINSEKI: Good morning. Good morning.

(Response of "Good Morning.")

SECRETARY SHINSEKI: Great to see all of you. Commander Samuels, thank you for that very, very generous introduction. And, Don, thanks for your wonderful leadership of DAV. It's been significant.

Let me also recognize some of your National leadership, Senior Vice Commander Larry Polzin, National Adjutant Art Wilson, Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, DAV Auxiliary National Commander Patti Rapisand and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep.

And to Patti let me just say I was able to listen to your comments this morning while I awaited coming up here. Wonderful leadership. Thank you for what you do for veterans and their families. Two wonderful human beings that the DAV is recognizing this year, first of all J. R. Martinez who just spoke to you, our Outstanding 2012 Disabled Veteran of the Year (Applause) and then DAV special honoree who I understand you will be hearing from tomorrow, Gary Sinise, Lieutenant Dan, himself. (Applause) Congratulations to both of them. And I thank them for their devotion to our service members and our veterans. They're wonderful representatives for us all.

Fellow DAV members, fellow friends, VA colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I thank the DAV for your unwavering commitment to our shared mission. For over 90 years now you have diligently served the needs and stood up for the best interests of veterans, their families and our survivors and we are indebted to all of you.

The personal courage you demonstrate every day generously helping others while dealing with your own physical challenges inspires us all. And you have my utmost respect and admiration for what you do.

Now you will be hearing from Vice President Joe Biden shortly. Veterans have no greater champions than the President and this Vice President. I see them in action every day. You can bank on it.

So when he walks on stage (Applause) – so when he walks on stage I want you to raise the roof for him. And here is why. His commitment to veterans and the President's commitment runs deep. It's genuine. It's unwavering.

I am privileged to have this opportunity to serve veterans in this capacity. And it is the opportunity they granted me. And this is why I am proud to report to you this morning on the state of your VA, how things looked three-and-a-half years ago, what changes we've put into motion, and where VA is headed here in the near future.

We've been at war for about a decade now. It takes a superb, disciplined, fighting force to handle that kind of strain. The men and women who wear our nation's uniforms today are magnificent (Applause) just as they have been throughout time.

But repeated deployments of that force have created issues that don't show up until those later deployments. More of them are surviving catastrophic injuries because of improved body armor, better battlefield combat lifesaving skills, and something only this country has and that is strategic medical airlift to get people out of the battle zone, back to the best hospitals stateside. (Applause)

Those higher survival rates also mean more complex casualties, the compounding effects of Post Trauma Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injuries, multiple amputations – five quadruple amputees from this war – with added complications of blindness and deafness and genital urinary injuries.

We had to create a word for this kind of medical complexity we didn't have before: polytrauma. We've built five polytrauma centers of excellence, the best in the world, to care for our seriously injured and extended those centers of excellence into an entire polytrauma system of care, enabling those patients to go home. (Applause)

Three-and-a-half years ago we were still grappling with unresolved issues from previous wars, two previous wars: the Gulf War over 20 years ago now and the Vietnam War nearly 50 years ago. We didn't take care of business decades ago when we should have. And some veterans were dying without benefits.

Three-and-a-half years ago an estimated 107,000 veterans were homeless in this rich and powerful country. The President has said we won't be satisfied until every veteran who has fought for America has a home in America. (Applause) But then an economic downturn in 2008 threatened to compound this homeless situation for veterans. But in spite of all of this, the President was clear, unwavering: it is immoral for anyone who has defended this country to be homeless in America. (Applause)

Now in 2009 there were over 23 million living veterans in this country, only 7.4 million of them were enrolled in VA for health care and only 3 million were receiving compensation and pension benefits.

We had an outreach problem. Many didn't know about VA. We also had an access problem. Even if they knew about VA, they couldn't get in. And even then we were carrying a backlog in compensation claims. And I will talk about all three of those issues.

Well, that was the landscape in 2009. After consulting with key stakeholders, and among them the Executive Directors of the six major VSOs, then Dave Gorman but today I, we continue our collaboration, Barry Jesinoski and other executive directors of VSOs, we meet routinely, probably about once a month.

But out of those discussions we settled on three key priorities which remain unchanged today. One, increase veterans' access to VA benefits and services. Two, eliminate this thing called the backlog in compensation claims in 2015. And, three, end veterans' homelessness, also in 2015.

Now, none of these are achievable – (Applause) None of these are achievable without the Department of Defense because, as I have said before in this gathering, very little of what we do in VA originates in VA. Most of what we work on originates in DoD and, therefore, a partnership, close collaboration, is entirely important on our ability to take care of veterans.

So the first order of business had to be establishing a closer, more collaborative working relationship with DoD at all levels. It takes both departments to create that seamless transition which will return separating service members to their home communities, career-ready to work, to raise children, and strengthen our economy.

Secretaries of Defense Bob Gates first and then Leon Panetta now and I have met, personally met, nine times in the last 17 months, unprecedented between Cabinet secretaries. Both of them are dedicated public servants who have been insightful, decisive and good friends to me and to veterans.

A week ago Secretary Panetta and I testified together for the first time ever before a joint hearing of the House Armed Services and the House Veterans' Affairs Committees. So that was the first priority.

Our second priority was to fix VA's budget process. Creating change requires resources. And if you want to go faster, you will need more money. That's a fact of life. For the past three-and-a-half years VA has been forceful in arguing its resourcing requirements and the President has been firm and unwavering in his support of VA.

Here is what I am talking about. In 2009 VA inherited a budget totaling \$99.8 billion, a good budget, not spectacular but a good budget. In 2010 the President increased that budget to \$127.2 billion, a near 30 percent increase in a single year. Now that's spectacular. (Applause)

And even better, the President's 2013 budget request, the one that begins on 1 October of this year, that budget request is currently before the Congress and it seeks \$140.3 billion for VA. (Applause) That's about a 40 percent increase since 2009. The President knows what we owe veterans. And his sense of obligation is reflected in his budgets.

I was once asked what I valued. And as I started to put a response together mentally before I could answer the question the person who asked the question lectured me: show me your budget and I will tell you what you value. Show me your budget and I will tell you what you value.

Well, a 40 percent increase to VA's budget demonstrates that the President values veterans, their families and survivors. He understands. (Applause) He understands the obligation to those who shoulder all the responsibility and risk for safeguarding this country and he won't let them down.

So what have we put into motion these past three-and-a-half years? First, to increase access we have added 57 new community-based outpatient clinics, 20 more mobile health clinics, and, as mentioned earlier, opened the fifth polytrauma center in San Antonio, Texas, last year.

We have four new hospitals under construction: Las Vegas, Denver, Orlando, New Orleans. When we open the VA medical center here in Las Vegas in two days, on Monday, it will be the first new VA hospital in 17 years. (Applause)

It will provide veterans in this area a state-of-the-art facility that they have needed and deserved for so long. And as the President remarked recently, we keep our promises. (Applause) We have also invested heavily in new tele-health. Thank you.

We have also invested heavily in new tele-health and tele-medicine initiatives to overcome the tyranny of distance. Enhanced IT technologies are also beginning to make it easier for veterans to make appointments, access their medical records, and find out about available benefits and services.

We've placed full-time women veterans' program managers at 144 medical centers to advocate for women veterans (Applause) and named women veterans' coordinators at all 56 regional offices to assist women veterans with their claims. Since 2009 we've opened 19 clinics specifically dedicated to serving women and trained more than 1,200 health care providers in women's health. (Applause)

We've also increased access to our national cemeteries, opening 3 new national cemeteries and 14 state cemeteries. Five more national cemeteries are planned as well as 5 come-and-bury-your-own cemeteries in urban areas and 8 burial grounds in rural areas owned and managed by VA but co-located with non-VA cemeteries, all of this much needed and long overdue. (Applause)

Next, this gets a little complex but I'm going to take you through it. You may recall that we made it a point to take care of some long overdue business. For Vietnam veterans we granted presumption of service connection for three new Agent Orange-related conditions: Parkinson's Disease, hairy cell and other chronic B-cell leukemias and ischemic heart disease. (Applause) A doctor had to train me how to pronounce all of that. (Laughter) It's been 45 years. It's time.

For Gulf War veterans we granted presumption of service connection for nine diseases associated with Gulf War Illness. It's been over 20 years. It's time. Finally, PTSD is as old as warfare itself.

For all combat veterans with verifiable PTSD, veterans from World War II, Korea, Dom Rep., Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Operation Desert Storm, and then the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, among others, we granted presumption of service connection to those veterans. (Applause) It was time.

These three decisions alone have dramatically expanded access to VA care and benefits for hundreds and thousands of thousands of veterans. But there is a cause and effect here. Understandably this also increased the number of compensation claims: Agent Orange, nearly

250,000 claims; Gulf War Illness, roughly 145,000 claims; combat PTSD, over 500,000 claims added to the inventory.

But veterans who had previously no access are now enrolling in VA and submitting claims. So, as you might expect, the total claims inventory grows, as did the backlog – backlog meaning those claims older than 125 days.

Now, three-and-a-half years ago the total claims inventory was roughly 400,000. Today it is approximately 880,000. That's that growth of increased access. The backlog went from about 135,000 in 2009 to about 580,000 today.

Growth in these numbers is what happens when we increase access. But it was the right thing to do for Vietnam veterans, for Gulf War veterans, for all combat veterans. I would do it all over again. (Applause)

Now, one last snapshot of the claims backlog. In 2009 we completed 900,000 claims going out the door; we took in a million. In 2010 for the first time ever in VA history we completed one million claims going out the door; one-million-two came in.

In 2011, again for the second year in a row we produced a million claims decisions going out the door; 1.3 million claims came in. Now, look, if the total number of claims in our inventory today is 880,000 and over the past three years we've generated nearly 3 million claims going out the door, you know that today's inventory and backlog are not the same claims that were there three years ago, not two years ago, and, for the most part, not even last year. There may be a handful of very complex cases lingering on but the process is dynamic. It is a big numbers process. We move claims.

It is also a big numbers process that we have to deal with because we do most of it on paper. Paper is what we receive from DoD. With the planned draw down of up to a million troops over the next five years, the number of new claims will continue to grow.

It will take both DoD and VA to enable what we are seeking here which is a paperless process, hence my close working relationship with Secretary Panetta. And he and I are pulling our departments into the future.

VA, we have spent the past two years developing a new automation tool called VBMS – Veterans Benefits Management System – VBMS. It's being piloted. It took two years to develop. It is being piloted today at two regional offices.

We will have it up and running at 16 regional offices by the end of this year. And we will have it running at all 56 regional offices by the end of 2013. I committed to ending the claims backlog in 2015. VBMS is key to that strategy. VBMS is here. It's about to be fielded. Because of the President's strong support we have the resources we need. We will end the backlog in 2015. (Applause)

In 2009 I told you that veterans lead the nation in homelessness, depression, substance abuse, suicides and they rank right up there in joblessness as well. We've had a full-court press on to rescue them from the streets. As I indicated earlier, in 2009 the estimated number of homeless veterans in this country was about 107,000.

By 2011 that estimate was down to 67,500 because of actions we were taking. (Applause) I'll take that. Now, when the Department of Housing and Urban Development announces its 2012 estimate on homeless veterans sometime shortly, we believe that the number will be below 60,000 which will keep us on track to break 35,000 by the end of 2013 and that will end – put us in a position to end the rescue phase of veterans homelessness. In 2015 we will have veterans living off the streets, off the streets. (Applause)

But here is what will continue. The prevention phase of veterans homelessness is ongoing and that will continue indefinitely, requiring VA to focus its significant capabilities on keeping at-risk veterans from slipping into that downward spiral that ends in homelessness.

For example, we have roughly 900,000 veterans and eligible family members in training and education today: universities, four-year colleges, community colleges, tech schools, in the trades. They must graduate. They must graduate.

Anyone who flunks out in this economy is at high risk of homelessness. So when I talk about prevention this is where we put our effort and this is where I can use your help. My one word speech to student veterans whenever I get to meet with them, one word, as I did yesterday at Boise State University: graduate. Graduate. (Applause)

And if I sound like your dad, I am. I am paying most of your bills. (Applause) So graduate. And DAV can help support these terrific young veterans who are preparing for the next phases of their lives. You are located all across the length and breadth of this country.

They go to school all across the length and breadth of this country. Some place in your hometowns there are veterans studying. Encourage them. You bring a lot of experience to this and you can help influence graduation rates so help me.

Finally, mental health, in 2005 at the height of operations in Iraq we had 13,000 mental health professionals handling the health care needs of our veterans. Today that number is above 20,000.

And I think most of you know we have just recently announced that we are hiring another 1,600 – one thousand six hundred – more clinical staff to address the growth in mental health requirements spawned by a decade of tough, high-risk, high-stress, repetitive combat deployments. These are – (Applause) These are magnificent young people. And we're not going to let them down.

Now, we know that when we diagnose and treat people get better. Among the 8.6 million veterans enrolled in VA health care mental health treatment is up – a good sign. At the same time for veterans receiving VA treatment our suicide rates trend down, another good sign. It's an indication that treatment, including evidence-based therapies, is working.

However, too many veterans still leave the military with mental health issues we never find out about. Most veterans who commit suicide in our research, perhaps as many as two out of three, were never enrolled in VA. So as good as we think we are in helping people in this arena we can't help them if we are not there to treat.

So this is another reason for increasing access as we are working at it and in developing with DoD a seamless transition between our two departments. This is important if we are going to turn the corner on this.

Now, one of our most successful outreach efforts is our veterans' crisis line. DoD knows it as a military crisis line. It's the same number, the same trained VA mental health professionals answering the phone, not 9-11 operators, mental health professionals. No cost to DoD.

Since 2007 over 640,000 people have called in, including over 8,000 active duty service members. We've made over 99,000 referrals for care and rescued over 23,000 potential suicides in progress – 23,000. (Applause)

Younger veterans are more comfortable with chatting and texting. I'm not but they are. (Laughter) So in 2009 we added an online chat; in 2011, a texting service. What I'm suggesting here is we will do anything to reach out to those veterans in need of our support. We are and we will. (Applause)

We have worked at greater collaboration between VA and DoD, as I indicated, especially in that critical phase before service members leave the military. We simply must transition them better. Both Secretary Panetta and I have signed up for that. We do this best with a warm handoff, warm handoffs between the two departments.

That is key to preventing the downward spiral that often leads to homelessness and sometimes results in suicide. Secretary Gates and I worked these initiatives hard. Panetta and I have worked them even harder. We have committed to a fully operational, integrated, electronic health record – one single, common, joint electronic health record between VA and DoD by 2007 (sic).

Good jobs are essential for veterans and we are proud to have partnered with the First Lady's Joining Forces Initiative and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring our Heroes Campaign. The President and Vice President, the First Lady and Dr. Biden have provided strong leadership in increasing employment opportunities for veterans and spouses of military members.

The President challenged private companies to hire and train 100,000 veterans and spouses by the end of 2013. Twenty-one-hundred companies have already signed up and committed to 175,000 hires. They have already hired 90,000 veterans and spouses up until this point. (Applause)

In January VA held its own first hiring fair in Washington, D.C., attracting over 4,000 veterans and resulting over 2,600 interviews. We hire on the spot. More than 500 job offers were given on the spot. And we followed that very successful fair with an even bigger hiring fair in June in Detroit, just this past June.

Over 8,000 veterans showed up. More than 5,700 were interviewed. Twelve hundred received job offers on the spot and those job offers continue to roll out.

Simultaneously while we were in Detroit 3,500 people, small business owners, participated in VA's Veteran-Owned Small Business Training Exposition, our opportunity for veteran small business owners to better understand our procurement requirements, demonstrate their capabilities, and improve their preparation of competitive proposals for government contracts.

So why would we do this? We do this because we know from our history veterans hire other veterans. So the more successful veteran entrepreneurs we produce, the better our chances of finding veterans employment. That's why we do this.

So, where are we headed? I intend to be here to update you next summer. (Applause) And I intend to report then what we accomplished between 2009 and 2013.

I'm going to run a couple of statements by you here. There is a laundry list of them but they're about resources and that's about the only way to demonstrate to you where we are headed so just listen for the topics that may be of most interest to you.

What I intend to report next summer between 2009 and 2013 we will have increased spinal cord injury funding by 28 percent. By 2014 that increase will likely be 36 percent. We will have increased TBI funding by 38 percent. By 2014 that increase will likely be 51 percent. (Applause)

We will have increased mental health funding by 39 percent. And by 2014 that increase will likely be 45 percent. (Applause) We will have increased long-term care funding by 39 percent. By 2014 that increase will likely be 50 percent. (Applause)

We will have increased prosthetics funding by 58 percent. And by 2014 that increase will likely be 75 percent. (Applause) We will have increased women veterans' funding by 123 percent. And by 2014 that increase will likely be 158 percent. (Applause)

We will have increased OEF/OIF/OND – Iraq and Afghanistan – funding by 124 percent. By 2014 that increase will likely be 161 percent. (Applause) And by next summer our Veterans Benefit Management System will be fully operational at most regional offices and just 40 percent of the claims will be older than 125 days. We expect that to be down to about 20 percent the following year and then we eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. (Applause)

So, remember, show me your budget and I will tell you what you value. Who doesn't think this president gets it down deep where it counts? It's clear from his budget that our president highly values what veterans, their families, our survivors, have meant to this country.

Now, lots of folks talk about American exceptionalism. I believe in it as well. And to me the faces of American exceptionalism are the faces of the men and women who serve and have served this nation in uniform. God bless them all. God bless our President. And may God continue to bless this wonderful country of ours. Thank you all very much. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander Samuels and Secretary Shinseki withdrew from the stage.)

UNIDENTIFIED ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, DAV National Commander Don Samuels and the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden.

(Whereupon, there was a standing ovation as Secretary Shinseki and Commander Samuels escorted The Honorable Joseph Biden Jr. Vice President of the United States to the stage.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden. Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a graduate from the University of Delaware and Syracuse Law School, at the age of 29 Mr. Biden became one of the youngest people ever elected to the United States Senate.

During his 36 years in the Senate he served as Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years. He also served as Chairman or Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1997 to 2008 when he was elected to his current office.

He is the father of an Iraq War veteran. Vice President Biden has shown his interest in our cause by being here today. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the 47th Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.: Hello, DAV, how are you? (Applause) You all, please have a seat. You all have been here a long time. I just want you to know the thing I love about you all – hey, where are my Delaware guys and women?

(Whereupon, the delegation from Delaware stood, cheering.)

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: How are you all doing? Hey, look. I – the thing I love about the DAV – I've been working with you all since 1973 – is you are always straightforward. We're standing in the back and General Shinseki – isn't it great having a guy running Veteran Affairs who got shot at too and knows what it is all about?

(Response of "Yes.")

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: Where are you? He is a great guy, by the way, a straight shooter. (Applause) And, hey, but as I'm standing back there with the Commander I said, "Don, it has been a long Convention. How has it gone so far?" "How has it gone?" He says, "It has gone really well, so far." (Laughter) I'm the last speaker – so far. (Laughter)

Man, oh, man. I tell you what, I, Commander, it is great to be here and thank you for the invitation. Your service not only in Vietnam but right here in the United States of America on behalf of disabled veterans is a marvel.

Let me also recognize your extraordinary team: Art, Patti, Jack, Marc, Barry, Larry. You've all done an amazing job because you all know how it works. It doesn't work without a full-blown team. And it's genuinely, genuinely an honor to be with you today.

I just want to tell you that I came for one overarching reason: to say thank you. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for your continued and unwavering commitment to this country and to your fellow disabled veterans.

Commander, I've been doing this a long time, my entire career. As my Delaware guys can tell you, I go way back to when Lyle, when Lyle Pearson was commander and we had a guy who was beloved in Delaware named Elmer Martin who was our DAV commander in Delaware.

And, folks, back then in the '70s we went through some pretty tough battles on behalf of the DAV. We stood side-by-side in fighting against over those two decades efforts to slash the VA. Remember when we were going to sort of basically privatize it. Remember that little routine we had? We were going to give you all vouchers to go to the local hospitals and close down, close down VA facilities.

I remember the fights from the guys that I grew up with that had – excuse me – Agent Orange rained down upon them and were never able to prove – the burden was on them to prove that their disability was a consequence of that when what the hell else would it have been.

You know. I mean. (Applause) You know, it's not like they made it up. You know what I mean? (Applause) You know. And we fought to preserve, as I said, the integrity of the system. And you led the fight, the DAV fight to keep the facilities open.

Through all of that, through all of that and now, to this day, the DAV has had one focus. Just like you never leave anyone behind on the battlefield, you all have never left anybody behind when they come home and needed help. Never left anybody behind. (Applause)

General Shinseki has heard me say this a bunch of times but – and I've been saying it my whole career – America has a lot of obligations but I say this without fear or contradiction or any reservation. We have obligations to our children and to the elderly. We have obligations to the poor. We have obligations that extend beyond ourselves.

But we only have one truly sacred obligation as a country and that is to equip those who we send into battle and to care for them and their families when they come home to the extent that they need care. (Applause) Ladies and gentlemen, that is the only – if we only have \$10 in the budget and it costs \$6 to do that, that's the first \$6 that should be spent.

And those of you who know me and know the general know we mean it. And so does our boss mean it. Because you have made extraordinary, extraordinary sacrifices, those of you who are here today, some still from World War II, Korea Vietnam, the Gulf War, and this 9-11 Generation, this 9-11 Generation of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Ladies and gentlemen, how many times did you hear – those of you who are a little bit older – in the '90s about this new generation didn't quite have it? You know, Generation X and generation this and generation that. Well, I tell you what, man, these men and women are not Generation X, they are Generation Excellent.

These guys – 2.8 (Applause) – 2.8 million of you – (Applause) – 2.8 million of you signed up not wondering but almost certainly knowing you were going to go to war after 9-11. Two-point-four million of you walked across those scorching sands of Iraq and that God-awful terrain of Afghanistan.

They represent only 1 percent of the entire population. But because of you and because the Republicans and Democrats in the Congress, because of the President, we're going to remind, as long as we must, that the 99 percent of the rest of us owe them a debt, a debt we're never going to fully be able to repay but a debt we are bound to. (Applause)

Like previous generations, like all of you here representing other generations, they've made enormous sacrifices: in Iraq and Afghanistan, 6,431 fallen angels, men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice, families like your comrades who you have lost, left behind.

Forty-nine thousand two hundred fifty-one physically wounded, including more than 1,500 amputees, more than a half-a-million suffering from invisible wounds that are just as consequential: PTSD, traumatic brain injury.

But because of the incredible advances in medicine and that "Golden Hour" that Shinseki and his colleagues insisted on existing in the Theater, almost half those wounded in this war if they had been wounded in your war, Don, they would have died – half. But they are home. Thank God. And they have – (Applause)

And here is the deal, folks. The bad news is we are going to need you and this organization for decades to come because even if there is not another single war, because it leaves us in the United States with a special responsibility. They are home. Their average life expectancy, the critically wounded, over 16,000 of them, is going to be roughly 35 years.

And long after, long after the parades are over, the streets are renamed, the wars are faded into memory, the obligation and the need is going to continue. It's going to continue because we made a commitment. You heard General Shinseki just reiterate it. You believe it with every fiber of your being.

We made a commitment to provide those who made it home who will need care for the rest of their lives, we provided them and promised them the best health care, the most advanced prosthesis. And, ladies and gentlemen, if we even have, if we have peace for the next 20 years memories are going to fade but the obligation does not fade.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, one of the things I've been doing with General Shinseki and the President and others has been reminding people this is not just a temporary responsibility. We're on the cusp of some of the most amazing potential medical advances in the history of the world and they will cost a lot.

But every one of these warriors deserves whatever the best treatment is available as long as they live. (Applause) So we're going to need you. We're going to need you and your advocacy for a long, long time.

I've had the great privilege of being in and out of Afghanistan and Iraq over 20 times from remote fobs pinning on a Silver Star with General Rodriguez to six kids up in some God-forsaken mountain top in the Kunar, Upper Kunar Valley, every night getting the living hell pounded out of them sitting on that hill, to jumping into the striker brigade in Fallujah.

I don't know how in the hell these guys, you guys have done it: 114 degrees inside an MRAP which, by the way, is saving a whole hell of a lot of lives but inside an MRAP, no matter where it is.

My wife Jill and I have visited, like you have, our wounded warriors all around the world, in Theater, at Reed, Bethesda, Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, the Burn Center. We spend, like you do, every Christmas and the holidays with these wounded warriors at our home and at the hospital.

And what astounds me about that something special that you all are made of, what absolutely astounds me when I visit those rooms is how these kids – and some aren't kids – how they respond.

Last Christmas I was going through as we spend the day at Reed and now over at Bethesda but I'm going through from room to room for those who couldn't get downstairs. And I'm going to walk into a room, a young Navy captain, by the way, who had been blown up in the Kunar Valley.

And we started to go into his room and he was asleep. And I said to the nurse, no, no, no, no, no. Don't want to go in. Don't want to go in. He was an Annapolis grad. It was a young kid in his I'd say early-30s, late-20s, a lovely wife sitting with him.

And she said, "No, he will be very angry, Mr. Vice President, if you don't come in. He has been waiting for you." Walk in and woke him up. One leg gone below the knee, one above the knee. And his right, his left hand pretty damaged. Triangle above his bed.

They wake him up. He pulls himself up, looks me in the eye and says, "Sir, I apologize sir. I apologize. I intended to be able to stand and salute you, sir. I apologize sir." You all are amazing.

And I asked him the question I ask every single soldier, sailor, marine, coastie, airman, you know, when I leave the room or leave the hospital bed, I ask them all the same question, soldier, sailor, marine, "What can I do for you?"

And without exception – that's not true; three exceptions out of probably 1,200 of these rooms – you know the answer I get. "Sir, can you get me back to my unit, sir? I know I can be helpful, sir." (Applause)

Like all of you who have gone before them, made of the same stuff, there is that other wound that you can't see, PTSD, traumatic brain injury. And because you are all warriors, because you have been told to "suck it up" because you all, women and men, you take a hit and get back up, it's not in your DNA to say, "Hey, I need help."

And probably no group of women and men in the world it was harder to sit down with a buddy and say, hey, man, I've got a problem. I've got a problem and it scares the hell out of me. I can't remember. I get confused. I have these awful headaches.

These wounds are no different than if they have shrapnel in the middle of their back and they've lost part of their body. And there is, as you know, no shame, nothing but honor in saying this occurs as a consequence of my service to my country. We owe them help.

So, Commander, we're trying to do better for this generation than we did for yours and the predecessor generations. When you came home – (Applause) When you came home, you got off the plane at Philadelphia, Dallas, Los Angeles, there wasn't someone standing there saying, hey, buddy, welcome home. How can I help you? What do you need?

You know, the General and I went to the Vietnam Memorial and you were probably there this past Memorial Day. And of all the memorials I have attended – and I have had the great honor of

speaking at Arlington on behalf of the nation twice since I have been vice president – there were thousands of Vietnam generation veterans there. And it was at The Wall.

And the President spoke. I think he spoke eloquently. So did they. But what moved me and anybody over the age of 60 was when he stood there and he said, “Welcome home.” “Welcome home.” “Welcome home.” (Applause) Five thousand or whatever it was men and women rose to their feet and in a sense the first fundamental acclamation of what didn’t exist.

So this guy to the core of his being is committed to make sure that this generation of warriors does not go through what others have. When my son Beau got back from a year in Iraq he didn’t come straight home. His whole unit headed to Fort Dix.

Even though physically they all looked great they were there for four days because of the Joint Chiefs and what General Shinseki and others set up: meeting with medical personnel one-on-one, going around, now, look, soldier, talk to me. It’s okay. Tell me. Tell me. Tell me what is bothering you. Letting them know that the hardest thing in the world for you guys to do and you women to do should be done and that is ask for help.

The truth is you shouldn’t have to ask. You did your duty. And it is time for us to do ours. (Applause) So, ladies and gentlemen, running the risk of some repetition let me tell you what we are doing.

We pushed through an historic 30 percent increase in the VA budget to \$127 billion. We reached back and finally to deal fairly and honestly with all those of you who have been exposed to Agent Orange, shifting the burden from you to the government to prove it is not your problem. (Applause)

That change has already sent \$4 billion to 130,000 vets and their families. It should never have happened in the first place. And we wanted to make sure it didn’t happen again with 180,000 post-9-11 veterans suffering from TB – excuse me, traumatic brain injury.

If you are anywhere near an IED blast and you have a problem it is presumed to be because of that injury. You don’t have to prove it like you did before. (Applause) We reached back not only to focus on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffering from PTSD but more than 500,000 veterans of all wars who were previously excluded from treatment for that disorder now included. (Applause)

We established a polytrauma center to take care of our most seriously wounded warriors. We built a National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed specializing in research and treatment on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury, because we know there is no other hospital associate in the world that has the ability and/or the resources to do nothing but focus on that.

Ladies and gentlemen, to ease the financial and emotional burden of families and caregivers – all of you know, every one of you have been through it, the ultimate caregiver who will give you the most solace is your husband, your wife, your mother, your father.

And so what we did was we launched a VA program to provide thousands of them with monthly stipends, health insurance, training, access to VA support lines (Applause) because, often, they are the best care for your spirits, the greatest solace and comfort.

And why in God’s name should they have to make a financial sacrifice to care for you after the sacrifices you and they – and they – made for this country? (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen, finally, finally, we expanded the VA health care so 800,000 more vets have access to health care, care you earned, you need and deserve. But all of these changes – and I have a bad habit of telling the truth, as you probably heard, (Laughter) sometimes gets me in trouble, but I make no apologies. None. None. (Applause)

All these changes, all these changes, expanding the orbit of people who deserve this additional attention, all of these important changes, they presented us with a new challenge: more people. More people in the system means the VA backlog has increased again.

So let me tell you and the General probably spoke briefly to this. Let me tell you what we are doing to deal with this pressing problem because it is a problem. It is a problem. First, since too much of the VA, like other agencies, is stuck in the paper age we’re testing a new electronic system

at four sites which slashes claims processes in half and we hope to be able to do that cross the entire system.

Second, we've created a faster, special operations line to make sure the most serious cases get extra attention, extra attention, and an express line for the most complicated claims.

Third, we have hired thousands of additional claims processors. And, altogether, this plan is on track to completely eliminate the backlog by 2015. And we will not rest until that is done, until there is no backlog. And that is a promise. (Applause) That is a promise.

There is a lot more to do. As I said, while wounds may be the most consequential of our nation's veterans' problems, it is far from the only challenge. The fact is the unemployment rate among post-9-11 veterans is two points higher than it is the population on average.

We think that is immoral. That is unconscionable. As the President said, and I quote him, "No veteran who fought for our country should have to fight for a job when they come home" – end of quote. (Applause) Well, ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, this generation of vets is not asking for anything special.

They just happen to be the best trained generation of warriors, the best trained group of Americans that we have ever known, warriors that maintained our cutting-edge on ships and aircraft, managed multi-million-dollar budgets, tackled challenges as diverse as increasing crop yields in parts of Southern Afghanistan and Iraq to designing city bus schedules.

I was into Anbar Province and I see a young lieutenant standing there with a bunch of tribal leaders. He is working out their bus schedule for them – their bus schedule. Up in the Kunar Valley I meet with a young master sergeant who knew more about the tribal divisions among the Pashtun than any scholar I knew, negotiating four clicks up the road with a portion tribe that didn't like the person four clicks back to be able to get vegetables to market.

And they tell me these kids aren't ready to do anything? Hell, man, they handle more equipment worth more money than Federal Express does in any one spot in the day. (Laughter) And they do a good job. (Applause) So here is the point: we absolutely believe give these warriors an opportunity and they can compete with anybody, any time, anywhere.

So here is what we are doing. Along with my wife Jill and Michelle Obama they've challenged the private sector – and it has worked. There is nothing like sending those two women in to do something. (Laughter) Kind of hard to say no. I promise you. (Laughter)

But this isn't a joke. This isn't a joke. This was design. They went and met with the leading business leaders in the nation. And they made them a nice, polite challenge and said find us. Commit to hire a minimum of 100,000 veterans in the next year. Well, so far they have hired 90,000 and they are on train to hire 175,000 more by the end of the year. (Applause)

We've established tax credits for companies to hire and employ veterans with disabilities. You hire a veteran with a disability you get a significant tax cut, a gigantic tax cut, over eight grand. It's amazing we had to fight to get it done but that's another story.

We launched a task force to help 100,000 veterans obtain credentials they need because, you know, any of you guys out there who were a Navy welder, for example, anybody, you know, you guys have the same qualification – I can go down all the categories in the military.

But, guess what? When you come home, you've got to go through it all again. That's ridiculous. That's ridiculous. So here is what we are doing. We are saying for any skill set you have and are certified for it in the United States military when you get home you are automatically licensed in that skill set, period. (Applause) That means jobs, jobs available.

We required all those cities and states that call and say and qualify for what we call "Cop Grants," federal money to help hire police officers, we say, look, here is the deal guys. You get the money but here is what you have got to do. You have got to hire a veteran first. You've got to hire a veteran first. (Applause) If you've walked through Fallujah and Kandahar and everywhere like that I can promise you, you can handle most cities in America. (Laughter)

Look, this is all common sense, long overdue but common sense. We did all this not only because we owe you but because we need you. We need you. We need your expertise. We need your competence. We need your leadership.

And there is one more thing we owe you. We owe you – we owe the whole country but we owe you and the next generation of warriors both a sound foreign policy and a defense policy that can back up that foreign policy, that meets the needs of the times and that sometimes we're slow to adjust to as a big nation.

Those needs change. In World War II we were fighting to keep a European Fascist power in league with Japan from dominating the world. In Korea on we fought to keep monolithic communism and communism led by the Soviet Union from dominating the world.

On 9-11 we faced a completely different threat. For the first time in modern human history non-state actors with the potential to gain access to weapons of mass destruction could do overwhelming and devastating damage to the interests of the United States of America.

And 9-11 was an awful opening chapter to that new phase of world history. And so we adjusted. We trained our military differently. We put special emphasis on soft forces. We used drones. We've changed to adapt to the threat and the new concerns.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, when the President and I took office our nation had emerged from two wars for the better have – had been engaged in two wars for the better part of a decade. Al-Qaeda was resurging, Osama Bin Laden was at large, and our allies and our alliances were frayed.

We were not that much respected by our friends and not feared by our enemies. And our economy and the foundation of our national security was in the precipice of a new depression. And together – President Obama together with the greatest military in the history of the world, a strong national security team headed by this heavy legacy of strength and wisdom, we got together.

Together we ended the war in Iraq responsibly. We sent a clear strategy to end the – end the war in Afghanistan. We cut in half the number of Americans serving in harm's way, re-focused our campaign against al-Qaeda, decimated its senior leadership, starting with the death of Osama Bin Laden. (Applause) What an incredible group of warriors pulled off that audacious operation.

We repaired and we strengthened our alliances, restored America's standing in the world. And as a consequence of not just our work but a lot of other people, our economy didn't slide into a depression. And thanks to some very unpopular but bold decisions that turned out to be right, including the rescue of the automobile industry, America is starting back with 29 straight months of employment, positive but not enough.

But it all rests on the back of you all, all that you have done. And, by the way, if you are looking for a bumper sticker I've got one for you: Osama Bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive. (Applause)

Look, all this has strengthened our ability to contend with the new forces shaping this new century and to attend to the challenges and opportunities that have been neglected. The wisdom of American leadership from generation to generation, democrat and republican, has been being able to see around the curve.

We've always done well when we looked "down the road" to see what we are about to face. We've always been in a hole when we decided to close our eyes and look inward. Returning Europe to its rightful place as a partner of first resort, not last resort, while at the same time reclaiming America's place in the Asia Pacific.

Ladies and gentlemen when I was recently in China – I've been asked to establish a relationship with the incoming president of China. And when I spoke to the people of China in a speech I said, "I want to make something clear. This is not a threat, it is just a statement of fact. We are a Pacific power and we will remain a Pacific power as long as we are around." (Applause)

The reason for that was your presence, our power in the Pacific has allowed for the growth of that region, has prevented wars over the last four decades and forging a new relationship based on

mutual interests with emerging powers like China, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, reducing our reliance on nuclear weapons, achieving a major arms control agreement with Russia, supported by every republican former secretary of state, defense and so on, working to secure nuclear materials to prevent them from getting in the hands of terrorists, isolating countries like Iran and North Korea whose nuclear programs threaten peace and stability not only to the region but the world, working alongside our partners to deal with dictators who murder their own people in Libya and Syria so the entire burden doesn't fall on us to do it.

But, ultimately, America's military is the greatest guarantor of America's security. And that's why President Obama, working closely with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, forged a new defense strategy for the 21st Century. The defense strategy that we helped craft provided for a more agile, flexible force, prepared for the future challenges, not fighting previous wars, better able to confront aggressors and project power with strong partnerships to share the burden, smart investments in cutting-edge capabilities.

As Commander-in-Chief the President is absolutely committed to making sure that our troops have what they need for the battles of the future and that our military remains the finest and most agile fighting force in the history of the world. Meanwhile, a lot of my friends up in the Congress, the other side of the aisle, are using scare tactics now to pass the buck when it comes to defense spending.

I'm not saying this for an applause line. I just want to be straight with you because I was the guy that negotiated this agreement you are hearing about. My republican friends in the Congress don't seem to want you to know now but they supported – all of them voted for a thing called "sequestration." Isn't it amazing the words you've got to learn? (Laughter)

Did you ever think as an informed citizen you would want to have – what the hell, what the heck sequestration meant? Well, you know what it is. It's a fancy say of saying that if the Congress doesn't do its job, then there are going to be automatic budget cuts all across every single department of the government, including defense.

Well, here is the truth about all that because I was the one personally negotiated that agreement with my republican and democratic friends in the Congress. Back then – and this was all about us all agreeing we've got to cut the federal budget, long-term, so we came up with a plan to cut it over \$2 trillion. And we sat down and we laid out the way we could do that.

We argued we should act right – I argued we should act right then and there. If you go back into your, you know, think tank in your mind here you will all remember this debate taking place last fall, last fall, seeing me on television cajoling my colleagues that we've got to act now.

But they came back and said, no, no, no, no. We're not going to act now. Here is what we will do. Let's make a trillion dollar down payment now. We agreed on to cut a trillion. And we're going to set up – they told me – a super committee. This is republicans and democrats and they said we'll set up a super committee in the Senate and the House.

That committee will have jurisdiction that goes across all committee lines. There won't be any way to slow it down. It's going to take a look at all this and it's going to come up with a proposal that automatically has to be voted on and passed unless somebody objects.

I said I didn't think that was going to work. The president said, oh, no, no, it's going to work it and we're going to cut another \$1.5 trillion on that debt so that those credit agencies, international credit agencies won't come in and downgrade the United States' currency, our debt, I mean downgrade our credit standing which has a terrible effect on the economy.

They insisted it would work. And just to make sure it would work they said we've got to put pressure on ourselves. And they said so let's have it – to make us do this job, we're going to have an automatic thing kick in if we don't do the job, something so bad that we can't possibly not make the tough political decisions rationally. It's called sequestration.

For those of you who are junkies you may remember it came from the so-called Gramm-Rudman Sequestration. I'm really confusing you now. You can see how long I've been around. (Laughter) So I said, guys, it isn't going to work.

No, no, no. If we have the Sword of Damocles hanging over our head, the republicans are going to never let defense go down, some of the liberal democrats are going to never let this happen to education and to health care so we'll do it.

Well, guess what? They met. They talked. They argued. And they did nothing. (Laughter) They didn't reach a compromise. And here is what it all got hung upon. Let's cut right through the stuff, guys. We said, here is what we can do. What we should do is we should cut a lot of these programs which we love – which we did, over a trillion dollars worth.

And what we should do is we should let that tax cut for the super wealthy, we should let that lapse. It is supposed to go out of existence. That cost a trillion dollars, for the top two percent. By the way, just a little factoid, 80 percent of that trillion, if you keep the Bush super tax cut, \$800 billion of it goes to people who make a minimum of a million dollars.

Over \$500 million, a half-a-trillion of it goes to 120,000 families in America. Hear me. Let me say this again. It goes to 120,000 households, a half-a-trillion dollars. We said we let that lapse, we pick up a big chunk of change. We're not going to have to cut defense. We'll be able to have our 21st Century Strategy fully funded. But, no, there was no compromise on that.

And now those same guys who were talking me into saying let us do it and let's have this thing called sequestration, they never heard of it. They never heard of it. They all voted for it. It's like what? Seques-what? And now all the scare tactics of what is going to happen.

Ladies and gentlemen, they're saying they don't want to see the same cuts in defense spending that they signed on to – and we agreed. We were (undistinguishable) how not to do that.

And yet they continue to put the interest, in my view, of millionaires and billionaires – because they really believe if you give them the money things are going to go – ahead of the immediate needs of the military and the middle class. So they continue to play brinksmanship.

Now I will take you back a little bit. Just like they did – I'm not making this stuff up, guys, check me out, just like they did last summer when they brought us to the edge of defaulting on our national debt – remember that?

Look, we're going to get through this, in my view. But this is a hell of a way to do business. This is a hell of a way to do business, playing this brinksmanship to the very end. We owe our country more. We owe our military more certainty.

They have to plan years ahead so the Congress, they should act now to reassure the markets, reassure the nation because we shouldn't be playing politics with the United States military. It's that simple. (Applause)

And, by the way, it doesn't have to be this way. I will end with this. It doesn't have to be this way. It wasn't that way, as General Shinseki can tell you, when we sat down with General Dempsey and all of the, all of the Joint Chiefs when they said, look, we've got to have, look at what is around the corner. We need a new strategy for the next decade, the first half of this 20th (sic) Century.

And they reached a balanced approach to reduce the deficit while keeping the military strong. That's what the President is fighting for. And that is what we can do if we ask everyone, everyone, just to pay their fair share, just everyone chip in.

Look, all you have – all we have to do, every one of you met your responsibilities. And you paid a heavy price for meeting those responsibilities. You sacrificed for your country. You've stood side-by-side with your brothers and sisters. And that's the spirit that we need to rekindle in this country again. We can – we can all take a page from your book, a sense of shared sacrifice and understanding that all of us, all of us have to do our part.

That's what my boss is about. I don't ask you to accept that. Democrats, republicans, independents, you make your own judgment. But we're going to keep our word. We're going to

keep our word to maintain the strongest military in the history of the world because we will have the strongest economy for without the strongest economy we can't do it and to extend that American dream so that the middle class can begin to grow again.

Look, folks, let me be crystal, absolutely crystal clear. We're going to keep our commitment to American veterans no matter what happens. By the way, when we wrote that little thing called sequestration I was able to say look, we should exempt a couple of things just in case you guys don't get it right.

And one of the things we exempted is you all. You're not part of it. (Applause) And some actually argued, well, if you put them all in we will have to act. I said, I don't have that much faith in you all. Seriously. That was the discussion. Not a joke. Remember? They wanted to put everything in because that will provide the impetus for us to do the right thing. Whoa.

Look, we wrote advance appropriations into the law so your health care isn't hostage to partisan battles in Washington. Veterans' benefits will be exempt from any sequestration because that is what you have earned. You shouldn't be part of this game. (Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen let me conclude. Let me conclude by saying the contributions of each of you – each of you have made to our nation is going to outlive us all. You have propelled America to heights our predecessors could not even imagine. And you preserved our cherished liberties for generations to come. And they will endure because your blood runs deep.

Your blood runs deep not only in the soil of other countries, your blood runs deep in the veins of your kids and your grandkids and your great-grandkids. So to ensure, to ensure all this we have to just make sure we remember, we remember, all the time, the sacrifice you made.

And I am proud to say that the Department of Transportation last week awarded a \$6 million grant to lay the groundwork for a new memorial in Washington, D.C., long overdue honoring America's disabled veterans. (Applause)

It will be a distinct honor to visit that memorial with my sons and my daughters and my grandchildren because there are no group of people anywhere in America deserving of more of a monument being deserved in our nation's capital than all of you.

So, ladies and gentlemen, thank you again for allowing me to join you. Thank you for your service and sacrifice you have made and continue to make on behalf of all Americans. And may God bless you and may God protect our troops. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for making veterans a priority. The convention will recess until 1:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:26 o'clock, a.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2012.)

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FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

August 4, 2012

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 91st National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday afternoon, August 4, 2012, and was called to order at 1:21 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Donald L. Samuels.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I'd like to call the Convention to order. As a reminder, we ask that everyone please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices.

In opening the first business session of the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, is it fitting and proper that we render the respect due to the flag. Hand salute – two. We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Edwards.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Let us pray. 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 now serve as members of the Disabled American Veterans.

Thank You for our National Commander, Mr. Donald L. Samuels, and for our National Adjutant, Mr. 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 the people of this 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, and in every test an objective. Now 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 all of us. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Let me take just a minute and apologize for starting here a little bit late. As you know, the Vice President was here and he is quite a people person and wanted to go around and visit with the troops and talk to them so that got us a little bit behind.

And we should still – we should still be able to get out of here by 3:00 o'clock and then the Committees would have some time to meet so if you bear with us that's kind of how we've got the schedule set.

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. They must state their name, chapter number and the state they represent. I will now call on the Credentials Committee Chairperson Warren Tobin. Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Good afternoon, National Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Wilson, delegates, alternates and guests. The National Convention Committee on Credentials met this morning in Skyview Room 1. Tony Baskerville and Mike Dobmeier served as advisors.

The first order of business was to elect a Committee chair and a secretary. Warren Tobin from District 14 was elected Committee chairman and William Gibney from District 2 was elected Committee secretary. The following is a current report.

The roll showed 1,008 delegates and 36 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at 5:00 p.m. on August 3rd, 2012.

At the present time we have 422 Chapters, 43 Departments, 40 National Officers, 9 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,027 delegates and 48 alternates and a total vote of 7,654. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee. Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Warren. 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 in the Bylaws and do not require re-adoption. I will now ask the National Adjutant to read the DAV's Statement of Policy.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander.

"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 principle 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. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.

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

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

"It, therefore, follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for 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 SAMUELS: The Chair will entertain a motion for the adoption of the DAV Statement of Policy. Mic 1.

MR. JAMES TANNER: Jim Tanner, Massachusetts Chapter 10, birthplace of Art Wilson, adopts that motion, a motion to adopt.

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

MR. ROLAND PAQUETTE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette, Chapter 20, Department of Texas, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. At this time I would also like to introduce and recognize my National Chief-of-Staff George Martin, Officer-of-the-Day Vader Stulz, and Sergeant-at-Arms Sammy Rogers. Thank you.

Day in, day out, our volunteers are shining examples of how we serve injured and ill veterans and their families. And DAV has more volunteers than any other veterans' service organization.

That includes our hospital volunteers, our Transportation Network drivers and our Local Veterans Assistance Program. These wonderful people not only lead by example, they lead with their hearts. Let's give them all a hand for their service. (Applause)

Our annual awards for outstanding volunteerism are conferred in memory of George H. Seal, who was DAV's Director of Membership and Voluntary Services and a leading organizer and administrator of the VA Volunteer Service program from 1952 until his death in 1977.

Each year we single out our finest DAV and Auxiliary volunteers who exhibit exceptional spirit, compassion and care for our nation's injured and ill veterans.

May Ann Keckler of Valrico, Florida, was selected to receive the DAV Seal Memorial Trophy in recognition of her volunteer work in the spinal cord injury, polytrauma, and recreational therapy units at the Tampa VA Medical Center.

Over the past 15 years she has amassed more than 5,700 hours, volunteering seven days a week, and using a motorized wheelchair to get around the sprawling hospital.

A member of Chapter 67 in Brooksville, Florida, Mary Ann is a Navy veteran who served from 1959 to 1962. She serves with passion and tenacity that ensures veterans and active duty service members and their families receive the best care.

As a veteran, Mary Ann has a great appreciation for the sacrifices our veterans and active duty service members have made for our freedoms. She shares their job and she shares their pain. It is my privilege to present the DAV Seal Memorial Trophy to Mary Ann Keckler. (Standing Ovation) (Whereupon, Ms. Keckler came forward to accept the DAV George H. Seal Trophy.)

MS. MARY ANN KECKLER: Good afternoon my fellow veterans. You know, this is a privilege to get this award with all the hours that are put in for most of our volunteers. I just want to say that this is not possible without the help of others.

No one person can do what I do without all the help I get from everyone else. And at this time, because of it, I would like all of Florida Chapters to stand because this has been my support through all the years I have been doing this. Over there, District 7, where are you? Stand up.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 7 stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

MS. KECKLER: I want all our Florida NSOs who have been behind me for all of this, please stand.

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

MS. KECKLER: Where is Bobby Barrera? He is another one of my big supporters?

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

MS. KECKLER: Hi, Bobby. Dennis Joyner, I know you can't stand but thank you very much for the support you have given me and also Jim Sursely. Again, I have to say thank you to all of you because this is not possible without the help of everybody coming together as a team and getting things done.

And sitting down here wherever she may be – I think she is taking pictures – is our Chief of Voluntary Service Camilla Thompson. There she is. Camilla has been instrumental since she has been onboard of letting me accomplish what I have to accomplish. She has been behind me 100 percent. Thank you, again, very much for this honor. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. Congratulations, Mary Ann. The DAV Auxiliary Seal Memorial Trophy recipient is Patricia Davis of Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Ms. Davis, a member of Unit 19 in Milwaukee, has more than 21,000 hours volunteering over the last 12 years. She is recognized and greatly appreciated for her work with the Transportation Network, serving as a recreational volunteer and chairing the VA Voluntary Services Executive Committee at the Milwaukee VA medical center.

Patty averages 45 hours a week at the Zablocki VA medical center. As Transportation Network coordinator she has 152 volunteer drivers who last year drove 402,000 miles. They transported 16,131 veterans and donated 38,888 hours behind the wheel under her direction. It is a big job and Patty excels in it.

Ladies and gentlemen, Seal Memorial Trophy recipient, Patty Davis. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Ms. Davis came forward to accept the DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Trophy.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Patty, congratulations. Thank you for what you've done.

MS. PATTY DAVIS: Thank you. I – I, when Mr. Minter, wherever Mr. Minter is, when he called me I was lost for words and then I transferred the call to my Chief of Voluntary Service, Denise Jasinski. I just wanted to say, again, like Mary, this is for all of you. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all of you, what you have done for our country.

I need to thank my family, my daughter, my son, my husband – I love you – my sister Terri. All the members of District 12 please stand, the State of Wisconsin, the DAV Auxiliary. I am here for you and you only. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 12 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

MS. DAVIS: I forgot National Commander Patti Rapisand, thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Ladies and gentlemen, Seal – as you know, no organization – I'm sorry. I'm going to back up a line. I want to introduce our National Adjutant Art Wilson for his remarks. Art. You want me to read? All right, stand by. (Laughter)

As you know, no organization does more for America's veterans than DAV. We do more claims work. We have the most extensive voluntary services program, the most respected veterans' advocates, and the most dedicated membership of any veterans' service organization.

Something else DAV has that no other organization can match is the best professional leadership in the entire veterans' community. During his years as National Adjutant Art Wilson has kept our organization headed in the right direction in spite of foul winds and stormy seas. And pointing the way are the four points of DAV's compass – service, quality, integrity and leadership.

Under his leadership, our organization has thrived in good times and in times of challenge. Although our economy has been rocked by a very deep recession for much of this decade, we have not let anything deter us from our mission. We have continued to serve millions of our nation's injured and ill veterans and their families in their time of need and will go on doing just that for as long as they need us.

Since his appointment as National Adjutant in 1994, Art's commitment to our mission and those we serve has never wavered. His professionalism and skillful leadership have kept us at the very top of the veterans' community. And that's just the right place for DAV.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our National Adjutant Art Wilson. (Standing Ovation)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. It's been a long day already, as most of you know, so I think you are entitled. (Laughter) Thank you very much, Don, for that very kind introduction. It has been a great privilege to work with you and all of your officers this year.

And hello everyone and good afternoon and thanks for being here this afternoon. It's been an honor to again serve you as your National Adjutant. And I've had the privilege of leading our professional staff in some remarkable accomplishments. And we have been successful – we have successfully met many of our goals but there is much, much more that needs to be done.

The credit for our achievements goes to you for supporting our initiatives. You are a powerful force, and you are ready to speak when called upon and you speak with a unified voice on behalf of all disabled veterans. You make DAV the very best veterans' service organization in the world.

Together we have won some very important victories for veteran caregivers, women veterans, veterans' employment, homeless veterans, veterans with mental health needs, and veterans suffering from post traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. We are addressing the scandalous delays in the delivery of VA benefits and much, much more.

With your support we are working with the VA to create a streamlined claims system which is already having an effect. We've witnessed it working. Fully developed claims are moving quickly through the VA system. Disability Benefit Questionnaires are eliminating the need for some physical examinations, cutting months off claim reviews and adjudication processes.

The new information technology of the Veterans Benefits Management System is replacing paper files with new electronic files that are quickly accessible and do not get lost. And these are just a few of the new streamlining systems coming online to get individual claims decided quickly and done right the first time.

We are always in the forefront of issues that strengthen the rights and benefits for all of our nation's veterans. Yes, the VA still has a huge claims backlog. However, doing the job right and timely is the key to success.

Let me tell you why the DAV is so necessary in this process. There has been a 31 percent jump in the number of service-disabled veterans since the year 2000. That's 3.3 million veterans from all generations who are now receiving VA compensation. And it is expected that more than half of the 2.4 million veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will file disability claims. So many more will need our help and our advocacy.

Our mission is the core of our organization. We meet the difficult times head-on and we are determined to deal with the challenges that we face. The backlog is certainly a big one but there are others.

We need to ensure that veterans get the health care that they need. We must stop efforts to base compensation solely on ability to work or revise the rating schedule to reduce benefits. In our nation we do not balance the budget on the backs of veterans. (Applause)

We honor their service and we are here for all veterans, ensuring that their rightful benefits are preserved. They don't have to take our word for it. They will judge us by our actions. And we welcome their judgment because the DAV never has and never will let veterans down.

These veterans recognize DAV's leadership. And without the contributions of so many of you, I can't imagine trying to accomplish our mission – and excuse me, now hold your applause – without the help of our National Service Officers, our volunteers, our Transition Service Officers, our Department leaders, our Department and Chapter Service Officers, our Hospital Service Coordinators, our local leaders, and all of you, our membership, our great Auxiliary, and all who make our mission possible. Please, all of you stand for a very appropriate recognition.

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

ADJUTANT WILSON: I don't think we missed anybody. That is wonderful. (Laughter) I'd also like to thank our entire professional staff headed by a team of professional directors and managers who facilitate our mission at the very highest level.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention by name our Executive Directors Marc Burgess from National Headquarters in Cold Spring who also serves as our Chief Financial Officer and Barry Jesinoski of our National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington. Gentlemen, thank you so much for all that you do. (Applause)

I am very pleased on a daily basis to see your commitment to the success of this great organization and the betterment of our cause. And I would be pleased to put up our entire work force team against any other company in this country. They are the very, very best. And I think we owe that team a round of applause who work so hard to facilitate your good deeds. (Applause)

Now, the DAV is changing, as the following video will illustrate. However, the core of our success is our commitment to ensuring that our nation honors those who have served. We are the people who never leave our wounded behind. So join with me now to look back at the DAV accomplishments during the past year and look ahead to our future.

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

We began our 92nd year last August with the selection of our National Officers, highlighted by the election by unanimous consent of National Commander Donald Samuels. A combat-wounded veteran of the Vietnam War, with a wealth of knowledge about service for injured and ill veterans, he led us through a year of tremendous success.

Promising to carry out the great traditions of our organization, Don pledged to leave no veteran behind, providing strong leadership and uniting grassroots membership support for our important legislative initiatives.

One of the first issues we faced was our concern that veteran caregivers benefits were falling far short of needs. We found that VA payments for care at night and during weekends, which are more costly than care during regular working hours, had been overlooked. Our testimony at a House Veteran's Affairs subcommittee proved the catalyst for a more thoughtful distribution of support for caregivers and better care for our most severely injured and ill veterans.

DAV's leadership role helped stall plans by the Department of Defense to redirect funding away from the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW-MIAs. The proposed move would have crippled the global mission to recover and identify our missing service members. Our efforts were pivotal in the restoration of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission which could open former Soviet archives on service members held behind the Iron Curtain during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

On Capitol Hill, our grassroots efforts led to the enactment of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act. This \$1.5 billion measure provides re-training for veterans aged 35 to 60 who have been out of work for at least 26 weeks. It improves transition assistance, job placement and professional licensing and certification for veterans seeking jobs related to their military service specialties. DAV's leadership in support of the bill was recognized with an invitation for Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski to witness the signing of the law by President Obama.

DAV acted quickly last year when a Pew Research Center found serious long-term effects on veterans' health care and benefits to meet the needs of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. The survey discovered that 1.3 million of the 2.3 million veterans of those wars would be eligible for service-connected injuries and illnesses at a time when budget cuts threaten their health care and benefits programs. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that health care costs for these veterans could range from \$5.5 billion to \$8.4 billion by 2020, compared to \$1.9 billion in 2010. With the threat of funding reductions for VA health care, DAV has urged Congress and the administration to give unfailing and unflinching support to these veterans.

Our Structured and Continuing Service Training program last year was again accredited by the American Council on Education as the best training program for National Service Officers. DAV is the only veterans service organization in the nation that has that distinction. Our NSOs receive as many as 10 college credit hours for successfully completing the course, and it keeps our NSOs up to date on modern technological improvements and rule-making to provide the best service for injured and ill veterans.

Veterans making claims for their earned benefits encountered a logjam of delays at the VA with little resolution available. DAV, working closely with the VA, used our expertise to help deploy new programs to help 21st century veterans navigate the stormy sea of stalled claims.

DAV's partnership with the VA to create a Fully Developed Claims, or FDCs, process began to show benefits this year in Chicago and other VA regional offices. Aimed at reducing the claims backlog, DAV found that 25 percent of such claims were rated within 69 days. Chicago, once the toughest place in America to win a disability claim, now has more FDCs than any other regional office in the nation. It shows that DAV's partnership and expertise are making the claims system move quicker and improving accuracy of claims decisions.

We also turned back a VA proposed initiative to make Board of Veterans Appeals video hearings mandatory and to abandon the option of face-to-face field hearings. DAV strongly believes veterans should have the option of choosing the type of hearing that is best suited them. While video hearings offer many benefits to the veteran, mandating them in all cases

would deny veterans the chance to face the BVA instead of a computer monitor and camera. DAV argued that the right of veterans to choose outweighs the convenience to board members.

DAV's Charitable Service Trust support of homeless veterans facilities is helping the number of veterans living on the streets of our nation. Only a decade ago, the number of homeless veterans exceeded 250,000. Our Trust support of these agencies is helping the VA reach its goal of ending the tragedy of homeless veterans in our nation by 2015.

When disaster struck early this year, DAV was on the scene to help injured and ill veterans who suffered the most. As tornadoes struck across the Midwest, our NSOs were quickly dispatched to render disaster aid. The worst hit area was Kentucky, and many of our National Headquarters staff were among the first to arrive to offer help. They provided disaster aid vouchers, cleaned up property and removed debris from the storms.

Our outreach programs took on a new look this year as DAV negotiated a partnership with the USA Warriors Ice Hockey team. The injured and ill veterans are taking to the ice to prove their abilities as athletes despite their war-time wounds. The program brings out the very best in people, and inspires the public who see them at various sites around the nation, including National Hockey League games. Our partnership with the team means these veterans will be wearing DAV's logo on their jerseys and telling the DAV story wherever they appear.

DAV launched two new national Public Service Announcements this past year, featuring many of our own members, and the results have been remarkable. To date, these announcements have garnered more than 100-million television viewers, and if the trend continues this may be DAV's most successful PSA campaign. It's proof that there is a thirst among the public to know more about the challenges our heroes face, and how they can help support DAV.

Our partnership with Golden Corral restaurants on Military Appreciation Monday last November again topped \$1 million in public donations to DAV Chapters and Departments. This remarkably successful program shows the public's respect, gratitude and admiration for our nation's veterans.

DAV has been at the forefront of efforts to partner with institutions of higher learning. On Veterans Day last year, we took part in a VA Benefits Seminar and Community Support Symposium at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. DAV provided information to veterans about how to access their earned benefits. This is the type of one-stop service needed by veterans and their families. Our Chapters and Departments are working with colleges and universities across the nation to provide increased service to our veterans.

The 2012 Mid-Winter Conference gave National Commander Samuels the opportunity to present DAV's most important legislative goals to members of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. His powerful presentation stressed the need for adequate funding for medical care and research, as well as overhauling the claims process.

Commander Samuels also criticized budget gimmicks labeled as management efficiencies which may have taken a billion dollars from VA health care. We are concerned that medical services were being withheld from veterans or reduced with unreasonable wait lists for care.

He was strongly supported by hundreds of our leaders there, who added their voice to the push for our legislative agenda forward.

Commander Samuels was a guest and a participant at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic this spring. He joined nearly 400 other veterans and service members to test their skills at sports like skiing, scuba diving, hockey, rock climbing and trap shooting. It was Commander Samuels' first time at the winter sports clinic, and he hit the slopes on a sit-ski to experience the adventure.

Two years, ago, when we celebrated our 90th anniversary, we discussed our need to evolve and grow to meet the challenges of a new century. While we are held in high public regard and respect, there is a crucial need for DAV to engage our members and the public while emphasizing that our organization is one of service and advocacy.

This year we continued work on evolving our organization for the 21st century. So we're making some changes in the way we present ourselves.

We're making changes in how we talk about ourselves, which I will discuss in a moment. We are also changing our visual image. We have had the red, white and blue "DAV" for a long time. But some careful research found it doesn't resonate with veterans and the public. Our stylization and lettering is often confused with other organizations that use red, white and blue letters.

So I have something to show you. It's a new ensign for the DAV. So as we change from this – our old logo – I am very pleased to present to you the new DAV logo which will lead us into our next century of service....

(Whereupon, the conclusion of the videotape)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Ladies and gentlemen, I respectfully direct your attention to the screen directly behind me.

(Whereupon, the new DAV logo and the new tagline of "Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served" was displayed.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: This is what you call our new logo and our new tagline. And it is terrific. You know, this isn't the first time in DAV's history that we've made such a bold decision. And this type of change and a more intensive approach to branding DAV that so many of you have been asking for is now becoming a reality.

I know that you will welcome our new logo and you can imagine how this new design will help us connect with veterans from all over the country. However, there is more than just an image.

We know – we now know from the research that has been done that we need to refine our identity into one that is more relevant and prospective – more relevant to prospective members and our devoted supporting contributors and the general public as well.

Our mission statement is changing but our purpose remains the same. We are, as we did for nearly 250,000 veterans and their families last year, empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

We accomplish this by making sure that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; by fighting for the interests of America's injured on Capitol Hill; and by educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of disabled veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

Our new slogan, "fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served" better explains the broad population that we serve. We are still "building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families and survivors" but we are saying it in a way that engages our fellow citizens and speaks to the heart of our mission of service.

As individual members, Chapters and Departments, you will play a crucial role in carrying our new messages to veterans and the public. By growing our membership and building great public awareness of the DAV and the work that we do on behalf of America's veterans and their families, we will carry forth our mission of service and advocacy into the second century. (Applause)

You know, I am continuously struck by the depth of our advocacy and commitment. I want to thank the outstanding leadership of National Commander Don Samuels. Don, you have been a very truly inspiring and powerful leader this past year. And I want to thank you so much for all that you have done. Thank you, Commander. (Applause) Being grateful for all that you have done this year and over the year of decades of your service, you have always been a sterling asset to the DAV.

You are the heart and soul of the greatest veterans' service organization in the world. Thank you again for your compassionate commitment and dedication to serving our country's veterans. Thank you, Don. (Applause) You know there is very –

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

ADJUTANT WILSON: There is very little we could do without the wholehearted support of the American people. We are grateful for their loyalty and generosity and to those who have served in defense of our nation. And we are thankful for their encouragement to continue our mission of service and advocacy.

This is an important year for all of us. The General Election this November will offer us many choices. Vote for whomever you choose, but vote. Remember the candidates who have a strong record on veterans issues.

The men and women we elect this fall will determine the future of our veterans' programs. We have witnessed how quickly veterans are forgotten when wars end so we must be vigilant for the rights of our veterans. And I know your passion for the sacredness of veterans' rights isn't about protection of yourselves but more about protecting the rights and benefits of all other veterans.

As the war in Afghanistan plays out, we must welcome our men and women home – not with spending cuts that threaten their rights and benefits, but remembering their sacrifices with programs that will serve the needs of those who preserved our safety and liberty. We begin that, doing that by voting and voting for those who we know will make a difference for veterans.

Our elected representatives in Washington look to the DAV for partnership because they know that we are the strongest advocate for veterans, seeking what is right and proper, but recognizing the responsibility of what the government has. (Applause) Go ahead, give them the business. (Applause)

You know, DAV seeks to fulfill the promises made to the men and women who served. That's our mission. And no one – no one anywhere has earned that distinction anywhere else.

Before I conclude my report there is one more piece of news that I would like to share, that the Vice President touched on a little bit this morning. And you have heard us discuss now for many years about moving a road in Washington to make way for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

I can tell you, you don't see any struggles until you get into that kind of a mess. (Laughter) Well, just this past week we have been informed that the Department of Transportation has awarded the District of Columbia a grant of over \$6 million specifically for necessary road relocation at the site of our Memorial. (Standing Ovation)

I have to tell you, as you know, you've heard it like I have, we've been doing this a long time. But this removes one of the last remaining obstacles to building your memorial in the nation's capital.

And what this means is that as soon as the street work begins, the Memorial will be able to soon start construction on the site, hoping for dedication perhaps in 18 months, just depending how long the bureaucracy just kind of drags it out. But I've got to tell you this, there is light at the end of the tunnel and it is now shining brightly. And that's what I call good news for you. (Applause)

I say again it has been my pleasure to serve you this past year. Once again, it's a wonderful organization. You're a wonderful, wonderful group of fraternal members and activists and volunteers and employees.

Thank you so much for all that you do. God bless our fighting men and women across the world. And God bless America. And God bless the DAV. Thank you very much. Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: The Chair will entertain a motion to accept the National Adjutant's report. Mic 1.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD MARBES: Okay, Past National Commander Dick Marbes from Wisconsin. I move to adopt the report of National Adjutant Wilson. And I know that I

do so with the total support of every delegate in this room and our sincere appreciation for the bold and exciting leadership that Mr. Wilson continues to exhibit as evidenced in this report. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: May I have a second? Mic 1.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALAN W. BOWERS: Mic 1.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 1.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOWERS: Alan Bowers, Past National Commander and delegate from Chapter 46, Massachusetts, I, with great pride and thanks, Art, for that message, second the motion. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you for a great job, Art.

DAV's role as an advocate for disabled veterans and their families is clearly visible in its nationwide Transportation Network. We have 192 Hospital Service Coordinators around the country who arrange transportation for injured and ill veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment.

Since 1987 the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, and the National Service Foundation Columbia Trust have purchased 2,469 vans at a cost of more than \$53 million.

Throughout our nine-decade history the DAV has received unprecedented support from many resources. But there is only one committed 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 is Ford Motor Company.

We are happy to hear that the auto industry is strong. For DAV and its members we know that Ford has always been strong. Our partnership is 90 years strong and will continue to be so. Joining us today is a special guest with more news about the long-standing Ford-DAV partnership.

Jim Vella is President of Ford Motor Company Fund. In this role he leads all – in this role he leads community service-related activities, including coordination of volunteer efforts by Ford employees and all activities of the Ford Motor Company Fund, a separate organization funded largely by Ford Motor Company.

The Ford Motor Company Fund's primary focus is education but it also supports organizations and innovative programs that promote automotive safety, education and assist communities with a variety of needs.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm DAV welcome to the man from Ford, Mr. Jim Vella. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, "Ford Truck "Man" played as Mr. Vella came to the podium.)

MR. JIM VELLA: I love that song. (Laughter) I hear it at night. And I always hear it when I come down here so it's always nice to be here with you. Good afternoon and thank you, National Commander Samuels.

But really what an amazing day it has been so far. This is kind of a tough podium to speak from. We've had quite a few, a number of really great and terrific speakers today.

I also wanted to comment on the logo. I think the only thing that would improve it is a little Ford blue oval in the corner. (Applause) Other than that I think it's fantastic. And actually we like it a lot and I will be able to show you an example of what it looks like on a Ford in a few minutes.

But, you know, one thing that's important to keep in mind, it may just be only a logo but you folks do really terrific work. And it might be one of the best kept secrets of the work that you do that doesn't necessarily always get out there. And by using things like logos you're able to help tell that story.

And it's really important for organizations like yours in the world today to be able to gain recognition for what you are doing. And certainly at Ford we recognize the great work that you have been doing and we appreciate it. So it's great to be back here and to have the honor to speak with you again.

And it's really humbling to be here. But it's especially good to be here during this 90th Anniversary of the relationship between Ford Motor Company and DAV. The relationship, as you may know, began in 1922, when Henry Ford organized a cross-country caravan of 50 Model T's to transport disabled veterans to the Second Annual Convention that you held in San Francisco.

And recently – I always wondered, this is the fourth Convention I have been to and we always tell this story and I've always wondered why Henry Ford didn't provide vehicles for the first Convention.

And recently I was told that the first Convention was held in Michigan so they didn't need cross-country vehicles to take our folks out. So I guess we still owe you one, technically, (Laughter) but – and we'll pay that back some day. But this relationship has been strong for 90 years and I can assure you that our company's intent is to keep it strong for the next 90.

So this was the beginning – (Applause) Thank you. This was the beginning of a relationship that we value greatly. And we appreciate all the DAV does for so many of our veterans.

Ford's support for veterans is not limited to our relationship with DAV. Since last fall we've sponsored three Honor Flights to take World War II veterans to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. And it's been our honor to be able to show our thanks to so many wonderful members of the Greatest Generation.

I guess now that we have a disabled – another memorial coming we're going to have to talk about how we organize some of our vans to take folks over there. We also support programs through Veterans' Village and Reboot in San Diego that help veterans transition from military to civilian life.

And we're working on a project called "Operation Grateful Nation" through which high school students across the country will submit drawings and messages of thanks which will be sent to active military. The collection of 5,000 drawings will then be made into a mural that will eventually be on permanent display.

This support of veterans is just one example of the many ways of our overall commitment to our communities and an example of how Ford goes beyond making great cars and trucks to drive a brighter future for all of us.

Likewise, you have supported us by purchasing thousands of Ford vehicles through the Ford Partnership Recognition Program or what we sometimes call "X" plan which is a discount on Ford vehicles for DAV members and their families. Since 2001, DAV members and their families have purchased over 18,200 vehicles from Ford. That's phenomenal. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Be sure to stop by and see my Ford colleagues who are just outside the ballroom. They can help with any questions you have on the X plan vehicle purchase program or on our aftermarket adaptive equipment program, Mobility Motoring.

We will also have surveys available for you to complete and each person who completes the survey will receive a 90th Partnership Mustang pin and a poker chip – You have to use the poker chip at our booth. You can't try and put it in the machine out there (Laughter) – which allows a spin on the prize wheel for a chance to win one of many prizes, including a Kindle and a \$100 gift card. So please be sure to stop by and at least say hello.

And now I'd like to ask National Commander Samuels and National Adjutant Wilson if they would please join me at the podium.

(Whereupon, Commander Samuels and Adjutant Wilson joined Mr. Vella at the podium.)

MR. VELLA: Ford Motor Company began donating vehicles to DAV in 1996, and today I'd like to announce that we are proud to continue our support of DAV through the donation of another eight new E-350 passenger vans. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Ford E-350 DAV vans on the floor at either side of the stage were unveiled.)

MR. VELLA: So you can see how that new logo looks out there and then what it will look like out on the road. This gift means that Ford has donated a grand total of 164 vehicles to the DAV. (Applause) We are happy to be able to do this to show our appreciation for all of the sacrifices those who have served have made to protect our freedom.

Please look at the screen to see this year's map which shows the vehicle donation locations. This year's recipients are VA medical centers in: Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, West Virginia, Montana, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. (Applause)

And now on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee, I'd like to present you with this ceremonial check for \$200,000 which covers the cost of the vans. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Vella presented a ceremonial check to Commander Samuels and Adjutant Wilson.)

MR. VELLA: Don't go away just yet. And so now I have a special, another special presentation to make. In honor of our 90th Anniversary of partnering with DAV I'd like to announce that Ford Motor Company Fund is increasing our support and we are donating \$90,000 over the next two years to support the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program for the 2012-2013 period. (Standing Ovation)

We share DAV's commitment to supporting educational initiatives for youth and we're happy to present you with this check for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Mr. Vella presented a ceremonial check to Commander Samuels and Adjutant Wilson.)

MR. VELLA: So National Commander Samuels – let me go back to my notes here. (Laughter) You can keep going on that if you want. Would you please stay here with me and I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Rapisand to please join us on the stage.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Rapisand joined Mr. Vella and Commander Samuels.)

MR. VELLA: The DAV has a wonderful history and a bright future because of the strength of its leadership. In recognition of your hard work and dedication over the past year I would like to present to each of you with a small gift from Ford Motor Company to thank you for all your hard work. It's not a check.

(Whereupon, Mr. Vella presented gifts to Commander Samuels and DAV Auxiliary Commander Rapisand.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is it a mustang? (Laughter)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. VELLA: Thank you, again, for your hard work, and leadership. You have made a difference in the lives of so many veterans over this past year.

In closing, on behalf of the more than 166,000 men and women of Ford Motor Company, who without their hard work we wouldn't be able to provide this support to you and so many other organizations, I just want to thank all of you and recognize all of you for your dedication to service. You are doing amazing work. Please keep it up.

Thank you for your bravery. Thank you for your loyalty. And thank you for your helping to preserve our freedom. God bless all of you and God bless America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Jim, thank you so much for all you do for veterans. We are deeply grateful and delighted by Ford's compassion and kindness today and always.

By the way, Jim, this generous \$200,000 donation allows DAV to purchase additional vans and continue more than 90 years of cooperation between two great American institutions. It also impresses me greatly to say that since 1996 Ford has donated a total of 164 vehicles worth more than \$3.4 million. (Applause)

As a worldwide leader in automotive engineering and innovation, Ford embodies the vision, the compassion and generosity that proves the bottom line isn't always about dollars and cents. (Applause)

Ford's commitment to our cause and generosity these many years shows its passion to stand up for the heroes who make our great American way of life possible. Thank you. (Applause)

On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your benevolent leadership and for making the needs of disabled veterans a priority. (Applause)

I would be remiss if I failed to also acknowledge 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 VA medical centers.

Since 2000 the Ford Motor Company Fund has donated \$470,000 to this scholarship program. Thank you, Jim, and all the dedicated folks on your team who help support the DAV's services and programs. We are most grateful. (Applause)

Serving those who put their country above themselves is not just a tradition but a way of life for some. The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program each year honors outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service programs.

These scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have selflessly donated their time and compassion to injured and ill veterans in their communities. This year we have selected eight of the nation's outstanding young volunteers to receive cash awards from the program.

The first-place scholarship of \$20,000 was awarded to Christiana Mae Hess of Martinsburg, West Virginia, who has contributed more than 347 hours of service at the VA medical center.

Ms. Hess donated her time to the outpatient pharmacy and ambulatory care unit where she was a first-line of communication with patients, explaining procedures to obtain prescriptions. She also assisted nurses by preparing packages for patient testing and updating pharmacy manuals.

Her future goals have been greatly influenced by her experience volunteering at the VA medical center. And she has made working for the VA as a pharmacist a long-term goal. I am honored to present this scholarship award to Christiana Mae Hess. Christiana. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Ms. Hess advanced to the podium to receive a ceremonial check.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Congratulations.

MS. CHRISTIANA MAE HESS: Thank you. My feelings today can be summed up in two words: thank you. It is truly an honor to be the recipient of the 2012 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship, standing in front of an audience full of our nation's heroes. I thank Jim Vella, President of Ford Motor Company, for his commitment to our veterans and volunteers. (Applause)

May 2nd was the day that changed my life forever. The call that told me I won the scholarship I will never forget. I was in the girls' bathroom in the middle of pre-cal. I remember telling myself, "Okay, Christiana, sound mature. Sound professional. Speak loud and clear." But in the inside I was just dying – dying to jump up and down and scream like a five-year old. (Laughter)

When the phone call ended my excitement took over and I instinctively danced like a complete idiot in front of a group of girls that I did not know. (Laughter) The girl in front of me washing her hands gave me the dirtiest look but I did not care. I just found out I was going to be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship and a trip to Las Vegas. (Applause) And I'm not even old enough to play the games. (Laughter)

But I am in a complete daze of excitement speaking to you right now. All of your hundreds of faces are making me so nervous right now but I am so thankful to have been given this opportunity to be with you right now.

There is not enough kind, gracious and humble words to express the utmost thank you that you all deserve. You have not only given me a check with quite a few zeroes on it but so much more. You have given me my future. You have given me reassurance that my dream of becoming a pharmacist can and will happen.

I am – you have given me determination, strength and willpower to make sure I work my hardest in school so I won't let any of you down. I am promising you right now that my volunteering and willingness of helping others does not stop here.

I thank you for believing in me, that I have the qualities and values that even come close to those of the great Jesse Brown. (Applause)

Volunteering has truly changed my life and I will continue to do so and encourage others to volunteer as well. I started volunteering the summer after my 9th grade year and every summer since but not because I had to but because I wanted to. Volunteering has a grab on my heart that I can't quite explain.

To me it is that opportunity to bring a piece of sunshine to someone's day is the reason why my smile never fades and my volunteering will never end. I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to volunteer because it has helped me grow as a person, gaining responsibility, confidence and work experience.

I have a drive that lives inside me but I would not be here in this position right now without a special group of people in my life. I would like to thank my parents for their continuous support in everything that I have done. My mom has done everything humanly possible to make sure that my future is bright. And I would never be here in this position without her support and guidance.

I would also like to thank the two youth volunteers that I encouraged to volunteer at the VA medical center: Jalisa Bore and Eddie Savinski. They have truly done an amazing job this summer.

I would like to thank the entire outpatient pharmacy group at the VA medical center. They have truly been an amazing group of people to work with as they have helped me determine my career goal as becoming a pharmacist.

I would like to thank the veterans at the Martinsburg VA medical center for their continuous support in everything I have done. I would also like to thank the West Virginia Senators Joe Manchin and John Rockefeller for their support acknowledging my commitment to the veterans.

And, finally, I would like to conclude with one more warm, sincere thank you for all of your service for our country because without it I would never have these opportunities at a great future. All of you are my heroes. I thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Congratulations, Christiana. She is one of eight distinguished young volunteers to receive the Jesse Brown Youth Volunteer Scholarships. Let's give them all a big hand. (Applause) We congratulate Christiana and all those recipients and young volunteers who are improving the quality of life for our veterans in hospitals nationwide.

At this time I'd like to entertain a motion that the list of delegates and alternates selected by the 21 National Districts and the National Blind Veterans Chapter to serve on Convention Committees be admitted into the record of the proceedings of this Convention. Do I hear a second to that motion?

MS. HOLLY HOPPE: Mic 1. My name is Holly Hoppe, I am a delegate from Chapter 3, Green Bay, Wisconsin, I second that motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Would you please make the motion. (Laughter)

MS. HOPPE: I will make the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. Now, may I have a second?

MR. ARMANDO ALBARRAN: Mic 1

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 1.

MR. ALBARRAN: Armando Albarran, Past National Commander, Department of Texas, Chapter 5, seconds that motion.

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

I will now ask the National Adjutant to read the names of the Convention Committee Advisors that I have appointed and who received the approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The Committee Advisors are Credentials, Michael E. Dobmeier and Anthony Baskerville; General Resolutions and Membership, Adrian Atizado and Chad Moos; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joseph A. Violante and Scott Trimarchi; Constitution and Bylaws, Bradley Barton and Edward Hartman; Finance, Delphine Metcalf-Foster and J. Marc Burgess; Employment, Harold J. Hicks and Jeff Hall; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Lee Ewing, Joy Ilem and Ron Minter; and Nomination of National Officers, Gene A. Murphy and Richard E. Marbes.

The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolution Coordinating Office on the third floor. I just follow directions. (Laughter) That's the wrong room number. See, you know you get the right scoop: Bronze 3 on the Casino Level which is right down, right outside the door. Right. Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry, Commander. Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Are you done?

ADJUTANT WILSON: You can go now. (Laughter) Go ahead.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Before we conclude, I ask for our National Adjutant to come forward with any important announcements. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT WILSON: You don't think this has been a stressful day? (Laughter) Okay, I'm going to give this a shot. I hope I get it right. 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 that all Committees complete their work just as soon as possible. Immediately following the conclusion of Committee meetings, Committee chairs or secretaries should deliver their deliberations to the Resolution Coordinating Office in Bronze 3 on the Casino Level.

On Monday afternoon at 2:30 the Under Secretary for Benefits, Brigadier General Allison – General Allison Hickey will be the guest speaker at the Women Veterans Seminar. This highly anticipated event will be held in the Grand Ballroom Platinum on the Casino Level of the hotel.

The Communications Department will be holding a seminar on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock in Grand Ballroom Gold and I'm sure that many of you are interested in learning more about the exciting future of DAV's communications and will want to attend this most important gathering.

District 1 will reconvene their District meeting in front of the DAV Ford signs over here by the POW/MIA table immediately following this session.

The Treasurer's Report from the Board of Directors will be issued tomorrow morning.

The National Commander's Reception begins this evening at seven o'clock here in the Event Center. We will enjoy a special encore performance by the New Directors Veterans Choir and have a chance – and you can have a chance to unwind after a very, very eventful day.

But we don't want to unwind too much because the Second Business Session will be held bright and early tomorrow morning at 8:30. At tomorrow's session we will receive the Board of Directors' report, and we will also honor actor and DAV friend Gary Sinise for his contributions to the veteran community.

I am done. (Laughter) Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Art.

ADJUTANT WILSON: I'm not quite done yet.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: You're still not done?

ADJUTANT WILSON: Let me just pick this up from here. (Laughter) We're giving away DAV backpacks to five delegates attending the Convention. If your name is called and you are in the hall please seek Tony Baskerville up here on stage as soon as we adjourn to pick up or to receive your backpack.

Now I've got to read the list: James Sursely – (Groans) I didn't do that – (Laughter) from Chapter 9 in Florida – no, I'm sorry Chapter 16 in Florida; Richard Spillaine from Arizona; Mason Causey from Louisiana; Michael Burns from California; (Applause) Aaron Cunningham from Ohio; and that's all five. Thank you, Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Please rise. And I will ask Chaplain Edwards to lead us in prayer.
Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Our God, we realize that Your power is without measure. The treasury of Your goodness is without limit. For you have blessed the Disabled American Veterans with many dedicated members and fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

Therefore we ask, Father, 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 SAMUELS: The Convention stands in recess until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.
(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:37 o'clock, p.m., on Saturday, August 4, 2012.)

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Committee on Credentials

Advisors: Baskerville, Anthony and Dobmeier, Michael

District	Member Name	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter State	No.
1	Heckel, Marion	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	37
	Hoey, William	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
2	Gibney, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Whittingham, Popeye	Alternate	NEW YORK	23
3	Saxon, Benjamin	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
	Backus, Denis	Alternate	VERMONT	3
4	Roberts, Christopher	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Sweeney, Donald	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	15
5	Noel, Kevin	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	8
	Foht, Howard	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
6	Berrios, Luz	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	5
	Cooper, Stephanie	Alternate	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	3
7	D'Angelo, Lawrence	Delegate	FLORIDA	94
	Phillips, Alfonsa	Alternate	FLORIDA	86
8	Weatherford, Joseph	Delegate	TENNESSEE	3
	Fink, John	Alternate	TENNESSEE	28
9	Broddie, Gordon	Delegate	GEORGIA	10
	Booker, Leon	Alternate	GEORGIA	1
10	White, Jo	Delegate	MICHIGAN	20
	Peddle, Todd	Alternate	MICHIGAN	44
11	Hanneman, Dennis	Delegate	OHIO	77
	Bailey, James	Alternate	OHIO	117
12	Dorman, Roger	Delegate	WISCONSIN	60
	Buck, Ted	Alternate	ILLINOIS	28
13	Bratcher, Thomas	Delegate	INDIANA	27
	Ward, Kenneth	Alternate	INDIANA	5
14	Tobin, Warren	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	31
	Remus, Gregory	Alternate	MINNESOTA	38
15	Dillard, Clifford	Delegate	KANSAS	4
	Schultze, Kathleen	Alternate	MISSOURI	1
16	Guglielmoni, James	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	144
	Pagdilao, Allen	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	60
17	Reed, Donald	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Price, Jon	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Kanofsky, Gene	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Wagar, Fred	Alternate	NEVADA	1
19	Reding, Francis	Delegate	WASHINGTON	6
	Hume, Ernest	Alternate	WASHINGTON	41
20	Hill, John	Delegate	TEXAS	20
	Cordero, Jose	Alternate	TEXAS	194
21	Halford, Jerletta	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Wekenmann, Paul	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	88
99	Kaminsky, Paul	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

Advisors: Atizado, Adrian and Moos, Chad

District	Member Name	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter State	No.
1	Tanner, James	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Epps, David	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	88
2	Reiter, Thomas	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Morales, Paul	Alternate	NEW YORK	28
3	Zibrida, Michael	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	21
	Pixley, Robert	Alternate	VERMONT	15
4	Werlich, Ronald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Velez, Abraham	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Blow, Samuel	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
	Burlikowski, Albert	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
6	McCroskey, Allan	Delegate	VIRGINIA	14
	Murphy Lugo, Alejandro	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	7
7	Diffenbaugh, Guy	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Sabino, Samuel	Alternate	FLORIDA	11
8	Kalk, Edward	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Miller, Arthur	Alternate	ALABAMA	87
9	Young, Worden	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	12
	Walls, Thomas	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
10	Henshaw, Garry	Delegate	MICHIGAN	22
	Barenbrugge, Ricky	Alternate	MICHIGAN	19
11	Parker, John	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Alexander, Phillip	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Arens, Robert	Delegate	ILLINOIS	36
	Helgeson, Rodney	Alternate	WISCONSIN	27
13	Ross, Walter	Delegate	INDIANA	42
	Coley, William	Alternate	INDIANA	72
14	Weiss, Richard	Delegate	MINNESOTA	22
	Muilenburg, Harold	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	11
15	Janecek, Paul	Delegate	IOWA	2
	Dreiling, Michael	Alternate	KANSAS	18
16	Raba, Mariana	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Johnson, Kirk	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Prescott, Gary	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Mitchell, Edward	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	5
18	Walker, Richard	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Parocua, Ramiro	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Royse, Sarah	Delegate	OREGON	11
	Young, Bruce	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Garcia, Jose	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Brown, William	Alternate	TEXAS	9
21	Brandt, Robert	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	32
	Sellers, Tommy	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	32
99	O'Connell, Dennis	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights

Advisors: Violante, Joseph and Trimarchi, Scott

District	Member	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter Name	No.
1	Hogan, John	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Reed, Vincent	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	25
2	Novak, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	212
	Edwards, Christopher	Alternate	NEW YORK	212
3	Schatz, Richard	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	McKinney, Darrell	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Sullivan, Colleen	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Bernier, Barry	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	10
5	Cudworth, Robert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
	Petherbridge, Jeffrey	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
6	Hurley, Dennis	Delegate	WEST VIRGINIA	56
	Sater, Michael	Alternate	MARYLAND	22
7	Linden, Albert	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Salt, Shirley	Alternate	FLORIDA	42
8	Riley, David	Delegate	ALABAMA	7
	Varner, Carol	Alternate	ALABAMA	27
9	Jimmerson, Burl	Delegate	GEORGIA	33
	Pridmore, Dorothy	Alternate	GEORGIA	90
10	Poest, Carl	Delegate	MICHIGAN	14
	Pruitt, Steven	Alternate	MICHIGAN	2
11	Stith, Michael	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Cunningham, Aaron	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Labelle, Al	Delegate	WISCONSIN	57
	Aaron, Mark	Alternate	ILLINOIS	1
13	Baker, Jerome	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	Purcell, Ralph	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Van Emmerik, Eric	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Erickson, Robert	Alternate	MINNESOTA	2
15	Selk, Leo	Delegate	NEBRASKA	2
	Wille, Jon	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Burns, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	95
	Bowen, Lloyd	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	2
17	Straub, Loren	Delegate	COLORADO	5
	Perez, George	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	3
18	Hansen, John	Delegate	NEVADA	1
	Ginnery, Kenneth	Alternate	ARIZONA	1
19	Key, Karen	Delegate	WASHINGTON	9
	Kotanchick, Gregory	Alternate	WASHINGTON	41
20	Cortez, Israel	Delegate	TEXAS	194
	Vaughan, Bettie	Alternate	TEXAS	128
21	Dubin, Gregory	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88
	Pandos, Ronald	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	9
99	Traynor, Gary	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Constitution and Bylaws
 Advisors: Barton, Bradley and Hartman, Edward

District	Member Name	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter Name	No.
1	Patterson, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Reed, Anita	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	25
2	Krulder, Dennis	Delegate	NEW YORK	125
	Robinson, Richard	Alternate	NEW YORK	15
3	Fournier, Richard	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Gehring, Jim	Alternate	MAINE	10
4	Wheeler, Wilfred	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	10
	Mulligan, Gerard	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	24
5	Birtle, Timothy	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	34
	Greene, Raymond	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
6	Holt, Curtis	Delegate	D C	3
	King, John	Alternate	VIRGINIA	2
7	Tolfa, Richard	Delegate	FLORIDA	84
	Ruiz, Luz	Alternate	FLORIDA	86
8	Bailey, Carl	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Arsement, Raymond	Alternate	LOUISIANA	17
9	Maddox, Christopher	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	13
	Gray, Joseph	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
10	Shepherd, Frank	Delegate	MICHIGAN	7
	Dempster, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Bertschy, Robert	Delegate	OHIO	47
	Pacak, William	Alternate	OHIO	2
12	Johnson, Kevin	Delegate	WISCONSIN	3
	Vargas, Louis	Alternate	ILLINOIS	103
13	Whelihan, Michael	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Syberg, Mark	Alternate	INDIANA	60
14	Grantier, Kevin	Delegate	MONTANA	3
	Krajewski, Richard	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Shuey, James	Delegate	NEBRASKA	7
	Thornburg, David	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	O'Brien, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Bogan, James	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Gutzmer, George	Delegate	UTAH	8
	Duke, Stevan	Alternate	UTAH	7
18	Ramos, Oscar	Delegate	ARIZONA	16
	Melton, Mark	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Barton, Stan	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Gonzales, Michael	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Cortez, Israel	Alternate	TEXAS	194
21	Pandos, Ronald	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Deberry, Robert	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	56
99	Martino, Anthony	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Finance and Dues

Advisors: Burgess, John and Metcalf-Foster, Delphine

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
1	Follis, James	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	85
	Cammick, John	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Wilson, David	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Day, Donald	Alternate	NEW YORK	28
3	Vaccari, Richard	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	9
	Wright, Henry	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	9
4	Church, Albert	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Dakin, Glenn	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	47
5	DeSanti, Carmen	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	21
	Fiumara, Philip	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
6	Wilcoxon, Robert	Delegate	MARYLAND	26
	Parker, Glynn	Alternate	MARYLAND	17
7	Bristol, Fred	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Merida, Yvonne	Alternate	FLORIDA	13
8	Patterson, Richard	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Cook, Tommy	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	6
9	Bryant, Cleveland	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
	Dillard, Gloria	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	21
10	Dempsey, James	Delegate	MICHIGAN	13
	Lamphere, Layton	Alternate	MICHIGAN	39
11	Kershaw, Raymond	Delegate	OHIO	20
	Caine, William	Alternate	OHIO	116
12	Resner, Norman	Delegate	ILLINOIS	42
	Fredrickson, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	52
13	Peterson, John	Delegate	INDIANA	15
	Brown, Francis	Alternate	INDIANA	72
14	Whitehead, Stephen	Delegate	MINNESOTA	10
	Valtinson, David	Alternate	MINNESOTA	13
15	Carr, Ronald	Delegate	MISSOURI	11
	Belgum, Vicki	Alternate	NEBRASKA	8
16	Contreras, Daniel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	99
	Wingett, Kenneth	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	48
17	Straub, Erin	Delegate	COLORADO	5
	Smith, Wendy	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	32
18	Coutchie, Robert	Delegate	NEVADA	13
	Talmon, Leroy	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Lougee, Robert	Delegate	WASHINGTON	33
	Bacon, Gregory	Alternate	IDAHO	9
20	Garcia, Jose	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Moreland, Harold	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Donovan, John	Delegate	ARKANSAS	10
	Cook, Vernon	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7

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Committee on Employment
 Advisors: Hall, Jeffrey and Hicks, Harold

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
1	Fitzgerald, David	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	90
	Leonard, Patrick	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Robinson, Keith	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Lee, Tony	Alternate	NEW YORK	126
3	Laverdiere, James	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Zibrida, Michael	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Newell, Harry	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Picaroni, Charles	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Darcangelo, Vincent	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
	Morelli, Richard	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	11
6	Cuocci, Joseph	Delegate	MARYLAND	18
	Nieves, Javish	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	5
7	Keckler, Mary Ann	Delegate	FLORIDA	67
	Cocilovo, Patricia	Alternate	FLORIDA	42
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
	Windham, Raybon	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Robinson, William	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	1
	Tyson, Leroy	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	20
10	Wells, Douglas	Delegate	MICHIGAN	113
	Hughes, Albert	Alternate	MICHIGAN	113
11	Marcum, Kenneth	Delegate	OHIO	89
	Davis, Will	Alternate	OHIO	144
12	Mc Dermott, James	Delegate	ILLINOIS	28
	Walkowski, Kevin	Alternate	WISCONSIN	34
13	Huff, James	Delegate	KENTUCKY	4
	Mullins, Arthur	Alternate	KENTUCKY	171
14	Laughlin, Ken	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Creech, Mary	Alternate	MONTANA	6
15	Young, Terry	Delegate	KANSAS	27
	Cyr, Mark	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Hansel, Ronald	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	22
	Smith, Bryan	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	154
17	Schievelbein, Michael	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Dutchover, Jericho	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	32
18	Ball, K.	Delegate	ARIZONA	16
	Shafer, George	Alternate	ARIZONA	11
19	Wendel, Thomas	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Alspach, Brian	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Meaney, Robert	Delegate	TEXAS	194
	Spangler, Joe	Alternate	TEXAS	84
21	Dority, Russell	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Young, Ricky	Alternate	ARKANSAS	42

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Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

Advisors: Minter, Ron and Ilem, Joy

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
1	Vicini, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Tears, Ronald	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Wisnesky, Chester	Alternate	NEW YORK	182
3	Nicodemus, Robert	Delegate	VERMONT	3
	Saxon, Benjamin	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
4	Wright, Konae	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Kelly, Timothy	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	19
5	Van Curen, Carl	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
	Bielecki, Darlene	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
6	Dawson, Michael	Delegate	WEST VIRGINIA	26
	Eaves, Georgia	Alternate	D C	14
7	Uccello, Salvatore	Delegate	FLORIDA	42
	Williamson, Dan	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Lee, Jeffery	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Holdeman, Charles	Alternate	LOUISIANA	5
9	Wilner, Brian	Delegate	GEORGIA	18
	Pagan, Danny	Alternate	GEORGIA	90
10	White, Kevin	Delegate	MICHIGAN	20
	Zielke, Jason	Alternate	MICHIGAN	113
11	Johnston, James	Delegate	OHIO	63
	Gross, Robert	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Thompson, Dennis	Delegate	ILLINOIS	103
	Lanahan, Michael	Alternate	WISCONSIN	3
13	Ewing, Lee	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Faulk, Leon	Alternate	KENTUCKY	156
14	Van Emmerik, Lacey	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Clark, Don	Alternate	MONTANA	4
15	Reed, Brenda	Delegate	IOWA	53
	Bergquist, Franklin	Alternate	KANSAS	4
16	Steinbaugh, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	7
	Wheeler, Patricia	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	6
17	Salcido, Isidro	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	3
	Larsen, Penny	Alternate	UTAH	6
18	Kent, Robert	Delegate	HAWAII	4
	Perez, Orlando	Alternate	HAWAII	4
19	Marker, Brigitte	Delegate	OREGON	12
	Janus, Wanda	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Meiser, Edgar	Delegate	TEXAS	47
	Hodges, Donald	Alternate	TEXAS	194
21	Horsley, Charles	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	63
	Campbell, Thomas	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	88
99	Hogan, James	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Nomination of National Officers

Marbes, Richard and Murphy, Eugene Advisors

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter Name	No.
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Bowers, Alan	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Siller, Sidney	Delegate	NEW YORK	23
	Sioss, Donald	Alternate	NEW YORK	76
3	DeBlois, Denise	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
	Reilly, Ron	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
4	Malone, John	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	16
	Dascoli, Frank	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	24
5	McClellan, Robert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
	Fiumara, Philip	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
6	Madison, Cynthia	Delegate	VIRGINIA	27
	Cabarrus, Calvin	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	2
7	Joyner, Dennis	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Wolfe, Kenneth	Alternate	FLORIDA	101
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Boulton, Jane	Alternate	TENNESSEE	28
9	Blevins, Barry	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	46
	Hill, Algernon	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Morey, Christopher	Alternate	MICHIGAN	14
11	Lenhart, Joseph	Delegate	OHIO	73
	Morton, Herman	Alternate	OHIO	1
12	Reynolds, Alfred	Delegate	ILLINOIS	17
	Hoeft, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
13	Wright, Clarence	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Gordon, Thomas	Alternate	KENTUCKY	156
14	Murphy, Eugene	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Litzinger, Joseph	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Johnston, Dennis	Delegate	MISSOURI	1
	Bowman, William	Alternate	NEBRASKA	7
16	Benner, Marlowe	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	59
	Vandiver, Edward	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	6
17	Timmerman, Timothy	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	9
	Alderete, David	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	3
18	Di Girolamo, Robert	Delegate	ARIZONA	1
	Richardson, Joe	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Lyon, Fay	Delegate	WASHINGTON	46
	Norton, Salina	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Spence, Percy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Paquette, Roland	Alternate	TEXAS	20
21	Stake, Charles	Delegate	ARKANSAS	57
	Spurgin, David	Alternate	ARKANSAS	46
99	Moffitt, Stephen	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Bugbee, Richard	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Columbia Trust Advisory Board

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
2	Wilson, David	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Miller, Morton	Alternate	NEW YORK	88
4	Kelly, Timothy	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	19
	Lardizzone, Paul	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
6	Parker, Glynn	Delegate	MARYLAND	17
	Harris, Bennie	Alternate	D C	3
8	Humphries, Gerald	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	11
10	Blevins, Robert	Delegate	MICHIGAN	26
	Dempster, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
12	Buck, Ted	Delegate	ILLINOIS	28
	Hoelt, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
14	Bouska, Lawrence	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
16	Contreras, Daniel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	99
	Wingett, Kenneth	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	48
18	Ogle, Gerald	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Anton, William	Alternate	NEVADA	13
20	Hackney, James	Delegate	TEXAS	42

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National Executive Committee

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter Name	No.
2	Wilson, David	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Miller, Morton	Alternate	NEW YORK	88
4	Wischmann, Herman	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Kelly, Timothy	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	19
6	Parker, Glynn	Delegate	MARYLAND	17
	Harris, Bennie	Alternate	D C	3
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
	Miller, Arthur	Alternate	ALABAMA	87
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Pruitt, Steven	Alternate	MICHIGAN	2
12	Thompson, Dennis	Delegate	ILLINOIS	103
	Reynolds, Alfred	Alternate	ILLINOIS	17
14	Krosschell, H.	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	3
	Bouska, Lawrence	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
16	Benner, Marlowe	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	59
	Contreras, Daniel	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	99
18	Kawamura, Edward	Delegate	HAWAII	5
	Fox, Penny	Alternate	HAWAII	9
20	Meiser, Edgar	Delegate	TEXAS	47
	Spence, Percy	Alternate	TEXAS	17

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION
August 5, 2012**

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 91st National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday morning, August 5, 2012, and was called to order at 8:33 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Donald L. Samuels.

COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS: The Convention will please come to order. Can I have your attention. As a reminder, I would like to ask everyone to please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance to our flag.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Hand salute – two. I will ask our National Chaplain to please lead us in prayer as we prepare to undertake this morning's business. Chaplain Edwards.

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 give You thanks, individually and collectively, for giving us those gifts. Help us now to use them wisely and to share them effectively as we attempt to bring light, love and 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 can and we do 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 in fulfilling the promises to the men and women who we serve. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER SAMUELS: 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. They must state their name, chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to call on the Credentials Committee for its report, Chairman Warren Tobin.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Good morning, Commander Samuels.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Good morning.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Adjutant Wilson, delegates, guests and friends, the National Convention Committee on Credentials met this morning in Skyview 1. Roll call showed 1,188 delegates and 40 alternates were present.

This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration as of 4:00 o'clock p.m. on August 4th, 2012. At the present time we have 458 Chapters, 44 Departments, 40 National Officers, 9 Past National Commanders for a total of 1,207 delegates and 52 alternates for a total vote count of 8,142.

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

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Warren. I would like to invite our National Adjutant Art Wilson to the podium to make a special presentation.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

ADJUTANT WILSON: At the DAV National Convention in 1994 we honored Gary Sinise for his role as the combat-disabled infantry officer Lieutenant Dan Taylor in the film Forrest Gump. Since that time Gary has been an amazing friend not only to DAV but to all service men and women who have been brave enough to wear the uniform in defense of our nation.

Whether speaking on behalf of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, raising funds to build a new home for a wounded veteran in need, or taking his Lieutenant Dan Band overseas to play concerts for the troops, Gary has become this generation's Bob Hope – a caring, kind and patriotic celebrity who uses the gift of fame as a means by which to do good in this world.

I am proud to say that our special friendship with Gary is nearly two decades old now and it goes back to that amazing film.

(Whereupon, a videotape was played:

ADJUTANT WILSON: "When the film *Forrest Gump* hit theaters in 1994, America fell in love. Staring Tom Hanks in the title role as the loveable if not challenged southern gentleman the film spanned decades to tell an amazing tale of one special man who found greatness in himself at critical junctures in American history.

"Colored with triumph and tragedy, war and peace, as well as the sense that hope will endure any hardship, the film told a tale that is a familiar part of our national tapestry.

"In many ways *Forrest Gump* told the story of America going through an amazing and difficult time. Of course, amazing and difficult barely begin to sum up the character of Lieutenant Dan Taylor.

"As played by Gary Sinise Lieutenant Dan is the wincing, gravel-voiced platoon commander *Forrest Gump* encounters in Vietnam. Hailing from a long line of men who met a glorious death on the battlefield, Lieutenant Dan feels he is destined for a similar fate. And although he loses his legs in an explosion, he doesn't lose the fiery temperament he displayed on the battlefield.

"Through Lieutenant Dan's eyes we see the difficulties of recovering from a devastating injury in dealing with the physical and emotional consequences that come with it.

"Lieutenant Dan's character is so memorable because while his journey differs from *Forrest's*, he ultimately comes to terms with the turn his life took on the battlefield and reconnects with passion and courage.

"The film winds down with a poignant scene where *Forrest* and Lieutenant Dan, who have not seen each other in many years meet just before *Forrest* is to be wed to the love of his life, Jenny.

"For the first time since Vietnam *Forrest* sees Lieutenant Dan on two legs. The cane and the limp are there but *Forrest* believes he is seeing a miracle – and he is right."

FORREST GUMP: "Lieutenant Dan."

LIEUTENANT DAN: "Hello, *Forrest*."

FORREST GUMP: "You got new legs – new legs."

LIEUTENANT DAN: "Yes. I got new legs, custom made, titanium alloy. It's what they use on the space shuttle."

FORREST GUMP: "Magic legs."

ADJUTANT WILSON: Inspired by that amazing moment, DAV created this special award to celebrate this amazing man, his integrity, big heart and sense of respect for our nation.

Those of us who have enjoyed the movie *Forrest Gump* are familiar with the scene where Lieutenant Dan defiantly stands on the mast of the S.S. *Jenny* and motions to the heavens. This is a scene that we feel symbolizes the hope that Gary's efforts have instilled in veterans these many, many years. Gary.

(Whereupon, Mr. Sinise joined Adjutant Wilson at the podium to receive his "Magic Legs" Award, followed by a standing ovation.)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Gary, my friend, it is my honor to present to you on behalf of the DAV and all of the disabled veterans everywhere that serve this special Magic Legs award. Thank you, sir, so much. (Standing Ovation)

MR. GARY SINISE: Thank you. Thank you very much. It was shortly after *Forrest Gump* opened that I got a call from the DAV inviting me to the National Convention in 1994, much like this. And

I was overwhelmed with emotion at the reception and how I was treated there. And I am no less overwhelmed today by this award.

My association with the DAV has meant so much to me. And my life was, obviously, changed a bit after I played a disabled veteran. Having Vietnam veterans in my family and World War II veterans on my side of the family – the Vietnam veterans are on my wife's side of the family – I had been associated with veterans' groups prior to Forrest Gump but never knew anything about the Disabled American Veterans until I was contacted and came to their National Convention in Chicago in '94.

And the association with the DAV has meant so much. And I have learned so many valuable things from the people that are associated with the Disabled American Veterans and you know in many facets, you know, from the leadership to the delegates and everyone that attends the National Convention each year and shows me, you know, a lot of love when I come and play.

I don't think we can ever do enough for our veterans. And my association with the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial has been one special thing because remembering the sacrifices that our disabled veterans have made for us through this national memorial is something that I think is very, very critical and important.

And I was privileged to be asked to be national spokesperson for that and to help raise money. And to look forward to that day in 2014 when we dedicate that memorial is something that I can't wait for and I know you can't wait for it. I'll be there, for sure. (Applause)

And so just thank you to all of you who have served and given of yourselves for this country. And I hope you, you always know that your sacrifices are indeed never taken for granted, at least not by me. I am so appreciative of the service of our military and people that choose to serve and defend our country.

Where would our nation be without those who are willing to go into harm's way and defend us all as Americans? I know where my freedom comes from. I know how it is provided. And you are indeed the providers of freedom.

I thank you so much for everything you have done for our country. God bless you and God bless America. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you again, Gary, for your patriotism. And I want you to know the last thing he said to me was make sure you all come to the concert tonight. (Laughter) Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I'd like to call on Board of Directors Treasurer Delphine Metcalf-Foster for her report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Good morning.
(Response of "Good morning.")

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER METCALF-FOSTER: National Commander Samuels, DAV members and guests, the members of the Board join me in this report and they are Chairman Wallace E. Tyson of Florida; Vice Chairman Larry A. Polzin of California; Secretary Arthur H. Wilson; Directors Jay Johnson of Texas, Joseph Lenhart of Ohio, Tim Timmerman of New Mexico, along with National Commander Samuels and National Judge Advocate Dobmeier who serves as our advisors.

It is my honor and privilege to present a report on the financial affairs of our organization for the six-month period ending June 30th, 2012. The DAV's contributions from fund-raising through that date were \$42.8 million from mailing 36.9 million solicitation pieces. By the year's end we expect to send 67.9 million pieces of fund-raising mail and generate an estimated \$96 million in gross contributions.

Under the Department fund-raising program distributions to Departments in December 2011 and June 2012 totaled \$2.9 million. Since the program began in 1994 \$78.6 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 2012 DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of \$77.0 million.

Through June 2012 DAV had total expenditures of \$84.7 million, of which \$61.4 million was for service programs, 72.4 percent of total expenditures. It is important to remember that these expenditures are for the federally-chartered purposes of our organization.

Over the same period expenditures for fund-raising decreased by 3.4 percent due primarily to mailing 2.0 million fewer solicitation pieces. Administrative expenses are comparable to last year.

As of June 30th, 2012, the market value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio is \$310.6 million, similar to the \$310.3 million reported this same period in 2011.

DAV's unrestricted net assets or net worth has stabilized at \$234.7 million since the start of the calendar year. It is also exciting to report that over the last two decades our unrestricted net assets have grown from \$37.3 million on December the 31st in 1991 to \$236.5 million on December 31st, 2011.

DAV's very hard-working staff nationwide as well as at both headquarters has been able to grow our sources of income yet control our operating costs while maintaining service to disabled veterans and their families.

We continue to see a recovery in our financial position from its low at December 2008. We are pleased to report that at June 30th, 2012, the Life Membership Fund Reserve was \$60.7 million. At a projected earnings rate on investments of 6.7 percent we estimate that the fund will be depleted by the year 2026 with 443,000 members remaining for distribution.

Commander, it is also my privilege to present DAV's proposed 2013 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention. At the May 30th, 2012, meeting of the Board of Directors held at National Headquarters in Cold Springs, Kentucky, the Board was presented the 2013 proposed budget.

The budget was assembled by the DAV Accounting Department with the assistance of our Department Directors and was reviewed by our National Adjutant Wilson and Executive Directors Burgess and Jesinoski. The Board approved the proposed budget on May 30th, 2012, a copy of which was provided to all Convention attendees at registration.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Art Wilson and his staff for their hard work which makes this report possible. Let me thank you, Commander Samuels, for the support I received in my role as the Board of Directors Treasurer. It has been an honor to serve as the treasurer of this important committee.

Commander, that concludes my report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to our delegates. I thank you and I move for the adoption of my report and approval of the proposed 2013 Annual Budget.

Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2011, and
Independent Auditors' Report

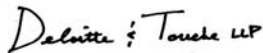
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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, 2011, 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 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 as of December 31, 2011, and the change 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.



March 30, 2012

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
CASH	\$ 6,374,851	LIABILITIES:	\$ 3,143,342
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	978,795	Accounts payable	2,127,654
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	58,095	Accrued expenses	21,335,610
SOLICITATION MATERIALS	1,539,896	Pension liability	66,105,493
PREPAID EXPENSES	2,140,997	Postretirement benefit obligation	1,043,280
INVESTMENTS	315,597,902	Other liabilities	2,558,924
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — Net	6,757,091	Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	1,143,494
OTHER ASSETS	417,400	Deferred revenue	194,647
LIFE MEMBERSHIP:		Life membership:	54,851,984
Cash	2,233,078	Accounts payable	
Receivables	2,010	Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	
Investments	52,811,543	Total liabilities	152,504,428
TOTAL	\$ 388,911,658	UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	236,407,230
		TOTAL	\$ 388,911,658

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Support:

Contributions received primarily from direct mail solicitations	\$ 96,516,883
Contributed services and facilities — primarily services	42,651,587
Bequests	<u>6,949,851</u>
Total support	<u>146,118,321</u>

Revenue:

Membership dues and fees	5,259,093
Income from investments — net	9,767,465
List royalties	557,521
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>70,352</u>

Total revenue	<u>15,654,431</u>
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Realized investment gains	<u>12,983,335</u>
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Total support and revenue	<u>174,756,087</u>
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EXPENSES:

Program services:

National service program	40,396,578
Legislative service program	1,695,301
Voluntary service program	42,583,583
State services and disaster relief	4,096,248
Publications and other communications	5,050,113
Membership program	5,157,690
Public awareness outreach	<u>21,517,723</u>

Total program services	<u>120,497,236</u>
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Supporting services:

Fundraising costs	32,458,368
Administrative and general	<u>6,235,024</u>

Total supporting services	<u>38,693,392</u>
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Total expenses	<u>159,190,628</u>
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EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	15,565,459
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CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>(18,762,707)</u>
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EXCESS OF EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE	(3,197,248)
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PENSION LIABILITY AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENT	<u>(19,855,223)</u>
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CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(23,052,471)
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UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>259,459,701</u>
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UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 236,407,230</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

	National Service Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services and Disaster Relief	Publications and Other Communications	Membership Program	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fundraising Costs	Administrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total
Salaries	\$18,920,188	\$ 664,473	\$ 350,489	\$ -	\$ 786,843	\$1,156,057	\$ 539	\$ 21,875,589	\$ 3,635,630	\$ 3,538,157	\$ 7,193,787	\$ 29,072,376
Employee benefits	10,653,951	334,737	248,020	-	397,731	686,966	-	12,321,405	2,523,348	1,982,368	4,505,716	16,827,121
Payroll taxes	1,523,344	48,890	29,840	-	61,980	75,265	-	1,739,319	301,320	270,905	572,225	2,311,544
DAV transportation network — volunteers			40,838,099					40,838,099				40,838,099
HSC & Transport Network Grants			209,486					209,486				209,486
Winter Sports Clinic			526,118					526,118				526,118
Columbia Trust			44,425					44,425				44,425
Other grants	60,755	10,000	3,306	150,361	1,169	3,050		228,641		5,050	5,050	233,691
Disaster relief				75,475				75,475				75,475
State service program				3,870,412				3,870,412				3,870,412
Scholarships			79,375					79,375				79,375
Expenses of national convention						596,713		596,713				596,713
Expenses of national commander and committees						522,599		522,599				522,599
Travel, training, and relocation						2,785,939		2,785,939				2,785,939
Facilities	2,446,952	35,721	163,878		80,296	59,092		2,785,939	49,720	192,901	242,621	3,028,560
Postage and shipping	1,813,488	9,466	20,806		1,144,918	169,084		1,813,488	9,009,259	59,266	9,068,525	11,246,182
Equipment rental and maintenance	831,900	15	20,806		1,144,918	169,084	1,483	2,177,657	21,758	52,740	1,296,553	3,496,963
Supplies	704,582	139,264	27,810		233,914	203,907	1,241	1,392,624	21,758	159,895	1,574,273	1,891,512
Telephone	103,565	1,511	364		35,549	101,119		1,299,953	20,876	116,297	147,173	1,457,226
Telephones	92,062	5,805	3,256		7,443	14,620		123,186	20,124	127,159	147,283	170,469
Outside services	760,867	69	123		760,867	1,464		762,544	137,141	376,141	513,282	1,275,826
Project costs	779	26,200	927		141,802	31,649	21	201,357	82,894		82,894	284,251
Printing of magazine					951,344			951,344				951,344
Cost of mailing materials		475			14,653	3,025		18,933	34,706,046	2,084	34,708,130	34,726,523
Heat, light, water, and power	213,299		240					213,299	493,936		493,936	707,235
Security service	151,267							151,267	151,400		151,400	302,667
Depreciation of property and equipment	456,377	2,977	1,314		72,773	41,937		575,378	473,170	543,669	1,016,839	1,592,217
Legal fees	37,899					19,850		57,749		129,754	129,754	187,503
Professional fees	122,265	415,503			562,974	19,631		1,120,373	402,922	1,193,849	1,596,771	2,717,144
Other expenses	73,949	95	35,420		23,353	2,586		135,403	13,747	766,869	780,616	916,019
Allocations from (to) other departments	1,130,355				526,454	1,420,473	21,514,439	24,591,721	(20,794,504)	(3,797,217)	(24,591,721)	
Total	\$40,396,578	\$1,695,301	\$42,583,583	\$4,096,348	\$5,050,113	\$5,157,690	\$21,517,723	\$120,497,236	\$32,458,368	\$6,235,024	\$38,693,392	\$159,190,628

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ (23,052,471)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash contributions	(331,871)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	21,915,596
Pension liability adjustment	19,855,223
Depreciation	1,592,217
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	35,446
Realized investment gains	(12,983,335)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	164,868
Change in interest and dividends receivable	44,674
Solicitation materials	(100,979)
Prepaid expenses	1,070,375
Other assets	65,000
Accounts payable	279,065
Accrued expenses	3,250,586
Deferred dues and service fees	(41,019)
Deferred revenue	(40,184)
Other liabilities	(100,422)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	(4,602,518)

Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>7,020,251</u>
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CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Payments for property and equipment	(867,033)
Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment	11,967
Purchases of investments	(295,793,043)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>291,914,937</u>

Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,733,172)</u>
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NET INCREASE IN CASH	2,287,079
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CASH — Beginning of year	<u>6,320,850</u>
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CASH — End of year	<u>\$ 8,607,929</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally chartered, not-for-profit service organization. Consisting 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 governments;
- 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.

New Accounting Standard — In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and IFRS. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. DAV has not yet adopted the ASU and does not expect the ASU to have a material impact on DAV's financial position, cash flows or results of operations.

Cash — DAV maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. 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.

Property and Equipment — Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and at December 31, 2011, are composed of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 965,730	\$ 404,625	\$ 561,105
Buildings and improvements	10,690,365	7,447,112	3,243,253
Machinery and other equipment	21,704,751	18,754,448	2,950,303
Construction in process	<u>2,430</u>	<u></u>	<u>2,430</u>
Total	<u>\$ 33,363,276</u>	<u>\$ 26,606,185</u>	<u>\$ 6,757,091</u>

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets, which range from three 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.

Accounts Receivable — Amounts recorded as accounts receivable are reduced to their net realizable value, as appropriate.

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 2,116,026 hours accounted for in 2011, 1,911,896 are for the DAV’s Nationwide Transportation Network. Using a value per hour of \$21.36 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 \$40,838,099. 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 204,130 hours, valued at \$4,360,217, are contributed to the DAV VA Voluntary Service Program. This amount and the value of any other volunteer time has not been recorded in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses, because such hours do not meet the technical requirements set forth in accounting standards for recognizing contributed services.

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

Income Taxes — As a not-for-profit service organization, DAV 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 DAV are tax deductible by the contributor as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, 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, disclosure, and transition. DAV applies ASC Topic 740 and notes 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, 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 2011, DAV incurred joint costs of \$47,809,865 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, \$21,514,439 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$26,295,426 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 changes during 2011 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues are summarized below:

Balance — January 1, 2011	<u>\$ 59,454,502</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	4,386,893
Earnings on invested assets — net	1,626,826
Gain on sale of investments	1,860,791
Other income	<u>27,994</u>
Total additions	<u>7,902,504</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	5,218,073
Local chapters	2,061,698
State departments	<u>2,072,362</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>9,352,133</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>(3,152,889)</u>
Balance — December 31, 2011	<u>\$ 54,851,984</u>

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of \$1,626,826 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of \$1,623,127 — increased by fee credits received of \$3,699.

4. 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 or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. 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, which includes money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of general fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2011, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,623,905	\$ 2,623,905	\$ -
Corporate bonds	1,835,930	1,760,915	(75,015)
U.S. government securities	16,328,652	16,354,330	25,678
Common stocks	19,710,608	22,032,108	2,321,500
Mutual bond funds	112,576,348	116,796,189	4,219,841
Mutual equity funds	<u>160,643,968</u>	<u>156,030,455</u>	<u>(4,613,513)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 313,719,411</u>	<u>\$ 315,597,902</u>	<u>\$ 1,878,491</u>

The General fund investment net income of \$9,767,465 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$9,819,446, reduced by investment management and custody fees of \$51,981.

The cost and fair value of life membership fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2011, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 106,272	\$ 106,272	\$ -
Common stocks	3,545,297	3,966,278	420,981
Mutual bond funds	17,265,684	17,883,917	618,233
Mutual equity funds	<u>31,288,323</u>	<u>30,855,076</u>	<u>(433,247)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 52,205,576</u>	<u>\$ 52,811,543</u>	<u>\$ 605,967</u>

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with fair value measurements and disclosures, DAV categorized its financial assets, based on:

- Quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1)
- 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)

At no time during 2011 did DAV 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 for debt and equity securities are determined on the basis of the nature and risks of the investments. There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2.

The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2011, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurement Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,623,905	\$ -	\$ 2,623,905
Corporate bonds		1,760,915	1,760,915
U.S. government securities	16,354,330		16,354,330
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	2,445,650		2,445,650
Energy	2,231,268		2,231,268
Finance	2,024,787		2,024,787
Health care	2,723,508		2,723,508
Industrials	3,487,541		3,487,541
Materials	1,388,618		1,388,618
Consumer staples	3,381,373		3,381,373
Technology	3,789,045		3,789,045
Utilities	560,318		560,318
Total common stocks	22,032,108	-	22,032,108
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	108,415,040		108,415,040
International fixed-income funds	8,381,149		8,381,149
Domestic stock funds	92,384,168		92,384,168
International stock funds	47,748,440		47,748,440
Real estate equity funds	15,897,847		15,897,847
Total mutual funds	272,826,644	-	272,826,644
Total general fund assets	\$ 313,836,987	\$ 1,760,915	\$ 315,597,902

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2011, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurement Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 106,272	\$ -	\$ 106,272
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	438,752		438,752
Energy	397,118		397,118
Finance	360,002		360,002
Health care	489,436		489,436
Industrials	627,733		627,733
Materials	250,287		250,287
Consumer staples	613,791		613,791
Technology	680,798		680,798
Utilities	108,361		108,361
Total common stocks	<u>3,966,278</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,966,278</u>
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	16,380,240		16,380,240
International fixed-income funds	1,503,677		1,503,677
Domestic stock funds	18,143,108		18,143,108
International stock funds	9,859,405		9,859,405
Real estate equity funds	<u>2,852,563</u>		<u>2,852,563</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>48,738,993</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,738,993</u>
Total life membership fund assets	<u>\$ 52,811,543</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 52,811,543</u>

6. PENSION PLAN AND POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

Pension Plan — DAV has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees and certain employees of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA). 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 2011, 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 as well as certain retired employees and their spouses of DAVA. Substantially all of DAV's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach early retirement age and complete 20 years of service. Since DAV's retirees are considered "stand alone" they are not subject to any mandated coverage change by health care reform. However, the excise (a.k.a. "Cadillac") tax that is set to begin in 2018 would apply and has been valued.

The measurement date for the plans is December 31, 2011. Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 65,230,409</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 75,178,088	\$ -
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		66,105,493
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(53,842,478)</u>	<u></u>
Unfunded status recognized	<u>\$ 21,335,610</u>	<u>\$ 66,105,493</u>

Summarized information of the plans for the year ended December 31, 2011, is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 2,535,772	\$ 1,996,357
Interest cost	3,245,233	2,902,219
Expected return on assets	(3,762,961)	
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	1,869,580	
Amortization of prior service cost	<u>31,964</u>	<u>(122,991)</u>
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 3,919,588</u>	<u>\$ 4,775,585</u>
Components of pension and postretirement benefit changes:		
Amortization of prior service cost	\$ 31,964	\$ (122,991)
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	1,869,580	
Actuarial net loss during the year	<u>(6,589,541)</u>	<u>(15,044,235)</u>
Pension and postretirement benefit changes	<u>\$ (4,687,997)</u>	<u>\$ (15,167,226)</u>

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension cost at December 31, 2011, are as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 351,603	\$ (1,316,725)
Net actuarial loss	<u>33,139,880</u>	<u>14,764,819</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 33,491,483</u>	<u>\$ 13,448,094</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 2012 are \$2,320,840 and \$31,964, respectively. The estimated net actuarial loss and prior service cost for the postretirement plan that will be amortized from unrestricted net assets and into net periodic benefit cost in 2012 will result in a cost of \$671,631 and gain of \$122,991, respectively.

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2011:		
Benefit expense (net periodic benefit cost of \$3,919,588 offset by \$52,131 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 3,867,457	\$ 4,775,585
Actual return on plan assets	344,383	
Employer contribution	2,974,329	2,826,748
Plan participants' contributions		211,945
Benefits paid	5,890,932	3,038,693
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:		
For year-end benefit obligation:		
Discount rate	4.25 %	4.75 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.50 %	3.50 %
For annual benefit cost:		
Discount rate	5.00 %	5.75 %
Expected return on plan assets	7.50 %	N/A
Rate of compensation increase	3.50 %	3.50 %

The APBO 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% in 2011 to 5% in 2016, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

The DAV expects to contribute \$3.2 million to its pension plan in 2012.

The DAV's pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2011, is as follows:

Asset Category	Percentage of Plan Assets
Equity securities	60 %
Fixed-income securities	36
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>4</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 major categories of pension plan financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2011, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Money market funds	\$ 1,961,937	\$ -	\$ 1,961,937
Corporate bonds		14,492,183	14,492,183
U.S. government securities	4,835,102		4,835,102
Common stocks:			
Communication	386,298		386,298
Consumer discretionary	1,542,898		1,542,898
Energy	1,520,435		1,520,435
Finance	1,849,164		1,849,164
Health care	1,955,655		1,955,655
Industrials	1,712,914		1,712,914
Materials	519,509		519,509
Consumer staples	770,786		770,786
Technology	2,509,706		2,509,706
Utilities	272,830		272,830
Total common stocks	13,040,195	-	13,040,195
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	14,612,669		14,612,669
International stock funds	4,900,392		4,900,392
Total mutual funds	19,513,061	-	19,513,061
Total pension plan assets	\$ 39,350,295	\$ 14,492,183	\$ 53,842,478

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 arrive at a weighted average of expected returns for the plan's portfolio of assets.

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

Fiscal Years Ending	Benefit Payments
2012	\$ 4,975,718
2013	6,159,035
2014	5,126,354
2015	5,301,787
2016	5,838,260
2017–2021	22,414,725

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

Fiscal Years Ending	Gross Benefit Payments	Gross Subsidy Receipts	Net Benefit Payments
2012	\$ 2,755,828	\$ (130,063)	\$ 2,625,765
2013	2,879,459	(151,581)	2,727,878
2014	2,982,404	(175,230)	2,807,174
2015	3,026,284	(206,386)	2,819,898
2016	3,132,312	(226,099)	2,906,213
2017–2021	17,798,267	(1,583,133)	16,215,134

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 2011 were \$1,944,668 and are included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

7. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation — Some members of DAV’s Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for the DAV 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 Foundation is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2011, net assets of the Foundation were \$84,141,034. During 2011, DAV provided the Foundation with the use of DAV personnel for assistance with business operations and fundraising. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$123,672. Facilities, equipment and occasional publication space are provided by DAV at no charge. Additionally, in 2011, DAV contributed \$44,425 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, 2011, the Foundation owed \$118,178 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust — Some members of DAV’s Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for DAV 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, 2011, net assets of the Trust were \$14,849,445. During 2011, 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 \$204,660. Facilities and equipment are provided by DAV at no charge. At December 31, 2011, the Trust owed \$235,300 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

In 2011, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services: \$10,500 — National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, \$350,324 — Mobile Service Office Program, \$25,000 — Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program, \$200,000 — National Transportation Network, and \$101,660 to assist disabled veterans and their families.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary — DAV provides services to the DAVA, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of DAVA. The accompanying financial statements do not include the net assets (or changes therein) of DAVA, which are held by DAVA. DAVA is a separate entity from DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Based upon financial statements at December 31, 2011, net assets of DAVA were \$7,919,906. DAVA occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters’ building and also uses certain office equipment owned by DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$36,100 in 2011. Certain costs are paid by DAV on behalf of DAVA. Such costs are reimbursed by DAVA. In addition, DAV deposits contributions on behalf of DAVA and subsequently remits them to DAVA. At December 31, 2011, DAVA owed approximately \$68,402, for such costs, net of contributions receivable of \$25,413, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

In 2011, DAVA distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services: \$2,500 — National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic and \$10,000 — Disaster Relief Program.

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2011 but before March 30, 2012, the date the financials were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Delphine, for that very informative report. You have heard the motion. May I have a second to that motion. Mic 2.

MR. ALBERT CHURCH: Al Church, Connecticut, Chapter 5, I'd like to second that motion.

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

Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski is a true leader. He is responsible for National Service and Legislative programs in our nation's capital. He also acts as DAV's principle spokesman before Congress, the White House and the VA.

Barry was medically discharged from the Marine Corps in 1993 as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. He joined the DAV and graduated from the National Service Officer Training Academy in 1995.

Barry joined the Seattle office as a newly minted National Service Officer trainee and climbed the ranks to assistant supervisor. He later took the helm as office supervisor in San Diego.

In 2001, Barry was promoted to National Area Supervisor of Area 9 which encompasses California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii, before being appointed Associate National Service Director in Washington, D.C., where he was later promoted to Assistant National Service Director.

In 2007, he was appointed Deputy Director of Human Resources at National Headquarters. In 2009, he assumed duties as H.R. Director. Accomplished at every level, Barry was appointed as Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters in 2011 and is continuing the success of our programs and efforts in Washington, D.C.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: National Commander Samuels, distinguished guests and delegates to the 91st National Convention of the DAV, as Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, it's an honor and a privilege to present this annual report to the membership.

National Commander Samuels, thank you for your motivating leadership and dedication to DAV and our mission of service and hope for this nation's injured and ill veterans and their families.

Over the past year Commander Samuels has been an influential force for the DAV, earning the respect of government officials in Washington and the admiration of people all across the country. He's a true gentleman with a kind and generous heart and I've enjoyed the time that we've spent during this last year.

National Adjutant Wilson, I also want to express my thanks and appreciation to you. Your leadership, guidance, and strong support have been especially valuable to me.

Art's wisdom, vision, and professional expertise have maintained DAV's outstanding financial position as the envy of other veterans' service organizations. He has demonstrated time and again the unique ability to combine sound business practices with steadfast commitment to our mission.

Of course, none of our success would be possible without the terrific work carried out by National Executive Director at our National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky and his superb staff. Marc Burgess and I have worked together in various roles for years now and I have the utmost respect for Marc.

Auxiliary National Commander Patti Rapisand and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep have given all of us such great support. I offer my deepest thanks to them as well. We wouldn't be nearly as effective without the Auxiliary members working so hard on our behalf, especially on the legislative front.

I also wish to thank my predecessor Dave Gorman who is always willing to help me with those tough, inside-the-beltway questions that only someone with decades of experience can answer.

At Washington Headquarters, our Service, Legislative, and Communications staffs all work together toward the goal of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served our country.

I would like to recognize our team in Washington. National Service Director Garry Augustine directs our outstanding program of service to injured and ill veterans and their families. Garry and his staff have done a remarkable job leading our corps of NSOs and TSOs in the successful completion of our mission of service.

National Legislative Director Joe Violante has provided superb leadership in advancing the legislative goals on Capitol Hill. Joe and his staff are the absolute best at making Congress aware of the needs of the men and women who have served and of their families and their survivors.

I am very proud of these outstanding professionals and their staffs who have had such great success this past year.

Since 1920, service has been our core mission at DAV. With that always in mind, the National Service Department aggressively pushed itself all year. I am pleased to report that in 2011 our NSOs and our TSOs represented nearly a quarter-of-a-million veterans and their families and survivors in claims to the VA, obtaining for them more than \$4 billion in earned benefits. (Applause)

Our success is possible because of our enduring commitment to fielding the very best and most highly trained service officers anywhere. DAV is the only veterans' service organization that has a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

We don't just hire smart people and then provide them the best training, we hire good-hearted people who have a passion for serving their fellow veterans. I have a great deal of respect for our National and Transition Service Officers and we are proud of each and every one of you.

I would like all of our National and Transition Service Officers to please stand to be recognized.

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

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Some of the free services offered by NSOs and TSOs include information seminars and benefits counseling, as well as assistance to discharging service men and women through the Transition Assistance Program, the Disabled Transition Assistance Program, as well. And last year alone our TSOs presented vital information in nearly 4,000 benefits briefings to almost 75,000 transitioning service members.

Our NSOs also represent veterans and active-duty military personnel before Discharge Review Boards, Boards for Correction of Military Records, Physical Evaluation Boards, and other official panels. We also maintain the largest staff of any group at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, representing 29 percent of all cases decided by the VBA in 2011.

With 10 specially-equipped Mobile Service Offices, our MSO Program very effectively increases veterans' access to VA benefits. In 2011 the MSOs traveled about 125,000 miles, visiting more than 800 locations, ultimately reaching more than 18,000 veterans who may have otherwise not been able to receive the benefits they earned.

This outreach is possible, in part, thanks to a generous support from the Harley-Davidson Foundation, which has so far pledged \$2 million over an eight-year period. In 2011 our MSOs provided outreach services at 155 Harley-Davidson dealerships.

DAV continues its pro bono representation program for veterans seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Thanks to DAV more than 700 of these cases were appealed to the court last year.

While we are working still toward our ultimate goal of appealing every significant case, it is hard to believe that just a few years ago we had yet to reach 200 cases per year. By this time next year in Orlando I hope to be able to report still another substantial increase in the number of cases handled.

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. Our DSO and CSO Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs.

We are very fortunate to have this support from DSOs and CSOs around the nation and we want to ensure that each of them continues to receive the training and information necessary to assist those we serve.

In 2011 we certified more than 1,800 DSOs and CSOs in 36 states. And we encourage every Department to participate in this important program. Would all of our DSOs and CSOs please stand or raise your hand if you can't be recognized.

(Whereupon, all DSOs and CSOs present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Thank you for all that you do. Our National Service and Legislative Programs both work on DAV's employment-related advocacy, working with the Department of Labor, the VA, the Office of Personnel Management, Congress and other government agencies to ensure that disabled veterans are treated fairly and equitably in the work force.

Earlier this year we recognized two exceptional employers, one of whom happens to be with us here today and so we will have the opportunity to present their award shortly in person. The Cooper Tire and Rubber Company is our Outstanding Large Employer of the Year and our Outstanding Small Employer of the Year is C4 Planning Solutions.

Cooper Tire and Rubber Company's Human Resources Manager told us that when she reads a resume before an interview and sees that the veterans, the candidate is a veteran, she is encouraged because, quote, "I know this person has been exposed to structure, discipline and teamwork, which are all critical to our operations."

If only more employers had that same attitude and commitment. At DAV we'll continue those who do and encourage the same of others.

In historic numbers women are serving our country with honor equal to their male counterparts. (Applause) But women veterans use VA health care facilities and other earned benefits in lower numbers. 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 policy-makers together to openly address topics of concern. The most recent was the National Training Summit on Women Veterans held last fall in Washington, D.C. which DAV co-sponsored.

DAV also has organized special events on Capitol Hill such as the recent screening of the documentary film, "Service: When Women Come Marching Home." The film follows eight women veterans struggling with their transition back to civilian life after military service. I was personally honored to participate in both of these special events.

We are also 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 here at our National Convention.

This year's meeting is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 in the Grand Ballroom Platinum. (Applause) Please attend. It is going to be a great seminar. We welcome VA Under Secretary for Benefits General Allison Hickey as our keynote speaker at the seminar and will also show a screening of the documentary film that I just mentioned.

In accomplishing DAV's mission, our Legislative staff works closely with DAV's Service and Communications staffs. We also rely heavily on DAV National Service Officers, DAV and Auxiliary officers and members, and our Department Legislative Chairmen to keep us informed for support with our grassroots lobbying.

The DAV Commanders Action Network or CAN is also key to our legislative success. And of course we 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.

Presently, the Commander's Action Network has about 13,000 concerned supporters. We have some 2,500 following our legislative alerts on Twitter and more than 92,000 supporters stand ready to help DAV on Facebook.

Our Facebook supporters have increased at an impressive pace and we hope that continues, obviously. But we would like to see far more signed up for our Commander's Action Network than we have presently. I urge everyone who has not already done so to visit DAV.org to sign up for alerts and to find us on your favorite social network.

The Administration's budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs, submitted in February, includes funding increases for VA health care and benefits programs. In light of tight budgetary constraints government-wide we are pleased with the increases but some concerns definitely remain.

VA reported in this budget a carryover amount of \$500 million from 2012. And this trend greatly concerns DAV because we continually receive reports from our members and from VA personnel of widespread funding shortages in the health care system.

The Administration's 2013 budget proposal includes a request for \$54.6 billion in advanced appropriations for VA health care accounts in 2014. That is a 3.3 percent increase, not including the medical collections.

While comparatively generous to VA benefits and services programs, the Administration's request falls short by our estimate of \$4 billion, mostly for construction funding. For VA medical care the budget was reduced significantly below the Veterans Health Administration's own actuarial forecast of the funding needed.

In March, the House Budget Committee reported its Budget Resolution which closely mirrors the Administration's VA discretionary funding levels, about \$4 billion below the recommendations of the Independent Budget.

The appropriations bill was referred to the Senate but it is not expected to pass there in its current form. And the Senate has taken up its version of VA's appropriation for next year, but no activity on this measure has yet occurred. The Senate bill closely matches the President's budget proposal from February.

Since the end of the first session and the beginning of the second session of the 112th Congress, our legislative staff has held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs to educate them about DAV and our legislative priorities.

Over the past decade the number of veterans filing claims for disability compensation has more than doubled, rising from nearly 600,000 in 2000 to over 1.4 million in 2011. This workload increase is the result of a number of factors, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an increase in the complexity of claims, and an improved outreach and communication, as evidenced and mentioned by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs yesterday.

To meet this increased workload, VBA's workforce grew by about 80 percent, with the vast majority of that increase occurring during the past four years. VBA is now in its third year of its efforts to transform its outdated, inefficient claims processing system into a modern, automated, rules-based and paperless system.

In the coming year we will begin to see whether their strategies will finally result in a cultural shift away from focusing on speed to a business culture of quality and accountability. This is truly the only way to get the backlog under control. (Applause)

I am quite pleased with the increasingly open and candid attitude of VBA's leadership, led by Under Secretary Hickey, toward developing real, a real partnership with DAV and with other VSOs. We remain committed to working with VBA to help fix the system and we have seen genuine effort on their part to expand this partnership to bring transparency to its ongoing transformation process.

We have been consulted on a number of the new initiatives underway at the VBA. And we have made it clear that it is imperative this cultural change occurs not just at central office but also at each of the 57 regional offices.

More important than the number of claims processed is the number of claims processed correctly. (Applause) It is not enough to simply lower the backlog; after all, backlogs can return. Moreover, it doesn't matter how quickly a claim is completed if it is not done correctly.

Two of the most promising developments of the past year are VBA's new initiatives to increase training requirements for its staff and the creation of quality review teams at each regional office. VA employees are now getting more on-the-job training and mentoring from experienced staff.

Developed from a review of best practices used at certain high-performing regional offices, the quality review teams will assign full-time, dedicated employees with the sole function of finding and fixing errors in claims processing.

Over the next year DAV will continue working with our VSO colleagues and the Veterans Affairs Committees in the House and Senate to oversee and improve VBA's final implementation of their new operating model and their IT systems, particularly the Veterans Benefits Management System, or VBMS. Accuracy and accountability will absolutely remain the key.

Your Washington staff has an excellent reputation as the top-notch professional veterans' service organization, committed to protecting and preserving the rights of our fellow veterans.

Your program directors and their staff have spent years as advocates and NSOs representing veterans on a daily basis. They also have the credibility that most others who represent particular groups don't have – they are all service-connected disabled veterans themselves.

To be sure, our National Service and Legislative program staffs continue to provide the very best services to you and your families. But without you, our members, we would not be able to accomplish all that we have. So on behalf of the entire National Service and Legislative program staff, thank you for making it possible for us to serve you.

We couldn't do it without every one of you and the support you provide as we carry on DAV's proud mission of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. Commander, that concludes my report. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by Barry Jesinoski, Executive Director, DAV Washington Headquarters:)

**Annual Report of Barry A. Jesinoski
Executive Director Washington Headquarters
to the 91st National Convention
of the Disabled American Veterans
Las Vegas, Nevada
August 5, 2012**

National Commander Samuels, distinguished guests, and delegates to the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans: As Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, it is an honor and a privilege to present this annual report to the membership.

First, I want thank National Commander Donald L. Samuels for his inspired leadership and dedication to DAV and our mission of service and hope for this nation's disabled veterans and their families. Over the past year he has represented DAV very well, not only as our National Commander, but as a respected example of the entire veterans community in the eyes of government officials in Washington and the administration.

I also want to give special recognition to our National Adjutant Arthur Wilson. His wise counsel and unwavering support have been invaluable, not just to me but to all of us as we strive to serve you and your families. Art's diligence and stewardship have maintained DAV's outstanding financial position even in these uncertain economic times. Thanks to his leadership, DAV is in the best position in our history to continue our service and advocacy for our nation's disabled veterans, their families and survivors. I also want to commend my counterpart National Headquarters Executive

Director Marc Burgess and his superb staff and our employees in Cold Spring, Kentucky. We couldn't do what we do without them. Auxiliary National Commander Patrice Rapisand and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep have been extremely supportive. Without the support of the Auxiliary and all their hard work in our cause, we would not be nearly as effective in our mission. Our team at Washington Headquarters—Service, Legislative, Communications; our professional and support staffs, alike—all work together toward the same goal: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served our country.

I would like to recognize the achievements of our team at the National Service and Legislative Headquarters. National Service Director Garry Augustine directs our outstanding program of service to disabled veterans and their families. Garry and his staff have done a superb job leading our corps of National Service Officers (NSOs) and Transition Service Officers (TSOs) in the successful completion of their mission. National Legislative Director Joseph Violante and his staff have excelled at advancing the legislative goals of DAV in a very difficult political environment.

I also want to recognize a valued member of our very fine team at Washington Headquarters, Executive Secretary Sally Miller, who keeps things running smoothly. My heartfelt thanks to Sally and the entire support staff for the tremendous job they do and their dedication to our mission.

Service

National Service Program

Our largest endeavor in fulfilling DAV's mission is our National Service Program. In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, we employ a corps of approximately 260 National Service Officers (NSOs) and 31 Transition Service Officers (TSOs) who counsel and represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

Between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011, our NSOs and TSOs, all wartime service-connected disabled veterans, represented nearly a quarter million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits. DAV National Service Officers continually train throughout their careers so that they are cognizant of the changes in all laws and regulations affecting veterans' benefits. This constant training assures that all DAV NSOs are at the forefront of veterans' advocacy. Our NSOs are highly trained professionals and skilled experts in developing and prosecuting veterans' claims. An NSO's training does not stop after completing 16 months of initial training, however. In fact training never stops because the laws, regulations and policies, which govern veterans' benefits, continue to change and grow in complexity. That's why equipping our NSOs with state-of-the-art computers and keeping their cutting-edge advocacy skills up to date is of paramount importance. DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

National Appeals Office

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is the highest appellate level within the VA responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits. About 96 percent of the claims before the board involve disability compensation issues. Our highly skilled National Appeals Officers serve appellants in the preparation of written briefs for BVA review and conduct formal hearings before Veterans' Law Judges. We maintain the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing more than 29 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2011.

Judicial Appeals

DAV continues its pro bono representation program for veterans seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In fiscal 2010-11, the BVA took action on more than 14,000 cases involving DAV clients. Each and every one of those cases was reviewed to identify those in which a veteran's claim was improperly denied. Thanks to DAV, more than seven hundred of these cases were appealed to the court. While we are still working toward our goal of appealing

each and every significant case, it is hard to believe that just a few years ago, we had yet to crack the two hundred case per year mark.

The substantial growth of this program would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of two top-notch law firms – Finnegan Henderson of Washington, D.C., and Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick of Providence, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C. Robert Chisholm (of the Chisholm firm) and Ron Smith (of Finnegan) are two of the nation's most accomplished members of the veterans bar, and DAV is proud and pleased to have them in prominent roles in our enlarged program at the court. By this time next year, we hope to be able to report still another substantial jump in the number of cases represented.

Transition Service Program

For those servicemembers making the all-important transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Disabled Transition Assistance programs. 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, we are able to provide prompt service to these future veterans. Over the last year, our TSOs conducted 3,974 formal presentations to 74,858 transitioning service members. During that same time they filed 21,947 claims for VA benefits. Counsel and representation for active duty service members during their transition was provided through the military's Disability Evaluation System. We devoted approximately \$1.73 million to this program in 2011.

Mobile Service Office Program

The Mobile Service Office (MSO) Program continues to reach out to veterans in their own communities. With 10 specially equipped Mobile Service Offices visiting 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 our National Service Offices.

During 2011, our MSOs traveled more than 124,778 miles, visiting 811 cities and towns. Our NSOs interviewed 18,020 veterans and other potential claimants. The Harley-Davidson Foundation in August 2010 pledged a second \$1 million over four years to partner with DAV to maintain the Harley's Heroes® program. During 2011, the MSOs participated in 197 days of activities for 155 individual Harley-Davidson dealerships as part of this program, compared to 127 dealerships in 2010, reflecting an 18 percent increase in Harley-Davidson dealership participation. Nearly \$912,000 was expended for the Mobile Service Office program in 2011.

Outreach Programs

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. 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 disabled veterans. In 2011, DAV trained and certified 1,811 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 36 states.

During 2011, we conducted 29 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 2,959 individuals in attendance. These Information Seminars provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community, giving Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

Since 2006, our 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, and NASCAR.

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 policy-makers together to openly address topics of concern. The most recent was the National Training Summit on Women Veterans held last fall in Washington, D.C., which we co-sponsored. DAV also has organized special events on Capitol Hill, such as the screening of the documentary film "Service: When Women Come Marching Home," which follows a handful of women veterans struggling with their transition back to civilian life after the military.

We also 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.

Employment Program

Our National Service Program is responsible for the organization's employment related program and works alongside the Department of Labor, the VA, the Office of Personnel Management, Congress and other government agencies to ensure that 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.

Homeless Veterans

Homelessness has been a constant presence in America's cities, towns and rural areas for many years. Since the early 1980s, homelessness has been a regular focus of media interest and a topic of policy debate and remains one of America's most complicated and important social issues. 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 to self-sufficiency. Your National Service Officers and Department and Chapter members have participated in Stand Downs for homeless veterans nationwide, and on behalf of the National Service Staff, I extend thanks for all that each of you do to make a significant difference in the lives of homeless veterans and their families across the Nation.

Legislation

In accomplishing DAV's mission, the legislative staff works closely with DAV's Service Department and Communications Department staffs. We also rely heavily on DAV National Service Officers, DAV and Auxiliary officers and members and our Department Legislative Chairmen to keep us informed and for support with our 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. Further, we 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.

Budget & Appropriations

The Administration's budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs, submitted in February 2012, includes funding increases for VA health care and benefits programs. In light of tight budgetary constraints government-wide, DAV is pleased with these increases, but some concerns remain.

Medical Care: The Administration requested \$55.7 billion, an amount that presumes a downward trend for medical care first- and third-party collections of \$3.0 billion. Alternatively the Independent Budget recommends \$57.2 billion for these accounts, an increase of \$3.3 billion above the FY 2012 enacted appropriations level, and \$1.5 billion higher than the Administration's request.

Medical and Prosthetic Research: The Administration requested \$583 million, an increase of \$1.7 million from the current year. The IB recommended \$611 million to cover biomedical research inflation, to continue currently funded research projects, and to allow VA to develop new treatments for the unique injuries, illnesses and diseases prevalent in veterans.

Benefits Processing: The \$2.2 billion budget request for the FY 2013 activities of the Veterans Benefits Administration is \$145 million more than the current level and \$54 million more than the IB recommendation for that period. However, the request falls short on funding for the IB-recommended staffing level of 585 for the Board of Veterans Appeals and an additional 195 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment counselors.

Major and Minor Construction: Contrasted to the IB's recommendations, the Administration is requesting \$2.2 billion less for Major Construction and \$461 million less for Minor Construction. This continued underfunding trend is deeply concerning to DAV. The Administration requested \$532 million and \$604 million for Major and Minor Construction, respectively.

Operational Improvements: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reported that VA had reduced its FY 2012 and FY 2013 budget requests by more than \$3.4 billion due to gimmicks and unreasonable assumptions not relevant to the actual needs of sick and injured veterans. VA reported in this budget a carryover amount of \$500 million from FY 2012. This trend greatly concerns DAV because we continually receive reports from our members and from VA personnel of widespread funding shortages in the health care system.

Finally, the Administration's FY 2013 budget proposal includes a request for \$54.6 billion in advance appropriations for VA health care accounts in FY 2014, a 3.3% increase, not including medical collections.

While comparatively generous to VA benefits and services programs in light of the nation's economic crisis and cuts to other government departments and agencies, the Administration's request falls short by our estimate of \$4 billion, mostly for construction funding. For VA medical care, and as validated by the Government Accountability Office [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/589760.pdf>], the budget was reduced significantly below the Veterans Health Administration's own actuarial forecast of funding needed.

On March 23, 2012, the House Budget Committee reported its Budget Resolution, H. Con. Res. 112, which closely mirrors the Administration's VA discretionary funding levels, about \$4 billion below the recommendations of the Independent Budget, most in construction funding levels. The House budget does not include \$1 billion in mandatory funding to stimulate veterans employment, as proposed by the Administration. The resolution does include the advance appropriation for VA medical care required by Public Law 111-81. On March 29, 2012, the budget resolution was passed in the House.

On May 31, the full House approved VA's appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, H.R. 5854, by a roll call vote of 407-12. The appropriations bill was referred to the Senate, but is not expected to be passed by the Senate in its current form. The final legislative text of the House bill matched the levels approved for VA by the Appropriations Committee earlier in May.

The only significant amendment approved by the House during final consideration is a one-year ban on payment of Senior Executive Service (SES) performance bonuses during FY 2013.

Given VA's significant disability claims backlog and the reported difficulties in VA mental health and other health care programs, DAV had expressed our concern to Congress about VA's SES bonus practices, but took no formal position on this amendment prior to the vote. Nevertheless, we are concerned that only VA and DOD executives would be subjected to this one-year restriction.

Through introduction of S. 3215 on May 22, the Senate has taken up VA funding with its version of VA's appropriation for next year. No activity on this measure has yet occurred. The Senate bill closely matches the President's budget proposal from February, but, of interest to our members, the Senate bill contained legislative language to clarify and modify Congressional intent on VA's reimbursement of care for service-connected veterans in State Veterans Homes. However, this language was not included in the House-passed bill. Also, neither the House nor Senate version of this bill includes the President's earlier funding proposal to stimulate veterans employment, but both of them include advance appropriations for VA health care in FY 2014.

While the overall funding levels in both bills are generous given the state of the federal deficit and the long-term U.S. debt, both bills fall short of VA's real budgetary needs as projected by the FY 2013 Independent Budget. Most of the shortage is in VA's construction and facility maintenance accounts.

Key Legislative Initiatives

Since the end of the 1st session and the beginning of the second session of the 112th Congress, the legislative staff has held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs, to educate them about DAV and our legislative priorities.

In February 2012, the IB for FY 2013 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 26 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 and that of the VA health care system, always with an eye to protecting and enhancing the federal benefits veterans have earned and deserve. The IB also presents our carefully developed estimates of funding needed to ensure that VA, the Department of Labor and the Federal Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims are properly funded to ensure protection and enhancement of veterans' benefits and services.

On November 2, 2011 and May 17, 2012, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi held her quarterly veterans' roundtables in which the DAV participated. These roundtables include the leadership of important House committees, including the Appropriations Committee, Armed Forces Committee, Budget Committee, Military Construction and VA Appropriations Subcommittee and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

These roundtables are extremely important because they provide DAV with an informal forum in which to present our issues to congressional leadership. I firmly believe that DAV's successful Stand Up for Veterans campaign was a success because of our ability to sit down with leadership, discuss the issues and, along with other members of the veteran/military/family community, convince the leadership of the importance of passing our initiatives.

Reforming the Veterans Benefits Claims Processing System

Over the past decade, the number of veterans filing claims for disability compensation has more than doubled, rising from nearly 600,000 in 2000 to over 1.4 million in 2011. This workload increase is the result of a number of factors over the past decade, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an increase in the complexity of claims and improved outreach and communication utilizing new Internet tools, including social networking. To meet this increased workload, VBA's workforce grew by about 80 percent, rising from 13,500 FTEE in 2007 to over 20,000 today, with the vast majority of that increase occurring during the past four years.

Yet despite the hiring of thousands of new employees, the number of pending claims for benefits, often referred to as the backlog, continues to grow. As of June 12, 2012, there were

911,450 pending claims for disability compensation and pensions awaiting rating decisions, an increase of more than 360,000 from two years earlier.

Almost 600,000 of those claims have been pending over 125 days (VBA's official target for completing claims), more than three times the number that existed two years earlier. But more important than the number of claims processed is the number of claims processed correctly. VBA's quality assurance program, the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR), indicates the current accuracy rate is just over 86 percent for the one-year period ending in April 2012. Worse, VA's Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) reported in May 2011 there was only a 77 percent accuracy rate.

Early in 2010, recognizing the severity of the problems they were facing, VBA's leadership committed to undertaking a comprehensive transformation of claims processing from an outdated, inefficient, and inadequate system into a modern, automated, rules-based, and paperless system. VA's transformation strategy is centered around three main components: people, processes and technologies. Although we have been pleased with the partnership VBA has formed with DAV and other VSOs to help reform the claims process, and despite some important progress, there are troubling signs that fundamental flaws and gaps may exist in VBA's newest technology and processes. Over the next year, DAV will continue working with VBA and Congress to ensure that these problems are addressed before they become permanently embedded into the CLAIMS processing system.

Throughout 2012, VBA has rolled out its new operating model for processing claims for disability compensation. Building upon the best practices developed from dozens of pilot programs conducted over the last several years, a new operating model for processing claims was developed that relies on the segmentation of claims as its cornerstone. The traditional triage function was replaced with an Intake Processing Center that put experienced claims personnel at the front end of the process to divide claims along three separate tracks; Express, Core, and Special Ops. At this point, it is too early to judge whether these changes will result in better outcomes for veterans.

VBA has also been finalizing and rolling out new IT systems, the most important of which is the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) upon which VBA's claims processing system will rely. Other important new IT initiatives include the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, e-Benefits, Veterans Relationship Management and Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record initiatives. Although we have been optimistic about VBMS during the early stages, we now have serious concerns based upon VBA's failure to address some basic VBMS issues that have been raised repeatedly over the past two years, specifically providing service officers who hold Power-of-Attorney (POA) for claimants with access to files in VBMS, implementing a comprehensive scanning solution for paper claims files, particularly those involving legacy claims, and fully incorporating rules-based decision support.

Essential to the success of both VBMS and VBA's transformation strategy are training, quality control, and accountability. As VBA transitions to digital claims files, its existing STAR quality assurance system must be able to access VBMS files electronically in order to conduct their reviews. In addition, VBA must ensure that the new Quality Review Teams (QRTs) at each VA regional office have the ability to review claims at every stage of the process. VBMS must be focused at least as much on increasing quality control as it is on producing more claims decisions.

Based on our experience with VBA's existing employee training programs, we will continue pushing VBA to allow sufficient time for employees to be properly trained on the new systems. We will also continue calling for adequate testing of the training be conducted to ensure it is being properly received by employees and that it is appropriate to the task at hand. DAV has long advocated that in order to achieve long-term success, VBA must make a cultural shift away from focusing on speed and production to a new culture built upon quality and accuracy. It is not enough to simply lower the backlog, after all backlogs can return. Moreover, it doesn't matter how quickly a claim is completed if it is not done correctly. To achieve these goals, DAV has and will continue to urge VBA and Congress to:

- Ensure that claims transformation efforts are focused principally on “deciding claims right the first time,” not just “reducing the backlog”;
- Provide aggressive oversight of VBA's new operating model to ensure that best practices are adopted and integrated into a new claims process built around quality and accuracy;
- Ensure that the new Veterans Benefits Management System resolves fundamental issues related to VSO power-of-attorney access, scanning strategies for legacy paper files, and the incorporation of rules-based processing tools;
- Ensure that VBA's employees and management are held accountable for their performance and that proper standards and metrics are in place to incentivize quality and accuracy, not only speed or production; and
- Ensure that VBA provides sufficient training to employees and tests all employees, including coaches and managers, on the skills, competencies, and knowledge required to do their jobs.

Over the next year, DAV will continue working with our VSO colleagues and the Veterans' Affairs Committees in the House and Senate to oversee and improve VBA's final implementation of their new operating model and IT systems, particularly the VBMS. One of the keys to our success will be the grassroots advocacy of our members and supporters throughout the country. While there are some significant problems and challenges that must be overcome, reform of the claims processing system is possible and DAV will continue to work towards that goal on behalf of all injured and ill veterans and their families.

Conclusion

Your Washington staff has an excellent reputation as the top-notch professional veterans service organization, committed to protecting and preserving the rights of our fellow disabled veterans. Your program directors and their staffs have spent years as advocates and NSOs representing veterans on a daily basis. They also have credibility that others who represent particular groups don't have...they are all service-connected disabled veterans themselves.

To be sure, the staff at your National Service and Legislative Headquarters continues to provide the very best services to you and your families. But without you, our members, we in Washington would not be able to accomplish all that we have.

So, on behalf of the entire National Service and Legislative Programs staff, thank you for making it possible for us to serve you. We couldn't do it without every one of you and the support you provide as we carry on DAV's proud mission of service and hope for America's injured and ill veterans and their families.

* * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Barry. May I have a motion to accept Mr. Jesinoski's report? I have a motion. Do I hear a – do I have a motion? Mic 1. Mic 3. Mic 2.

MR. ALBERT LINDEN: Mic 2. I move that we accept Barry Jesinoski's outstanding report with a great deal of gratitude and appreciation. Al Linden, Gator 90.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Do I hear a second?

MR. LINDEN: Florida.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Do I hear a second?

MR. TIM TIMMERMAN: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. TIMMERMAN: Tim Timmerman, District 17, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion is carried. (Applause) Thank you, Barry.

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: I was getting a little concerned you weren't going to accept my report there. (Laughter)

It is my pleasure to recognize three exceptional VA employees by introducing the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee award recipients. The awards recognize their leadership, success and compassion in support of our nation's injured and ill veterans.

The award for Veterans Health Administration employee is being presented to Ellen Papadimoulis, chief of blind rehabilitation at the Cleveland VA medical center. Ellen is recognized for her professional skill in planning, developing, implementing, directing and updating vision and blindness rehabilitation services at the VA medical center.

Ellen has served blind veterans for more than 30 years and has consistently provided remarkable service through her dedication, direct involvement and support. Her work in the hospital and community is a testament to the sense of compassion that she has for veterans. Ladies and gentlemen, Ellen Papadimoulis. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ellen Papadimoulis was presented with the National Commander's Award.)

MS. ELLEN PAPADIMOULIS: Well, first of all, I'd like to congratulate DAV on an amazing 2012 conference, your convention. I understand that you have over 4,000 disabled veterans here and that they have come from all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico so I congratulate you on that. Very impressive. (Applause)

I am very honored to have been selected for this special award. It is very meaningful and I am most appreciative. I'd like to especially thank DAV Department of Ohio, NSO Bilinovich, Drysdale, and especially my blind veteran volunteer David May who is a past commander of Department of DAV Ohio. (Applause)

For years his dedication, his amazing ability and his willingness to work with DAV's motto of veterans helping veterans has been extraordinary to us at Cleveland VA medical center. He has helped us as well as many other disabled veterans to grow our services at Cleveland VA medical center.

I started with the VA back in 1974 and at that time as I entered the social work program I was asked if I would like to work with blind veterans. I had never given this any thought and didn't realize that the VA had an extraordinary blind rehabilitation program.

As soon as I started working in this field I was just amazed with the stories of veterans who had overcome their disability and I would see not their disability but their ability – their ability to integrate back into the community, to become independent, to return to employment, to turn to volunteer work, to be important members of their family, and of their community.

I knew immediately that we had to help as many veterans learn about our VA blind rehabilitation services so we could help them turn around the quality of their lives, which they have done. In 2011 Cleveland VA medical center was able to open VA's eleventh blind rehabilitation center. This is a regional program that services five states.

Last Thursday, on August 2nd, we celebrated our first year of operation and we had over 150 blind veterans go through our program. For our reunion we were pleased to have over 100 blind veterans and family members come to the first year reunion. It's been gratifying to see how well they've done in their adjustment to blindness. (Applause)

It's been my honor and my privilege to serve blind veterans and to work with DAV for all these years. I quickly learned about adjudication and then I quickly learned how competent and how impressive DAV was in helping veterans to receive benefits to which they were entitled. It's been my pleasure for all of these years and I am humbled and I thank all of you. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Diane Till is the quality decision review officer at the VA veterans service station in Saint Petersburg, Florida. For her outstanding performance she is being honored with the award given to our Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration employee.

Diane conducts all the quality reviews performed by the station, ensuring that the claims and corrections are expeditiously handled. She also provides the training that meets the needs of the

station to provide correct information to other VA employees and gives them the tools necessary to do their jobs as accurately as possible.

It's a special honor to present this award to Diane, especially because she began her career serving veterans as a DAV employee in 1977 and greatly impressed our leadership. Because of her skill, she was encouraged to launch a VA career of service to our nation's heroes. Please welcome Diane Till. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Diane Till was presented with the National Commander's Award for Outstanding Member of the Veterans Health Administration.)

MS. DIANE TILL: Wow. I want to thank you so much. This is a great honor to be here this morning to accept this award. I would like to thank Andy Marshall and his staff at the DAV National Service Office in Saint Petersburg, Florida, for nominating me for this 2002 (sic) VBA Employee of the Year.

I have worked closely with the DAV National Service Office as a team to provide service to our veterans, this nation's heroes, every day. As I walk by the slot machines, I realize that I win big every day serving our veterans and knowing they are served the right way, in turn, being able to pass that knowledge on to fellow raters I have been tasked to train.

I am very proud to have had the opportunity to provide service to our nation's veterans, their spouses and their families. Every day in my job as a decision review officer I always walk away knowing I have had a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and a huge heart full of compassion for our veterans and their families.

I would like to thank you for your service to our country and your continued service to our fellow veterans. Thank you. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: The National Commander's Award for Outstanding National Cemetery Administration employee is being presented to Ms. Riva Henderson. As a cemetery representative at Fort Rosecrans-Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, she has the important duty of ensuring veterans receive their final honors.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Ms. Henderson's compassion and professionalism are impressive for the families interring their loved ones at the national cemetery. And with over 37 years of experience with the VA, she is deeply involved, dedicated, and caring to the veteran families in their most difficult time. Let's give a warm welcome to Reva Henderson. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Reva Henderson was presented with the National Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans' Affairs National Cemetery Administration Employee.)

MS. REVA HENDERSON: Well, good morning. What I want to say is that it is a pleasure and an honor to serve our veterans and our veterans' families today working at the National Cemetery Administration in the time of need for the families. We are there for them to help them.

And I want to give special thanks to James Gallagher for seeing those qualities and traits where we have to show compassion, professionalism to our families to make, you know, their services as simple and easy as possible. And I want to give thanks to the committee and whoever is involved in selecting me for this award. So I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Thank you again to our Outstanding VA employees. They are truly outstanding examples of the standard of excellence at the VA. Please given them all a great hand on behalf of the VA employees who labor every day to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served. (Applause)

As I mentioned earlier in my report, we have also recognized two exceptional employers who understand the value of hiring disabled veterans. Our large employer of the year is Cooper Tire and Rubber Company of Texarkana, Texas. And our small employer of the year is C4 Planning Solutions of Decatur, Georgia.

Although Cooper Tire and Rubber Company's leadership is not here today, we have already presented them with their award.

Our Outstanding Small Employer of the Year, C4 Planning Solutions, is an information technology company doing important work for our military. About 20 percent of the company's employees are disabled veterans. And its owner is a disabled veteran himself, well aware of the challenges veterans can face after serving, especially injured or ill veterans.

I am very happy that Gary Youtsey is here today with us and I'd like to present this award, Gary, to you in appreciation of your personal commitment to providing the men and women who have served with opportunities for employment and to share their talents at your company. Please welcome Gary Youtsey. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Gary Youtsey was presented with the Outstanding Small Employee of the Year award.)

MR. GARY YOUTSEY: On behalf of my partner, Tony Finell, it is an honor receive this award. As a retired marine – (Hoo-ah) Hoo-ah – (Laughter) I had to make sure I get that out because when we started this business we quickly realized that the people make the business.

We're only as good as our people. So we went out and looked for the finest and we started with the Marine Corps. Hoo-ah. (Applause) All right. And over time we even hired some Air Force. (Laughter) We got – we got a few locations that had hotels so. (Laughter)

I thought that would make me a few enemies out there so. (Laughter) No, it's a great honor. We know that this country, that freedom is not free. And a lot of people have paid the price. And you out there, you have paid probably a greater price than most. And I am proud of you.

And so when we look to hire individuals, we look to those who have been in the service, who have been in combat, that have had to make decisions, that had to trust in the individual on your left and on your right and understand teamwork.

In the Corps we were taught to honor our God and to honor our country and to honor our Corps. And with that creed, all of you bring that from each individual service. And we are honored to have you on our team. (Applause) So I thank you for what you do.

More importantly, I am so impressed with this family within a family, watching you take care of each other. It's – it just gives me a feeling of proud to be an American. (Applause) Thank you very much. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: Thank you for all you do, Gary. And thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to present these awards to such a special group of people. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: It is easy to see why these individuals and companies deserve this recognition. Once again, please give them a big round of applause. (Applause)

It is now time to hear from National Membership Director Tony Baskerville with his report on the status of DAV membership. Tony.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR ANTHONY BASKERVILLE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: National Commander Don Samuels, National Adjutant Arthur Wilson, Executive Directors Marc Burgess and Barry Jesinoski, distinguished guests, delegates to the 91st National Convention of DAV. There is no secret formula to adding members to our organization. Membership development is challenging. It requires work, determination, creativity and enthusiasm.

Membership has traditionally been defined as a "push" product. Most people do not wake up in the morning and say, "Hey, I really need to join something today." (Laughter) If you want someone to join, you have to communicate the value of membership.

When you engage veterans in your community and tell them about your experience with DAV, go that extra step to extend our welcome. Invite your fellow veteran to become a member of this great organization, and offer them a place in our family. We are all ambassadors for DAV. Remember, it only takes one single question, and you all know what that is. All you have to do is ask.

I know it works, just ask Roland Holtberg of Wilmington, North Carolina who was added to the Recruitment Hall of Fame in 2010 for having three consecutive years of 100 or more new members. (Applause)

He is also the 2010-2012 (sic) Recruiter of the Year and today we will present him with the honors of being the 2011-2012 Recruiter of the Year. And I would like to ask at this time if Barry Blevins, Department Commander of North Carolina, would come up and accept that award for Mr. Holtberg who I know is at home probably recruiting right now. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Barry Blevins advanced to the podium to accept the award on behalf of Ronald Holtberg.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Commander Samuels, once again I am happy to report DAV has concluded another banner year in membership recruitment. We ended our year with 189,332 Trial members; 206,392 Part Life members; and 826,297 Full Life members, for a total membership of 1,222,021, which brought us to nearly 5,000 members above goal this year. (Applause)

We could not have exceeded this lofty achievement without the dedication and devotion of those who I am about to announce – our Department leaders who compete for the division titles of Department Commander of the Year.

In Division I, Departments with more than 35,000 members, the Department of California and Past Department Commander LeRoy Acosta takes top honors at 100.79 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 505 Life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, LeRoy Acosta advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: In Division II, with 18,000 to 34,000 members, the Department of Massachusetts, led by the Department Commander James Follis, with 101.8 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 503 Life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, James Follis advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: In Division III, Departments with 10,000 members to 17,000 members, the Department of Minnesota, under the leadership of Commander David Valtinson with 105.64 percent, and a whopping 897 Life members over goal. (Applause)

(Whereupon, David Valtinson advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: In Division IV, Departments with 5,000 to 9,999, the Department of Connecticut and Past Department Commander John S. Carbone takes home the prize with 105.54 percent of goal, exceeding goal with 423 Life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, John S. Carbone advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: There was a hard fought battle in Division V with 5,000 members or less. This race came down to the close of business on Saturday, June 30th. The victor, by 12 Life members, is the Department of South Dakota and Past Department Commander Harold Mullenberg with 103.99 percent of goal and 170 Life members over goal. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Harold Mullenberg advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: The General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is presented to the Department whose members recruit the highest number of eligible veterans, part and full paid. This year the award is presented to the Department of Texas with a total of 1,760 new part and full paid members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a delegate from the Department of Texas advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is awarded to the Department with the highest percentage of increase of Life members over goal and with a 105.64 percent increase, this year's award is presented to the Department of Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a delegate from the Department of Minnesota advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Each year three member recruiters and three National Service Officers who have recruited 100 or more new members during the membership year are randomly selected and given an opportunity to choose from a selection of very nice prizes.

This year the lucky winners are Ronald J. Holtberg, George Antee, Sheila Sanders, Kwan Tillman, Justin Hart and Judy Orosco. Your gifts or your packets can be picked up in the membership registration area following this meeting.

This year six new names have been added to the Recruitment Hall of Fame or Recruiters Hall of Fame. Each individual has signed 100 or more new members for three consecutive years. They are Lamarr Courser of Maryland; (Applause) George Antee of Louisiana; (Applause) Delbert Musgrave of Texas; (Applause) John Rodriguez of Indiana; (Applause) Sheila Sanders of Florida; (Applause) and Judy Orosco of Phoenix. (Applause) Let's give them all a hand. (Applause)

Commander Samuels, your Corps of National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers work very hard to, at fulfilling our commitment to this nation's veterans, their dependents and survivors.

They also understand it takes a large, strong, and active membership base to effectively extend our mission of hope into the communities where veterans and their families live.

Each year we depend on our National Service Officers to help in the growth of the DAV. And I am proud to report that under the leadership of National Service Director Garry Augustine and his staff, NSOs have once again demonstrated their tireless support of DAV's membership program by recruiting 11,108 Full and Part Life members. (Applause)

Later this week the National Service Staff will recognize all NSOs for their achievements this year. But at this time I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some remarkable numbers. And if any of you are in the hall and your names are called, please stand and be recognized.

The Top NSO recruiter for 2011-2012 is Nicholas Bernardi of New Jersey (Applause) with 355 Part and Full Life members. His runner-ups include Justin Hart of Connecticut with 294 members; (Applause) Clay Saucier of South Carolina with 213 members; (Applause) Kwan Tillman of Michigan, 184 members; (Applause) Lamarr Couser, Washington, D.C., 155 members; (Applause) and John Rodriguez of Illinois with 133 members. (Applause) In all, 23 National Service Officers individually recruited more than 100 members, a demonstration of true commitment to our cause.

And when I think of commitment I'm reminded of Michelangelo's career as a sculptor and painter. His talent wasn't handed to him on a silver platter. Although he possessed great talents, his accomplishments and fame came only after investing himself to the point of physical exhaustion.

Michelangelo spent years lying flat on his back on a scaffold painting the frescos of the Sistine Chapel. By the time he completed this magnificent project he was virtually blind from the paint that had dripped into his eyes. Now, one can say that's true commitment.

People willing to invest themselves will improve the quality of their lives as well as those around them. Organizations, communities, religious and educational institutions and foundations who are fortunate enough to have committed people will continue to excel.

Each of us who have benefited by DAV's service and membership owe it to those who came before us to ensure the organization remains in place for future generations and their families. Become committed. Invite others to join our cause. Unlike Michelangelo, your task is easy. All you have to do is ask.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to present the delegates and guests seated here the annual report of the National Membership Department. This concludes my report, sir. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Anthony L. Baskerville, National Director of Membership:)

ANNUAL REPORT OF
ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
To the Disabled American Veterans
91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
August 4-7, 2012

National Commander Donald Samuels, National Officers, National Adjutant Art Wilson, Executive Directors Marc Burgess and Barry Jesinoski, Distinguished Guests, and Delegates to the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

There is no secret formula to adding members to our organization. Membership development is a challenge—it requires work, determination, creativity, and enthusiasm.

Membership has traditionally been defined as a “push” product. Most people do not wake up in the morning and say, “hey, I really need to join something today.” If you want someone to join, you have to communicate the value of membership.

When you engage veterans in your community and tell them about your experience with DAV, go that extra step in extending our welcome. Invite your fellow veterans to become members of this great organization, and offer them a place in our family.

We are all ambassadors for DAV. Remember, it only takes a single question, and all you have to do is ask!

I know it works, just ask Ronald Holtberg of Wilmington, NC Chapter 11, whose name was added to the Recruitment Hall of Fame in 2010, for having 3 consecutive years of 100 or more new members. He is the 2010/2011 Recruiter of the Year and he's with us today for the second consecutive year to accept honors as the 2011/2012 Recruiter of the Year—Please welcome Mr. Ronald Holtberg of North Carolina.

Commander Samuels, once again I'm happy to report DAV has concluded another banner year in membership recruitment. We ended our year with 189,332 Trial members; 206,392 Part Life; and 826,297 Full Life members, for a total membership of 1,222,021! That's 4,952 life members above goal.

We could not have exceeded that lofty achievement without the dedication and devotion of those I am about to announce – our department leadership who compete for the division title of Department Commander of the Year.

In Division I, Departments with more than 35,000 members: The Department of California and Past Dept. Commander LeRoy Acosta, takes top honors, at 100.79% of goal, exceeding goal by 505 life members.

In Division II, with 18,000 to 34,000 members—The Department of Massachusetts, led by Past Dept. Commander James Follis with 101.80% of goal, exceeding goal by 503 life members.

In Division III, with 10,000 to 17,000 members—The Department of Minnesota, under the leadership of Past Dept. Commander David Valtinson with 105.64%, a whopping 897 life members over goal.

In Division IV, with 5,000 to 9,999—The Department of Connecticut, and Past Dept. Commander John S. Carbone take home the prize with 105.54% of goal, exceeding goal with 423 life members.

There was a hard fought battle in Division V with 5,000 members or less, this race came down to the close of business on Saturday, June 30. The victor, by 12 life members, is the Department of South Dakota and Past Dept. Commander Harold Muilenburg, with 103.99% of goal, 170 life members over goal.

The General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is presented to the Department whose members recruited the highest number of eligible veterans, part and fully paid. This year the award is presented to the Department of Texas, with a total of 1,760 new part and fully paid members.

The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is awarded to the Department with the highest percentage increase of Life members over goal. With a 105.64% increase, this year's award is presented to the Department of Minnesota.

Each year, three member recruiters and three National Service Officers who've recruited 100 or more new members during the membership year are randomly selected and given the opportunity to choose from a selection of very nice prizes. This year the lucky winners are:

- Ronald J. Holtberg
- George W. Antee
- Shelia A. Sanders
- Nicholas Bernardi
- Justin B. Hart
- Judy C. Orosco

This year six new names have been added to the Recruiters Hall of Fame. Each individual has signed 100 or more New Members for three consecutive years. They are:

- Lamarr A. Couser—Chapter 18, Towson, Maryland
- George W. Antee—Chapter 30, Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana
- Delbert R. Musgrave—Chapter 29, Labombard, Texas
- John F. Rodriguez—Chapter 17, Hammond, Indiana
- Sheila A. Sanders—Chapter 7, Washington, Florida
- Judy C. Orosco—Chapter 1, Phoenix

Let's give all of our winners a hand for their hard work this year.

Commander Samuels, your Corps of National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers work very hard at fulfilling our commitment to this nation's veterans, their dependents and survivors.

They also understand that it takes a large, strong and active membership base to effectively extend our mission of hope into communities where veterans and their families live.

Each year we depend on our NSOs to help in the growth of DAV and I'm proud to report that under the leadership of National Service Director Garry Augustine and his staff, NSOs have once again demonstrated their tireless support of the DAV's membership program by recruiting 11,108 Full and Part life members.

Later this week the National Service Staff will recognize all NSO's for their achievements this year, but at this time I would like to take the opportunity to share with all of you some remarkable numbers. And if your name is called and you're in the hall please stand and be recognized:

The Top NSO recruiter for 2011/2012 is: Nicholas Bernardi of New Jersey, with 355 part and full life members.

Runner-ups include: Justin Hart, Connecticut, 294; Clay Saucier, South Carolina, 213; Kwan Tillman, Michigan 184; Lamarr Couser, Washington, D.C., 155; and John Rodriguez of Illinois, 131.

In all, 23 NSOs individually recruited more than 100 members, a demonstration of true commitment to our cause.

When I think of commitment, I'm reminded of Michelangelo's career as a sculptor and painter. His talent wasn't handed to him on a silver platter. Although he possessed great talents, his accomplishments and fame came only after he invested himself to the point of physical exhaustion.

Michelangelo spent years lying flat on his back on a scaffold painting the fresco in the Sistine Chapel. By the time he completed this magnificent project, he was virtually blind from the paint that had dripped into his eyes. Now one would say that's true commitment!

People willing to invest themselves will improve the quality of their life as well as those around them. Organizations, communities, and religious and educational institutions fortunate enough to have committed people will continue to excel.

Each of us who have benefited by DAV services and membership owe it to those who came before us to ensure the organization remains in place for future generations and their families. Become committed, invite others to join our cause. Unlike Michelangelo, your task is easy. All you have to do is ask!

Thank you Commander for the opportunity to present to the delegates and guests seated here the annual report of the National Membership Department. This concludes my report.

* * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Tony, for that excellent report. I'll entertain a motion to accept Mr. Baskerville's report.

MR. TIMMERMAN: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. TIMMERMAN: Tim Timmerman, District 17, moves to accept Tony's fine and inspiring report. Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: May I have a second?

MR. BOBBY PARKER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. PARKER: Bobby Parker, delegate, Chapter 87, seconds that motion.

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

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Ron Minter joined the DAV's professional staff as a member of Class Eight at the National Service Officer Training Academy at Denver in 1999. Upon his graduation, he was assigned as an NSO trainee at the DAV National Service Office in his hometown of Waco, Texas.

As a U.S. Navy veteran who was medically discharged as a result of his service in 1995, he heads up a corps of DAV volunteers who, along with DAV Auxiliary volunteers, donated more than 2.3 million hours a year to volunteer work at VA medical facilities.

He also directs the nationwide DAV Transportation Network in which DAV Hospital Service Coordinators arrange transportation for vets who have no way to get to and from VA medical facilities. The Network provides more than 750,000 rides for veterans per year.

Additionally, Mr. Minter directs and coordinates activities involving DAV co-sponsorship of the annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic which uses winter sports such as skiing to promote physical rehabilitation and therapy for veterans struggling to overcome the impact of profound disability.

The Clinic is the largest rehabilitation event of its kind in the world. He also coordinates corporate sponsorship of the program. Please join me and provide a very warm welcome to our National Director of Voluntary Services, Ron Minter. (Applause)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES RON MINTER: Thank you. National Commander, National Officers, distinguished guests and delegates, it is my pleasure to report to you on the progress we've made in the DAV's Voluntary Services Programs.

Each year DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers are called upon for an even greater commitment of their time and talents. And each year they come through magnificently, not only meeting every new challenge but going well beyond everyone's expectations. We can count on them to be there when and where they are needed, getting the job done right.

The statistics I report to you today attempt to measure what DAV and Auxiliary members, families and friends, have done in accomplishing our organization's purpose, but they cannot measure the impact these hours have on the lives of veterans who benefit from DAV volunteers.

Many of these programs and specific numbers have already been reported here at the Convention so I will just briefly highlight the major details.

The DAV Department of Veterans' Affairs Voluntary Service program, our largest volunteer initiative, features 12,300 DAV VAVS volunteers donating more than 1.9 million hours at VA medical facilities from September 2010 through September 2011.

This huge number of assignments they perform require the extensive management effort as carried out on a local level by 18 State Chairmen, 132 VAVS Representatives, 155 Deputy Representatives, 7 Associate Representatives, and 3 Deputy Associate Representatives.

A very active corps of 1,767 Auxiliary volunteers also donated 165,202 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided more than 2.1 million hours of VAVS service over the past year, considerably more than any other service organization. (Applause)

Our Transportation Network provided 730,503 veterans with rides to VA facilities to receive care. DAV Hospital Service Coordinators managed 200 active programs nationwide and the efforts of more than 9,000 volunteer drivers.

Operating primarily DAV donated vehicles, drivers logged 27,455,354 miles last year. DAV, its departments and chapters, have donated 2,586 vans to VA healthcare centers nationwide to fulfill this need at an estimated cost of over \$56 million. (Applause)

We've already recognized our Seal Award honorees and Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship recipients, but I'd be remiss if I didn't ask for a round of applause for all of our volunteers throughout the nation who are helping us fulfill our nation's promises to those who have served. (Applause)

I had the unique opportunity of helping facilitate the National Disabled Winter Sports Clinic this year in Snowmass Village, Colorado. More than 300 severely impaired veterans from around the country participate in this life-changing event which we co-sponsor with our partners at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Many of our Departments and a few Chapters over the years have joined corporate donors to support these events as sponsors. For our Chapters and Departments I would like to encourage you to attend the event if you haven't already. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience and those who do seem to get almost as much out of it as the veterans who overcome unthinkable obstacles and truly perform "Miracles on a Mountainside."

This year's DAV Freedom Award was given to retired Army Sergeant Jarod Behee who survived being shot in the head by a sniper in Iraq. We've seen an amazing recovery, but it's his spirit and the inspiration he provided to other participants that won our highest honor at this event.

Our DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program has grown this year. In addition to Major League Baseball Umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Lane we were contacted by Erik Stolhanske who was in a film called Super Troopers which I would describe as the Animal House of its day for returning combat veterans. (Laughter) We plan on getting him into VA facilities to help us reach out to younger veterans. He really connected well with Winter Sports Clinic participants.

Over this year our celebrity volunteers have done an amazing job of showing veterans the appreciation they deserve for their service and sacrifices.

Our celebrities aren't the only stars involved with DAV. And we have VIPs throughout the country, many of whom are not getting the credit they deserve.

Recognizing volunteer efforts is important for DAV. It quantifies the value that our citizens place on the men and women who have defended our way of life. Statistics about volunteers tell our lawmakers and voters that people are passionate about our cause.

And while I wish I could say that we've captured to the fullest extent the support veterans have enjoyed by our patriotic volunteers, there is an important piece of my report that I'm certain doesn't reflect all of our efforts.

In the fall of 2007 DAV created the Local Veterans Assistance Program that brings to the light non-traditional volunteer efforts that our members and supporters do every day to recognize and honor veterans in our communities. Many of our traditional volunteers are already donating hours of service in addition to their time in vans and at VA hospitals.

Many more don't have a VA facility nearby or have a special skill or relationship with a veteran who they want to help more. We have so many volunteers who are doing amazing things that could inspire and encourage others but they're largely going unnoticed.

To date, some 3,000 LVAP volunteers from 30 states have been recognized for donating 854,583 hours of service. That's impressive but it's only scratching the surface in terms of what is happening day-to-day throughout the country.

I doubt we've recorded a fraction of the Chapter and Department Service Officer work, DAV outreach efforts in our communities, or participation in local fund-raising efforts that individuals are doing all the time. Never mind the direct assistance so many of us do without thinking.

If you have "adopted" a veteran who you take on errands or help with yard work, you could be registering that time with DAV to encourage others to do the same. LVAP is a program that can truly maximize the benefits of volunteerism. It's a chance for people with special skills to use their talents and experience to make a difference. It is what the volunteer makes of it.

If that means the volunteer is teaching a computer class to senior veterans or yoga at the Vet Center and to help returning veterans with stress, we need to recognize those contributions. Those hours can be applied toward recognition in the Seal Award and in the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship applications. It's a very worthwhile program that needs your support and participation.

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 teams across the nation for their devotion to volunteerism.

The Voluntary Services Department this past year has been very fortunate to have the support of DAV National Commander Don Samuels and Auxiliary National Commander Patrice Rapisand and their staffs, the National Officers, DAV Interim Hospital Committee, The Columbia Trust, the National Service Foundation and the Charitable Service Trust. Their assistance and support were essential ingredients of our 2011 success story.

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 these 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 extend 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 cared 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 is – excuse me – 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 fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served are greatly appreciated. Thank you. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by Mr. Ron Minter, National Director of Voluntary Services:)

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ANNUAL REPORT OF RON MINTER
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES
TO THE 91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
AUGUST 4-7, 2012

NATIONAL COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND DELEGATES TO THE 91st NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

It is my pleasure to report to you on the progress we've made in the DAV's Voluntary Services Programs.

Each year, DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers are called upon for an even greater commitment of their time and talents. And each year, they come through magnificently, not only meeting every new challenge but going well beyond everyone's expectations. The task may seem difficult, the obstacles insurmountable. Yet our DAV and Auxiliary and youth volunteers have proven their true resolve. We can count on them to be there – when and where they're needed – getting the job done right.

In the program descriptions that follow, you find 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 Service 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, 12,300 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 1,950,824 hours in the 12 months ending September 2011.

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 18 State Chairmen, 132 VAVS Representatives, 155 Deputy Representatives, seven Associate Representatives and three Deputy Associate Representative.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 1,767 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 165,202 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided 2,116,026 hours of VAVS service over the past year – considerably more than any other service organization. This is equivalent to the VA having an additional 1,017 full-time employees with an estimated value of more than \$45 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 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 3,063 LVAP volunteers from 30 states have gained the satisfaction of giving to others by donating 854,583 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 200 active programs. They've recruited 9,249 volunteer drivers who logged 27,225,208 miles last year, providing 720,867 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 2,586 vans to VA healthcare centers nationwide at a cost of \$56,658,892.

At the DAV's 90th National Convention, Ford Motor Company donated eight Ford E-350, 12-passenger vans to the DAV Transportation Network. The VAMCs that received these vehicles were: Wilmington, Delaware; Boise, Idaho; Las Vegas, Nevada; Togus, Maine; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Roseburg, Oregon; White River Junction, Vermont and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Ford has donated a total of 156 vehicles to the DAV Transportation Network since 1996.

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 34 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 – MaryAnn Keckler, a member of Chapter 67 in Brooksville, Florida, is a Navy veteran who served from 1959 to 1962. She will receive the DAV Seal Award for her volunteer work in the spinal cord injury, polytrauma and recreational therapy units, as well as for organizing special events at the Tampa VA Medical Center.

Over the past 15 years, she has amassed more than 5,700 hours volunteering seven days a week, using a motorized wheelchair to get around the sprawling hospital.

DAV Auxiliary – Patricia Davis, a member of Unit 19 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin has more than 21,000 hours volunteering over the last 12 years. She will receive the DAVA Seal Award for her work with the Transportation Network, serving as a recreation volunteer and chairing the VA Voluntary Service Executive Committee at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center.

Ms. Davis averages 45 hours a week at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. As Transportation Network coordinator, she has 152 volunteer drivers who last year drove 402,000 miles transporting 16,131 veterans and donated 38,888 hours behind the wheel.

The DAV and Auxiliary can be proud of the service and dedication displayed by volunteers like MaryAnn and Patricia and all the volunteers 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 the great organization that it is.

Ms. Keckler and Ms. Davis will be presented with their awards during the opening session of the 2012 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

2012 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 2012 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.

1st Place	Christiana Mae Hess, Martinsburg, WV VAMC	\$20,000
2nd Place	Kelsey Arline Lewis, Boise, ID VAMC	\$15,000
3rd Place	Karstin Paulus Patterson, Long Beach, CA VAMC	\$10,000
4th Place	Christopher Tinker, Birmingham, AL VAMC	\$ 7,500
5th Place	Jessica M. Kelsey, Fresno, CA VAMC	\$ 7,500
6th Place	Denise Powell, Biloxi, MS VAMC	\$ 5,000
7th Place	Devon Turney, Louisville, KY VAMC	\$ 5,000
8th Place	Aleshya Catrese Richardson, Washington, DC VAMC	\$ 5,000

Ms. Hess will be presented with her scholarship during the opening session of the 2012 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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. This clinic is the largest rehabilitative clinic of its kind in the world.

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 25-30, 2012, well over 300 severely disabled veterans took part in the 26th 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 2012 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic for their generous support. A special note of thanks to the ever increasing number of DAV and Auxiliary entities who are committed to this event. Our sponsors this year were:

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Mike Weiss

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.

On a rooftop during his second deployment to Iraq, while volunteering for a security mission, an enemy sniper did his utmost to end this soldier's life. Fortunately, the bullet that pierced his Kevlar helmet met a stronger force when it struck his skull. It traced around the inside of his helmet, blowing out the other side.

No one there that day imagined he would survive, but his heart kept beating. He was taken to a rooftop and medically evacuated from the battlefield. Though his time in Iraq was over, a new fight had just begun. For months he lived in a coma, with his daughter and loved ones unsure if he'd live.

Still, his heart kept beating and the spirit within him drove him out of the darkness. He woke up to some catastrophic limitations. He went from being a leader of men, a staff sergeant, to being completely dependent on others to meet his simplest needs. He never gave up. He fought on – learning all over again how to walk and talk and to live as independently as possible.

In 2007, he attended his first National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. In addition to the amazing rehabilitative opportunities he embraced, he found a community of veterans who shared similar experiences and values – as well as the desire to reach their fullest personal potential. In spite of his brain injury, he took up snowboarding once again.

He also connected with the networks of support the event offers that keep he and his caregivers in touch with his fellow warriors throughout the year. As soon as he was able, he became a volunteer to give back to his veterans at his VA medical center.

In the last five years, he's gone from being a survivor to becoming a true champion. This year in particular, he showed a tremendous leap in his cognitive abilities and his ability to communicate – which only enhances the inspiration he provides all who are connected with the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Many know him best by his nickname – which appropriately describes his heroic journey to this point. The 2012 DAV Freedom Award was presented to Jared "Superman" Behee.

Clinic Statistics

Veteran Participants:

Total veterans: 355	New veterans: 119	New OIF veterans: 20
Male veterans: 313	Women veterans: 42	

Branch of Service:

Army: 173	Air Force: 51	Coast Guard: 6
Navy: 74	Marines: 57	

Periods of War:

World War II: 2	Gulf War: 31	Korean War: 6
Operation Iraqi Freedom: 56	Vietnam War: 63	Operation Enduring Freedom: 26

Locations:

State Represented: 46
VA Medical Centers represented: 92

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. Actor Gary Sinise, a longtime supporter of veterans and the star of the hit TV series CSI: New York performed with his "Lt. Dan Band" for convention-goers. In addition they were incredibly generous about spending time with hospitalized soldiers and their families at VA medical centers across the country.

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 Donald L. Samuels and Auxiliary National Commander Patrice Rapisand 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 2011 success story.

My sincere gratitude for the support of the staff of National Headquarters led by Executive Director Marc Burgess, and the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters led by Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. My personal thanks to Voluntary Services Support Specialist Linda DeMartino; Program Coordinator Joyce Barrett; Administrative Secretary Amanda Menkedick and Correspondents Wilma Henderson, Odie Hall and Karen Griesinger 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, 2010 through September 30, 2011)

NUMBER OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED VAVS VOLUNTEERS	14,067
NUMBER OF HOURS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	2,055,524
NUMBER OF HOURS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	60,502
NUMBER OF HOURS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	2,116,026

VAVS APPOINTED POSITIONS	
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN	18
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN ALSO SERVING AS REPRESENTATIVES	9
NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES	132
NUMBER OF DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	155
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	7
NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	3
NUMBER OF APPOINTED POSITIONS	324
ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR	50

DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
(January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011)

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS (HSCs)	193
NUMBER OF VETERANS TRANSPORTED	730,503
TRANSPORTATION HOURS	1,609,605
TRANSPORTATION MILES	27,455,354

2011 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK GRANTS

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK HSC PROGRAM GRANTS	\$ 635,614
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VAN GRANTS (101 vans purchased and delivered in 2011)	\$ 2,475,805
2011 Total National Grant Expenditures	\$ 3,111,419

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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 2011-2012 by
JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
for presentation to THE 91ST NATIONAL CONVENTION
Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012

NATIONAL COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

On this occasion of the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 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.

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 Donald L. Samuels 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 Barry A. Jesinoski, National Headquarters Executive Director J. Marc Burgess, and the professional staffs of the DAV National 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 J. Ilem; Assistant National Legislative Director Adrian M. Atizado; Assistant National Legislative Director John Wilson, who recently resigned to attend to family matters; Assistant National Legislative Director Jeffrey C. Hall and Legislative Support Specialists Lisa Bogle and Caren Wooley.

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 as well as in health care and benefits policy and legislation.

In accomplishing DAV's mission, the legislative staff works closely with DAV's Service Department and Communications Department staffs. We also rely heavily on DAV National Service Officers, DAV and Auxiliary officers and members and our Department Legislative Chairmen to keep us informed and for support with our 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.

Further, we 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.

Hearings

One of the main missions of the legislative department is to build government support for issues important to injured and sick veterans, their families and survivors and to prevent the erosion of current benefits and services.

We accomplish this mission in many different ways, including meetings with members of Congress, congressional staff and VA officials, grassroots activities and as a co-author of the Independent Budget. In a more formal manner, we present both written and oral testimony to congressional committees.

Since last year's National Convention, the DAV legislative staff has testified at 17 Congressional hearings, covering 50 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues. Below is a summary of all of these hearings.

On November 15, 2011, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on ways to eliminate waste within VA.

On December 2, 2011, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health concerning VA's suicide prevention efforts.

On January 24, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

On February 15, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the FY 2013 budget for veterans' benefits.

On February 16, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning the FY 2013 budget for veterans' benefits.

On February 28, 2012, DAV National Commander Donald L. Samuels testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees concerning DAV's legislative agenda for 2012.

On February 29, 2012, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the FY 2013 budget for veterans' benefits.

On March 8, 2012, DAV submitted testimony for the record on 10 bills under consideration, covering three DAV resolutions.

On March 28, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning the implementation of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

On April 2, 2012, DAV testified before the Senate Appropriations Military Construction and VA Subcommittee concerning the FY 2013 budget for veterans' benefits.

On April 16, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health concerning 7 health care bills under consideration by the Subcommittee, three of which were supported by DAV resolutions.

On April 18, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the role of veterans service organizations in the claims process.

On May 8, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning mental health staffing and quality issues.

On May 16, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health concerning prosthetics issues.

On June 6, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning 7 benefits bills under consideration by the Subcommittee, one of which was supported by a DAV resolution.

On June 19, 2012, DAV testified at a hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning VBA claims processing transformation initiatives, particularly the Veterans Benefits Management System.

On June 27, 2012, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning 26 health care and benefits bills under consideration by the Committee, about one-third of which involved a DAV resolution.

Enacted Legislation

VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011

Congress approved the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 on November 16, 2011. The DAV urged lawmakers to approve this legislation, which is aimed at creating job opportunities for the men and women who have protected and defended our nation and our precious way of life. The President signed the bill into law on November 21, 2011.

The VOW to Hire Heroes Act includes important provisions that should positively impact the unemployment rate of 12.1 percent that veterans of the current conflicts now face when they return home. The measure combines provisions in the Hiring Heroes Act (S. 951) and the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act (H.R. 2433) into a single, comprehensive package which addresses the following:

Improving the Transition Assistance Program (TAP): Makes TAP mandatory for most service members transitioning to civilian status, upgrades career counseling options, and resume writing skills, as well as ensuring the program is tailored for the 21st Century job market.

Facilitating Seamless Transition: Allows service members to begin the federal employment process prior to separation in order to facilitate a truly seamless transition from the military to jobs at VA, Homeland Security, or other federal agencies.

Expanding Education & Training: Provides 100,000 unemployed veterans of past eras and wars with up to one year of additional Montgomery GI Bill benefits to qualify for jobs in high-demand sectors, from trucking to technology. It also provides injured and ill veterans up to one year of additional Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits.

Translating Military Skills and Training: Requires the Department of Labor to evaluate what military skills and training should be equivalent in the civilian sector, and will work to make it easier for veterans to get the licenses and certification for those jobs.

Veterans Tax Credits: Provides tax incentives of up to \$5,600 for hiring veterans, and up to \$9,600 for hiring injured and ill veterans, if the veteran has been looking for work for six months or longer.

Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

The Administration's budget request, submitted in February 2012, includes funding increases for VA health care and benefits programs. In light of tight budgetary constraints government-wide, DAV is pleased with these increases, but some concerns remain.

Medical Care: The Administration requested \$55.7 billion, an amount that presumes a downward trend for medical care first- and third-party collections of \$3.0 billion. Alternatively the Independent Budget recommends \$57.2 billion for these accounts, an increase of \$3.3 billion above the FY 2012 enacted appropriations level, and \$1.5 billion higher than the Administration's request.

Medical and Prosthetic Research: The Administration requested \$583 million, an increase of \$1.7 million from the current year. The IB recommended \$611 million to cover biomedical research inflation, to continue currently funded research projects, and to allow VA to develop new treatments for the unique injuries, illnesses and diseases prevalent in veterans.

Benefits Processing: The \$2.2 billion budget request for the FY 2013 activities of the Veterans Benefits Administration is \$145 million more than the current level and \$54 million more than the IB recommendation for that period. However, the request falls short on funding for the IB-recommended staffing level of 585 for the Board of Veterans Appeals and an additional 195 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment counselors.

Major and Minor Construction: Contrasted to the IB's recommendations, the Administration is requesting \$2.2 billion less for Major Construction and \$461 million less for Minor Construction. This continued underfunding trend is deeply concerning to DAV. The Administration requested \$532 million and \$604 million for Major and Minor Construction, respectively.

Operational Improvements: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reported that VA had reduced its FY 2012 and FY 2013 budget requests by more than \$3.4 billion due to gimmicks and unreasonable assumptions not relevant to the actual needs of sick and injured veterans.

VA reported in this budget a carryover amount of \$500 million from FY 2012. This trend greatly concerns DAV because we continually receive reports from our members and from VA personnel of widespread funding shortages in the health care system.

Finally, the Administration's FY 2013 budget proposal includes a request for \$54.6 billion in advance appropriations for VA health care accounts in FY 2014, a 3.3% increase, not including medical collections.

While comparatively generous to VA benefits and services programs in light of the nation's economic crisis and cuts to other government departments and agencies, the Administration's request falls short by our estimate of \$4 billion, mostly for construction funding. For VA medical care, and as validated by the Government Accountability Office [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/589760.pdf>], the budget was reduced significantly below the Veterans Health Administration's own actuarial forecast of funding needed.

On March 23, 2012, the House Budget Committee reported its Budget Resolution, H. Con. Res. 112, which closely mirrors the Administration's VA discretionary funding levels, about \$4 billion below the recommendations of the Independent Budget, most in construction funding levels. The House budget does not include \$1 billion in mandatory funding to stimulate veterans employment, as proposed by the Administration. The resolution does include the advance appropriation for VA medical care required by Public Law 111-81. On March 29, 2012, the budget resolution was passed in the House.

On May 31, the full House approved VA's appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, H.R. 5854, by a roll call vote of 407-12. The appropriations bill was referred to the Senate, but is not expected to be passed by the Senate in its current form. The final legislative text of the House bill matched the levels approved for VA by the Appropriations Committee earlier in May.

The only significant amendment approved by the House during final consideration is a one-year ban on payment of Senior Executive Service (SES) performance bonuses during FY 2013.

Given VA's significant disability claims backlog and the reported difficulties in VA mental health and other health care programs, DAV had expressed our concern to Congress about VA's SES bonus practices, but took no formal position on this amendment prior to the vote. Nevertheless, we are concerned that only VA and DOD executives would be subjected to this one-year restriction.

Through introduction of S. 3215 on May 22, the Senate has taken up VA funding with its version of VA's appropriation for next year. No activity on this measure has yet occurred. The Senate bill closely matches the President's budget proposal from February, but, of interest to our members, the Senate bill contained legislative language to clarify and modify Congressional intent on VA's reimbursement of care for service-connected veterans in State Veterans Homes.

However, this language was not included in the House-passed bill. Also, neither the House nor Senate version of this bill includes the President's earlier funding proposal to stimulate veterans employment, but both of them include advance appropriations for VA health care in FY 2014.

While the overall funding levels in both bills are generous given the state of the federal deficit and the long-term U.S. debt, both bills fall short of VA's real budgetary needs as projected by the FY 2013 Independent Budget. Most of the shortage is in VA's construction and facility maintenance accounts.

Key Legislative Initiatives

Since the end of the 1st session and the beginning of the second session of the 112th Congress, my staff and I have held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs, to educate them about DAV and our legislative priorities.

In February 2012, the IB for FY 2013 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 26 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 and that of the VA health care system, always with an eye to protecting and enhancing the federal benefits veterans have earned and deserve.

The IB also presents our carefully developed estimates of funding needed to ensure that VA, the Department of Labor and the Federal Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims are properly funded to ensure protection and enhancement of veterans' benefits and services.

On November 2, 2011 and May 17, 2012, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi held her quarterly veterans' roundtables in which the DAV participated. These roundtables include the leadership of important House committees, including the Appropriations Committee, Armed Forces Committee, Budget Committee, Military Construction and VA Appropriations Subcommittee and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

These roundtables are extremely important because they provide DAV with an informal forum in which to present our issues to congressional leadership. I firmly believe that DAV's successful Stand Up for Veterans campaign was a success because of our ability to sit down with leadership, discuss the issues and, along with other members of the veteran/military/family community, convince the leadership of the importance of passing our initiatives.

Reforming the Veterans Benefits Claims Processing System

Over the past decade, the number of veterans filing claims for disability compensation has more than doubled, rising from nearly 600,000 in 2000 to over 1.4 million in 2011. This workload increase is the result of a number of factors over the past decade, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an increase in the complexity of claims and improved outreach and communication utilizing new Internet tools, including social networking.

To meet this increased workload, VBA's workforce grew by about 80 percent, rising from 13,500 FTEE in 2007 to over 20,000 today, with the vast majority of that increase occurring during the past four years.

Yet despite the hiring of thousands of new employees, the number of pending claims for benefits, often referred to as the backlog, continues to grow. As of June 12, 2012, there were 911,450 pending claims for disability compensation and pensions awaiting rating decisions, an increase of more than 360,000 from two years earlier.

Almost 600,000 of those claims have been pending over 125 days (VBA's official target for completing claims), more than three times the number that existed two years earlier. But more important than the number of claims processed is the number of claims processed correctly.

VBA's quality assurance program, the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR), indicates the current accuracy rate is just over 86 percent for the one-year period ending in April 2012. Worse, VA's Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) reported in May 2011 there was only a 77 percent accuracy rate.

Early in 2010, recognizing the severity of the problems they were facing, VBA's leadership committed to undertaking a comprehensive transformation of claims processing from an outdated, inefficient, and inadequate system into a modern, automated, rules-based, and paperless system.

VBA's transformation strategy is centered around three main components: people, processes and technologies. Although we have been pleased with the partnership VBA has formed with DAV and other VSOs to help reform the claims process, and despite some important progress, there are troubling signs that fundamental flaws and gaps may exist in VBA's newest technology and processes.

Over the next year, DAV will continue working with VBA and Congress to ensure that these problems are addressed before they become permanently embedded into the claims processing system.

Throughout 2012, VBA has rolled out its new operating model for processing claims for disability compensation. Building upon the best practices developed from dozens of pilot programs conducted over the last several years, a new operating model for processing claims was developed that relies on the segmentation of claims as its cornerstone.

The traditional triage function was replaced with an Intake Processing Center that put experienced claims personnel at the front end of the process to divide claims along three separate tracks; Express, Core, and Special Ops. At this point, it is too early to judge whether these changes will result in better outcomes for veterans.

VBA has also been finalizing and rolling out new IT systems, the most important of which is the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) upon which VBA's claims processing system will rely. Other important new IT initiatives include the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, e-Benefits, Veterans Relationship Management and Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record initiatives.

Although we have been optimistic about VBMS during the early stages, we now have serious concerns based upon VBA's failure to address some basic VBMS issues that have been raised repeatedly over the past two years, specifically providing service officers who hold Power-of-Attorney (POA) for claimants with access to files in VBMS, implementing a comprehensive scanning solution for paper claims files, particularly those involving legacy claims, and fully incorporating rules-based decision support.

Essential to the success of both VBMS and VBA's transformation strategy are training, quality control, and accountability. As VBA transitions to digital claims files, its existing STAR quality assurance system must be able to access VBMS files electronically in order to conduct their reviews.

In addition, VBA must ensure that the new Quality Review Teams (QRTs) at each VA regional office have the ability to review claims at every stage of the process. VBMS must be focused at least as much on increasing quality control as it is on producing more claims decisions.

Based on our experience with VBA's existing employee training programs, we will continue pushing VBA to allow sufficient time for employees to be properly trained on the new systems. We will also continue calling for adequate testing of the training be conducted to ensure it is being properly received by employees and that it is appropriate to the task at hand.

DAV has long advocated that in order to achieve long-term success, VBA must make a cultural shift away from focusing on speed and production to a new culture built upon quality and accuracy. It is not enough to simply lower the backlog, after all backlogs can return. Moreover, it doesn't matter how quickly a claim is completed if it is not done correctly. To achieve these goals, DAV has and will continue to urge VBA and Congress to:

- Ensure that claims transformation efforts are focused principally on "deciding claims right the first time," not just "reducing the backlog";
- Provide aggressive oversight of VBA's new operating model to ensure that best practices are adopted and integrated into a new claims process built around quality and accuracy;
- Ensure that the new Veterans Benefits Management System resolves fundamental issues related to VSO power-of-attorney access, scanning strategies for legacy paper files, and the incorporation of rules-based processing tools.
- Ensure that VBA's employees and management are held accountable for their performance and that proper standards and metrics are in place to incentivize quality and accuracy, not only speed or production; and
- Ensure that VBA provides sufficient training to employees and tests all employees, including coaches and managers, on the skills, competencies, and knowledge required to do their jobs.

Over the next year, DAV will continue working with our VSO colleagues and the Veterans' Affairs Committees in the House and Senate to oversee and improve VBA's final implementation of their new operating model and IT systems, particularly the VBMS.

One of the keys to our success will be the grassroots advocacy of our members and supporters throughout the country. While there are some significant problems and challenges that must be overcome, reform of the claims processing system is possible and DAV will continue to work towards that goal on behalf of all injured and ill veterans and their families.

DAV 2012 Mid-Winter Conference

On February 26 through February 29, 2012, DAV held its annual Mid-Winter Conference. The focal point of the conference was National Commander Donald L. Samuels' presentation to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for 2012.

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 me and my staff the energy and ideas 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 and encourage your attendance at next year's Mid-Winter Conference.

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 claims process to ensure that all injured and ill 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. DAV is also working to expand the legislation to include veteran caregivers of all generations.

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 injured and ill veterans.

In the year ahead, undoubtedly a number of new issues will arise, and we will face challenges to maintain the benefits injured and ill 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. We need you to Stand Up for Veterans.

If we don't, then who will? If you haven't already done so, I would strongly encourage you to sign up for the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN) on the DAV website, www.dav.org. This will ensure that you receive up-to-date alerts on important issues.

In closing, I want to thank all DAV and DAVA members for their contributions during this past year. 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 injured and ill veterans and their families and survivors.

* * *

(The following written annual report was submitted by Garry J. Augustine, National Service Director:)

ANNUAL REPORT of Garry J. Augustine
NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR
to the DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
August 4 – August 7, 2012

"Freedom is not free."

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices ~ President Harry Truman

This annual report provides details about the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Service Programs during 2011. This annual report is very significant in my mind as 2011 marks 10 years since the loss of American lives on after September 11, 2001.

DAV continues to remember those who have voluntarily served and made the ultimate sacrifice since those events, now more than ten years ago. This 10th anniversary marks a momentous time in our country's history in our ability and determination to not dwell on the tragedies of the past, but to use it to guarantee that the terrorist organizations responsible for these attacks are not capable of these cowardly acts in the future.

It is the service members of today's Armed Forces that make it possible to ensure that the American people will never have to relive the events that took place in New York, N.Y., Washington D.C. and Shanksville, Pa.

The DAV is as focused as we have ever been to make certain the needs of our service members who continue to sacrifice everything, to include risking severe injury and their lives, are met without waiver. We must always remember and honor the courage and sacrifice of the men and women who left the safety of our borders to defend the freedoms of our nation.

It is difficult to believe that another year has passed since I have had the pleasure of providing a report of the activities of the National Service Department. As the National Service Director during the 91st National Convention I am honored to report the continued success of the National Service Department to the Delegates in attendance.

The DAV continues to understand the vital importance of a strong voice to advocate for the rights and interests of disabled veterans and their families. This report will speak toward a few of the efforts to ensure that their voice was heard.

Hostilities in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have taken the lives of over 6,445 young men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We continue to be reminded that the freedoms that are enjoyed by Americans are not free. John F. Kennedy once said, "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it."

According to the Department of Defense, nearly 49,000 of those fighting to safeguard our freedoms have been wounded in action, many of these injuries serious enough to end their military careers and require many years of painful rehabilitation.

DAV maintains the organization's commitment to serving the newest generation of veterans by ensuring we have an array of services, programs and outreach efforts to make them aware of the benefits they so greatly deserve.

It was Jack Snow, British Foreign Secretary who stated "Our eventual aim is simply stated - that there should be no safe haven for terrorists anywhere in the world." His statement was part of the International reaction to the 9-11 attacks on America.

As DAV reflects on the past 11 years, we are concerned that the needs of those disabled in the war on terrorism will not be met in a timely fashion. As many of our heroes transition from military to civilian lifestyles, we need to demand the support mechanisms are in place to assure they are able to be as successful in life as they were in the defense of our nation.

America owes a great debt to these brave men and women, and we believe it is our moral obligation in assisting them in obtaining the benefits, education, employment, housing and other programs necessary for their integration into communities across the nation.

As pending claims in the VA climb to over 904,000, we are continually working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve upon not only the quantity of their work, but more importantly, on the quality. We solemnly understand the significance of making a correct decision, but more importantly a correct decision every time.

Throughout DAV's history we have continually adapted to the ever-changing needs of disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors. As our business practices continue to evolve based upon the rapidly changing advancements in technology, we will do everything possible to ensure all of our country's injured and wounded veterans and their families receive the rights and benefits they have earned.

NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

Building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families is accomplished through service. Service has always been the mainstay of the Disabled American Veterans. Our largest endeavor in fulfilling DAV's mission is our National Service Program.

In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, we employ a corps of approximately 260 National Service Officers (NSOs) and 31 Transition Service Officers (TSOs)

who counsel and represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

Veterans need not be members to take advantage of our assistance, which is provided free of charge. With outlays of \$40,396,581 in 2011, these direct services make up the largest item in our budget for program activities. Between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011, our NSOs and TSOs, all wartime service-connected disabled veterans, represented nearly a quarter million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits.

NSOs function as attorneys-in-fact, assisting veterans and their families in filing claims for VA disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pensions, death benefits, employment and training programs.

They provide free services, such as information seminars, and counseling and community outreach activities such as the Mobile Service Office (MSO) program. 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, the Transition Assistance Program and other official panels.

DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAMS

DAV National Service Officers continually train throughout their careers so that they are cognizant of the changes in all laws and regulations affecting veterans' benefits. This constant training assures that all DAV NSOs are at the forefront of veterans' advocacy.

Our NSOs are highly trained professionals and skilled experts in developing and prosecuting veterans' claims through in-depth reviews of medical histories, in conjunction with 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.

The extensive preparation required for these essential services provided by NSOs begins with a 16-month on-the-job training program, which provides the foundation for new trainees. Trainees are instructed by tenured supervisory NSOs. The National Service staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters administers and monitors the program and the instructors.

An NSO's training does not stop after completing 16 months of initial training. In fact training never stops because the laws, regulations and policies, which govern veterans' benefits, continue to change and grow in complexity.

That's why equipping our NSOs with state-of-the-art computers and keeping their cutting-edge advocacy skills up to date is of paramount importance. DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

In addition to these training programs, supervisory staff and selected NSOs from field offices across the country receive specialized instruction in management and leadership development. The goal is to produce the most highly trained representatives possible to serve veterans and their families.

NATIONAL APPEALS OFFICE

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is the highest appellate level within the VA responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits. About 96 percent of the claims before the board involve disability compensation issues.

Our highly skilled National Appeals Officers serve appellants in the preparation of written briefs for BVA review and conduct formal hearings before Veterans' Law Judges. We maintain the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing more than 29 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2011.

JUDICIAL APPEALS

DAV continues its pro bono representation program for veterans seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In fiscal 2010-11, the BVA took action on more than

14,000 cases involving DAV clients. Each and every one of those cases was reviewed to identify those in which a veteran's claim was improperly denied.

Thanks to DAV, more than seven hundred of these cases were appealed to the court. While we are still working toward our goal of appealing each and every significant case, it is hard to believe that just a few years ago, we had yet to crack the two hundred case per year mark.

The substantial growth of this program would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of two top-notch law firms – Finnegan Henderson of Washington, D.C., and Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick of Providence, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C.

Robert Chisholm (of the Chisholm firm) and Ron Smith (of Finnegan) are two of the nation's most accomplished members of the veterans bar, and DAV is proud and pleased to have them in prominent roles in our enlarged program at the court. By this time next year, we hope to be able to report still another substantial jump in the number of appealed cases.

TRANSITION SERVICE PROGRAM

For those servicemembers making the all-important transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Disabled Transition Assistance programs.

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, we are able to provide prompt service to these future veterans.

Over the last year, our TSOs conducted 3,974 formal presentations to 74,858 transitioning service members. During that same time they filed 21,947 claims for VA benefits. Counsel and representation for active duty service members during their transition was provided through the military's Disability Evaluation System. We devoted approximately \$1.73 million to this program in 2011.

MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE PROGRAM

The Mobile Service Office (MSO) Program continues to reach out to veterans in their own communities. Not all veterans are willing or able to visit a DAV office due to distance, transportation, health or other reasons. By literally putting our service offices on the road, assisting veterans where they live, DAV is increasing their accessibility to benefits.

With 10 specially equipped Mobile Service Offices visiting 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 our National Service Offices.

During 2011, our MSOs traveled more than 124,778 miles, visiting 811 cities and towns. Our NSOs interviewed 18,020 veterans and other potential claimants. The Harley-Davidson Foundation in August 2010 pledged a second \$1 million over four years to partner with DAV to maintain the Harley's Heroes® program.

During 2011, the MSOs participated in 197 days of activities for 155 individual Harley-Davidson dealerships as part of this program, compared to 127 dealerships in 2010, reflecting an 18% increase in Harley-Davidson dealership participation. Nearly \$912,000 was expended for the Mobile Service Office program in 2011.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. Each receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantee's 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 disabled veterans. In 2011, DAV trained and certified 1,811 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 36 states.

During 2011, we conducted 29 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 2,959 individuals in attendance. These Information Seminars provide the opportunity

for veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community, giving Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

Since 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, and NASCAR.

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 policy-makers 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.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Our National Service Program is responsible for the organization's employment-related program and works alongside the Department of Labor, the VA, the Office of Personnel Management, Congress and other government agencies to ensure that 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.

HOMELESS VETERANS

Homelessness has been a constant presence in America's cities, towns and rural areas for many years. Since the early 1980s, homelessness has been a regular focus of media interest and a topic of policy debate and remains one of America's most complicated and important social issues.

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 to self-sufficiency.

Your National Service Officers and Department and Chapter members have participated in Stand Downs for homeless veterans nationwide, and on behalf of the National Service Staff, I extend thanks for all that each of you do to make a significant difference in the lives of homeless veterans and their families across the Nation.

RETIREMENTS

DAV NSOs are service-connected disabled veterans from all walks of life. They uphold the great principles of this organization and work to ensure that veterans and their families have legal representation and a voice when filing claims to the VA for benefits. NSOs understand their role as veterans' advocates and are dedicated to DAV's mission of service and improving the livelihood of veterans disabled during military service.

The 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: Michael Walsh, Gregory Jackson and Robert Sinclair.

DEATHS

We call to remembrance our National Service Officers and Transition Service Officers whose demise occurred this year. As the Nation's veteran population rapidly declines—the attrition takes its toll on our NSO/TSO ranks.

These NSOs and TSOs have provided services and helped improve the quality of life for scores of disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors. We shall recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: Roger Bourgerly, Donald Cox, Norman Hansen, Charles Lambert and Lonny Hudson and TSO John Sopko.

CONCLUSION

At this time, I wish to recognize the leadership, professionalism, and personal sacrifices made by our National Commander Donald Samuels, 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 continued 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. He has kept us focused on what it takes to bring to fruition our mission of service to disabled veterans and their families.

In addition, I express my gratitude to National Headquarters Executive Director Marc Burgess and his team for their support of our goals and programs during the past year. I also want to thank Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski.

The Service Department has gained a leader who has been involved in the service side of our organization for many years and his knowledge and passion for the National Service Program has proved to strengthen everything that we have done this past year as a result of his support and contributions.

Appreciation is extended to the National Service Department staff members with whom I have the pleasure of working: Deputy National Service Director Brenda Kecskes and Assistant National Service Directors, Scott Trimarchi, Chad Moos, John Maki, and Jim Marszalek; and our staff of devoted Service Support Specialists, Emily Hall, Amanda Evans, and Angela D'Aguiar-Kauffin.

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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Office: National Totals

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	84,356
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	58,979
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	90,020
4. PENSION	4,676
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6,786
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	59,420
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3,209
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2,433
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	215
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	63
12. DEATH PENSION	941
13. INSURANCE	10
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1,016
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	9
16. TOTAL AWARDS	312,134
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$444,355,125.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,667,417,565.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,111,772,690.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	314,647
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	110,755
22. INTERVIEWS	185,331
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	276,769
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	51,591
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	17
26. NEW CLAIMS	235,036
27. MEMBERSHIP	8,134
28. BRIEFINGS	3838
29. PARTICIPANTS	73021

Office: Phoenix, Arizona

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,517
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	802
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,497
4. PENSION	79
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	50
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,068
8. MISCELLANEOUS	38
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	69
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	12
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	24
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,158
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,934,658.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$107,002,704.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$111,937,362.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,829
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,839
22. INTERVIEWS	6,011
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,597
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	13
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,749
27. MEMBERSHIP	102
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Sacramento, California

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	160
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	154
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	171
4. PENSION	6
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
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	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	494
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$730,243.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$17,503,477.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$18,233,720.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	788
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	668
22. INTERVIEWS	577
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	753
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	8
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,416
27. MEMBERSHIP	19
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Montgomery, Alabama

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,538
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,756
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,340
4. PENSION	156
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	163
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	614
8. MISCELLANEOUS	74
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	58
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	35
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	23
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,759
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,033,578.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$148,453,462.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$157,487,040.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,035
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,954
22. INTERVIEWS	3,058
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,510
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,462
27. MEMBERSHIP	109
28. BRIEFINGS	3
29. PARTICIPANTS	90

Office: Little Rock, Arkansas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,218
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,759
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,035
4. PENSION	109
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	89
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	695
8. MISCELLANEOUS	84
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	40
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	16
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	27
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,072
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,717,306.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$118,031,395.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$124,748,701.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,603
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	726
22. INTERVIEWS	4,572
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,747
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,627
27. MEMBERSHIP	65
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Oakland, California

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	838
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	686
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,093
4. PENSION	44
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	46
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	908
8. MISCELLANEOUS	65
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	42
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	8
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,758
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,268,510.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$64,754,528.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$69,023,038.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,450
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,100
22. INTERVIEWS	7,734
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,003
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	184
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,812
27. MEMBERSHIP	104
28. BRIEFINGS	44
29. PARTICIPANTS	511

Office: Anchorage, Alaska

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	460
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	354
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	363
4. PENSION	6
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	668
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,668
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,087,635.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$22,484,401.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$23,572,036.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,244
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	316
22. INTERVIEWS	972
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,209
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,560
27. MEMBERSHIP	3
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Los Angeles, California

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,420
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,331
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	829
4. PENSION	105
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	85
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	4,753
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	27
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,572
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$13,509,950.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$236,343,807.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$249,853,757.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,618
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,079
22. INTERVIEWS	3,891
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,149
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,126
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,207
27. MEMBERSHIP	216
28. BRIEFINGS	54
29. PARTICIPANTS	1635

Office: San Diego, California

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,397
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,492
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,301
4. PENSION	137
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	143
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	227
8. MISCELLANEOUS	17
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	42
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	41
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	3
12. DEATH PENSION	11
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,824
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,166,613.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$144,669,905.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$153,836,518.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,282
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,902
22. INTERVIEWS	7,764
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,520
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	18,326
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,037
27. MEMBERSHIP	265
28. BRIEFINGS	1148
29. PARTICIPANTS	27914

Office: Denver, Colorado

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,920
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,587
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,136
4. PENSION	91
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	108
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,063
8. MISCELLANEOUS	70
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	63
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	11
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	10
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	25
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,085
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,805,281.03
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$128,386,752.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$137,192,033.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,509
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,007
22. INTERVIEWS	5,821
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,179
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,373
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	9,048
27. MEMBERSHIP	460
28. BRIEFINGS	24
29. PARTICIPANTS	762

Office: Washington, D.C.

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	45
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	95
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	74
4. PENSION	55
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	11
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	284
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$279,620.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,790,310.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,069,330.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,762
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	519
22. INTERVIEWS	2,775
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,778
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,151
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,067
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	161
29. PARTICIPANTS	2184

Office: St. Petersburg, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,488
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	4,750
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	6,208
4. PENSION	373
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1,757
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5,713
8. MISCELLANEOUS	618
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	277
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	80
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	163
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	25,428
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$17,715,609.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$337,371,404.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$355,087,013.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	17,556
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	7,062
22. INTERVIEWS	5,452
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	15,883
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,154
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	15,688
27. MEMBERSHIP	653
28. BRIEFINGS	23
29. PARTICIPANTS	792

Office: Newington, Connecticut

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	991
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	522
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,028
4. PENSION	35
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	1
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	252
8. MISCELLANEOUS	37
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	20
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	9
13. INSURANCE	2
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,969
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,755,929.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$45,358,719.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$48,114,648.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,600
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,113
22. INTERVIEWS	2,816
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,391
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,163
27. MEMBERSHIP	341
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Board of Veterans Appeals

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	11,314
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	392
22. INTERVIEWS	639
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	932
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	8
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	887
27. MEMBERSHIP	11
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Miami, Florida

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	441
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Wilmington, Delaware

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	135
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	158
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	149
4. PENSION	2
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	4
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	34
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
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	485
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$467,421.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,695,974.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,163,395.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,924
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	958
22. INTERVIEWS	2,500
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,799
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,482
27. MEMBERSHIP	103
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: DC Nat'l Svc & Legis Hqtrs.

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	\$635.00
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
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	\$635.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,620.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,255.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1
22. INTERVIEWS	15
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	32
29. PARTICIPANTS	32

Office: Orlando, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	461
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	338
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	459
4. PENSION	12
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	23
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,296
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,045,916.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$16,159,871.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$17,205,787.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,207
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	644
22. INTERVIEWS	613
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,196
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	820
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: West Palm Beach, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	95
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	238
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	189
4. PENSION	4
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5
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	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	532
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$485,606.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,515,380.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,000,986.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	407
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	330
22. INTERVIEWS	1,655
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	405
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	726
27. MEMBERSHIP	34
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Chicago, Illinois

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	941
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,068
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,133
4. PENSION	101
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	138
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	611
8. MISCELLANEOUS	40
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	49
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	24
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,115
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$26,274,893.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$391,023,638.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$417,298,531.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,568
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,086
22. INTERVIEWS	3,442
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	820
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	11
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,121
27. MEMBERSHIP	224
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Wichita, Kansas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	850
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	537
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	929
4. PENSION	42
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	77
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	147
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	27
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	12
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,659
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,082,728.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$42,365,085.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$46,448,813.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	750
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	666
22. INTERVIEWS	1,388
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	693
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,670
27. MEMBERSHIP	55
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Atlanta, Georgia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,678
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,873
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,531
4. PENSION	91
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	103
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,667
8. MISCELLANEOUS	272
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	30
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	7
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,258
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,629,873.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$431,702,826.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$441,332,699.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,656
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,623
22. INTERVIEWS	5,874
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,362
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,113
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,695
27. MEMBERSHIP	4
28. BRIEFINGS	45
29. PARTICIPANTS	2189

Office: Indianapolis, Indiana

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,671
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	768
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	894
4. PENSION	156
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	47
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	749
8. MISCELLANEOUS	116
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	58
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	26
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,502
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,538,734.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$61,249,206.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$64,787,940.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,928
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,091
22. INTERVIEWS	1,650
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,525
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	9
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,255
27. MEMBERSHIP	86
28. BRIEFINGS	1
29. PARTICIPANTS	26

Office: Louisville, Kentucky

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,281
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,021
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,510
4. PENSION	111
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	110
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	556
8. MISCELLANEOUS	32
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	63
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	15
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	3
12. DEATH PENSION	37
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,750
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$11,606,783.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$91,777,063.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$103,383,846.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,065
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,566
22. INTERVIEWS	2,215
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,789
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	979
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,970
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	104
29. PARTICIPANTS	906

Office: Boise, Idaho

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	626
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	731
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	877
4. PENSION	54
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	23
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	517
8. MISCELLANEOUS	11
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	9
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,885
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,370,824.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$31,665,280.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$34,036,104.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,066
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	416
22. INTERVIEWS	2,827
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,845
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	13
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,462
27. MEMBERSHIP	40
28. BRIEFINGS	5
29. PARTICIPANTS	137

Office: Des Moines, Iowa

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	665
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	301
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	698
4. PENSION	98
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	64
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	287
8. MISCELLANEOUS	25
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	28
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	24
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,214
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,147,317.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$34,962,482.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$37,109,799.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,502
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	438
22. INTERVIEWS	727
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,435
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,141
27. MEMBERSHIP	81
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: New Orleans, Louisiana

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	660
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	557
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,079
4. PENSION	51
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	116
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	471
8. MISCELLANEOUS	103
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,067
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,315,353.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$59,166,788.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$62,482,141.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,791
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,504
22. INTERVIEWS	2,269
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,656
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	620
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,912
27. MEMBERSHIP	264
28. BRIEFINGS	39
29. PARTICIPANTS	495

Office: Togus, Maine

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	748
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	755
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	873
4. PENSION	25
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	48
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	262
8. MISCELLANEOUS	110
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,858
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,563,375.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$42,670,355.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$45,233,730.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,584
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	596
22. INTERVIEWS	2,498
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,382
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,532
27. MEMBERSHIP	140
28. BRIEFINGS	1
29. PARTICIPANTS	12

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,681
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,172
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,777
4. PENSION	36
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	286
8. MISCELLANEOUS	9
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	38
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	11
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,078
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,617,096.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$99,527,452.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$105,144,548.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,709
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,066
22. INTERVIEWS	3,530
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,424
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,008
27. MEMBERSHIP	472
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Jackson, Mississippi

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	599
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	494
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	721
4. PENSION	220
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	25
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	544
8. MISCELLANEOUS	36
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	45
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,692
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,296,233.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$36,231,529.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$38,526,762.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,660
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	373
22. INTERVIEWS	1,042
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,513
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	599
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	899
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	30
29. PARTICIPANTS	752

Office: Baltimore, Maryland

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,076
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	745
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	861
4. PENSION	46
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	21
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	403
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	38
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,207
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,146,461.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$46,929,732.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$50,076,193.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,235
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,296
22. INTERVIEWS	2,881
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,881
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,572
27. MEMBERSHIP	4
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Detroit, Michigan

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,525
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,655
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,087
4. PENSION	363
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	235
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	479
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	115
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	111
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	62
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,656
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,181,813.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$150,358,346.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$168,540,159.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,271
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,235
22. INTERVIEWS	1,733
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,641
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,905
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	86
29. PARTICIPANTS	86

Office: St. Louis, Missouri

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,194
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,397
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,458
4. PENSION	188
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	10,954
8. MISCELLANEOUS	42
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	83
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	45
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	17,565
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$17,127,455.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$187,302,716.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$204,430,171.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	15,591
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,301
22. INTERVIEWS	1,997
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	15,167
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,772
27. MEMBERSHIP	205
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Cold Spring, Kentucky

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$900.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$9,322.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$10,222.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	57
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	8
22. INTERVIEWS	5
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	50
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	13
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	28
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	8
29. PARTICIPANTS	206

Office: St. Paul, Minnesota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,419
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,475
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,784
4. PENSION	86
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	73
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	414
8. MISCELLANEOUS	7
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	86
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	40
13. INSURANCE	2
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	47
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,437
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,347,167.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$87,514,528.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$93,861,695.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,498
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,420
22. INTERVIEWS	1,929
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,230
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,047
27. MEMBERSHIP	289
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Fort Harrison, Montana

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	166
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	201
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	350
4. PENSION	21
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	21
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	33
8. MISCELLANEOUS	10
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	818
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$877,399.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$10,313,244.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$11,190,643.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	863
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	309
22. INTERVIEWS	455
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	742
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	542
27. MEMBERSHIP	30
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Lincoln, Nebraska

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	429
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	370
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	637
4. PENSION	26
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	104
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	14
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,617
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,530,828.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$21,072,682.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$22,603,510.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,855
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	339
22. INTERVIEWS	469
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,651
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	876
27. MEMBERSHIP	29
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Manchester, New Hampshire

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTION	659
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	506
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	671
4. PENSION	25
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2
8. MISCELLANEOUS	23
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,931
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,287,518.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$32,752,790.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$35,040,308.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,230
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	390
22. INTERVIEWS	1,739
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,074
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,418
27. MEMBERSHIP	106
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: New York, New York

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	23
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	504
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	815
4. PENSION	25
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	39
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	9
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,138
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,457,670.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$42,094,295.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$45,551,985.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,458
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,809
22. INTERVIEWS	2,473
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,170
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,682
27. MEMBERSHIP	26
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Reno, Nevada

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	513
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	305
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	282
4. PENSION	36
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	14
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	17
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,176
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$863,691.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$17,415,219.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$18,278,910.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,265
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	827
22. INTERVIEWS	3,352
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,006
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	79
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,539
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Newark, New Jersey

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	722
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	768
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	981
4. PENSION	40
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	45
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	170
8. MISCELLANEOUS	48
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	20
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	16
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,827
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,452,414.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$41,462,497.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$43,914,911.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,712
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,289
22. INTERVIEWS	2,883
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,309
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	9
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,058
27. MEMBERSHIP	517
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Albany, New York

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	80
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	39
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	11
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	134
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$115,501.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,121,312.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$4,236,813.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	23
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	333
22. INTERVIEWS	1,112
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	18
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	479
27. MEMBERSHIP	32
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Las Vegas, Nevada

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	189
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	192
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	115
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	96
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
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	604
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$502,419.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$9,442,271.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,944,690.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	606
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	697
22. INTERVIEWS	3,049
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	503
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	11
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,449
27. MEMBERSHIP	8
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Albuquerque, New Mexico

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,254
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	988
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,745
4. PENSION	72
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	98
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	440
8. MISCELLANEOUS	35
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	33
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,677
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,109,319.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$78,482,386.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$83,591,705.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,055
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,284
22. INTERVIEWS	3,659
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,852
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	13
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,637
27. MEMBERSHIP	89
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Buffalo, New York

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	97
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	403
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	533
4. PENSION	10
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	22
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,886
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,277
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,391,664.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$44,926,975.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$49,318,639.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	10,977
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	516
22. INTERVIEWS	1,360
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,831
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	33
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,025
27. MEMBERSHIP	58
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

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
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	112
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	6
22. INTERVIEWS	72
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	111
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	17
27. MEMBERSHIP	3
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Cleveland, Ohio

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,014
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,139
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,499
4. PENSION	193
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	362
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,554
8. MISCELLANEOUS	116
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	80
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	31
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	40
12. DEATH PENSION	16
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,309
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$18,570,139.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$164,269,525.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$182,839,664.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,377
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,659
22. INTERVIEWS	2,178
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,692
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	15
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	4
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,634
27. MEMBERSHIP	244
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Portland, Oregon

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	473
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	345
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,005
4. PENSION	40
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	101
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,195
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	5
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,201
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,380,094.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$38,666,247.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$42,046,341.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,556
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,052
22. INTERVIEWS	1,881
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,306
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,767
27. MEMBERSHIP	61
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Winston-Salem, North Carolina

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	7,119
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,633
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,043
4. PENSION	63
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	113
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	855
8. MISCELLANEOUS	29
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	61
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	11
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	19
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	13,951
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$12,059,507.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$220,597,625.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$232,657,132.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	14,703
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,810
22. INTERVIEWS	3,324
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	13,873
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,812
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,355
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	79
29. PARTICIPANTS	6402

Office: Cincinnati, Ohio

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
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	31
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	216
22. INTERVIEWS	226
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	27
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	50
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	576
27. MEMBERSHIP	3
28. BRIEFINGS	3
29. PARTICIPANTS	79

Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,288
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,005
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,148
4. PENSION	101
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	73
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	108
8. MISCELLANEOUS	28
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	52
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,841
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,410,043.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$74,433,190.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$78,843,233.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,238
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,657
22. INTERVIEWS	4,199
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,958
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,685
27. MEMBERSHIP	211
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Fargo, North Dakota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	676
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	540
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	600
4. PENSION	28
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	27
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	161
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	22
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	11
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	39
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,123
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,512,926.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$28,209,552.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$30,722,478.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,856
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	690
22. INTERVIEWS	1,073
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,739
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,842
27. MEMBERSHIP	194
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Muskogee, Oklahoma

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,822
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,465
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,108
4. PENSION	65
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	111
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,252
8. MISCELLANEOUS	15
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	88
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2
12. DEATH PENSION	11
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	45
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,985
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,950,219.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$190,276,075.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$200,226,294.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,902
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,245
22. INTERVIEWS	2,882
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,290
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	129
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,996
27. MEMBERSHIP	31
28. BRIEFINGS	154
29. PARTICIPANTS	1527

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	1,497
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	822
22. INTERVIEWS	2,252
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,400
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,833
27. MEMBERSHIP	70
28. BRIEFINGS	1
29. PARTICIPANTS	121

Office: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,018
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	754
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,354
4. PENSION	66
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	89
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	333
8. MISCELLANEOUS	45
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	32
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,700
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,682,659.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$83,145,168.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$66,827,827.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,634
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,170
22. INTERVIEWS	1,016
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,275
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	8
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,922
27. MEMBERSHIP	51
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Providence, Rhode Island

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	960
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	515
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	877
4. PENSION	18
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	179
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	87
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	10
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,662
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,403,713.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$40,717,422.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$43,121,135.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,469
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	786
22. INTERVIEWS	1,719
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,307
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,410
27. MEMBERSHIP	103
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Columbia, South Carolina

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,104
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	656
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,580
4. PENSION	51
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	264
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	236
8. MISCELLANEOUS	25
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,944
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,700,447.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$70,622,325.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$79,322,772.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,477
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,387
22. INTERVIEWS	5,200
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,684
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	54
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,710
27. MEMBERSHIP	227
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	330
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	397
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	872
4. PENSION	21
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	43
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	391
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	15
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	1
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,115
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,182,115.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$28,596,088.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$30,778,203.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,140
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	413
22. INTERVIEWS	1,569
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,000
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,555
27. MEMBERSHIP	166
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Nashville, Tennessee

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,920
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,982
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	5,394
4. PENSION	129
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	255
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	551
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	55
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	12,341
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$24,365,290.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$431,297,850.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$455,663,140.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	10,711
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,967
22. INTERVIEWS	2,962
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,760
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,564
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,681
27. MEMBERSHIP	144
28. BRIEFINGS	39
29. PARTICIPANTS	771

Office: Waco, Texas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,509
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,447
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,366
4. PENSION	176
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	208
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5,247
8. MISCELLANEOUS	285
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	143
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	36
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	82
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	15,499
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$13,622,811.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$199,755,080.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$213,377,871.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	16,243
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,183
22. INTERVIEWS	2,745
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	15,281
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,333
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	9,968
27. MEMBERSHIP	346
28. BRIEFINGS	26
29. PARTICIPANTS	2472

Office: Houston, Texas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,561
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,596
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,725
4. PENSION	102
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	176
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,418
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	96
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	46
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,766
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$21,756,245.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$231,840,309.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$253,596,554.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,465
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,204
22. INTERVIEWS	6,381
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,136
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	10,936
27. MEMBERSHIP	173
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: San Antonio, Texas

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS*74	29
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	8
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	8
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	17
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
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	9
16. TOTAL AWARDS	140
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$95,901.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$3,147,046.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$3,242,947.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	961
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,309
22. INTERVIEWS	10,312
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	507
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,076
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,355
27. MEMBERSHIP	162
28. BRIEFINGS	114
29. PARTICIPANTS	1357

Office: Salt Lake City, Utah

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,555
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	582
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	998
4. PENSION	42
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	32
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,534
8. MISCELLANEOUS	189
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	8
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,954
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,762,254.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$115,790,519.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$122,552,773.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,100
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	670
22. INTERVIEWS	2,666
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,641
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,849
27. MEMBERSHIP	54
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: White River Junction, Vermont

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	243
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	159
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	267
4. PENSION	5
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	695
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$791,387.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$13,248,575.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,039,962.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,106
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	369
22. INTERVIEWS	1,635
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,964
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,350
27. MEMBERSHIP	104
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Roanoke, Virginia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,175
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	965
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,279
4. PENSION	38
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	30
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	643
8. MISCELLANEOUS	17
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	29
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,196
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,756,176.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$63,308,686.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$67,064,862.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,380
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,498
22. INTERVIEWS	1,561
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,241
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,666
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,654
27. MEMBERSHIP	18
28. BRIEFINGS	481
29. PARTICIPANTS	10696

Office: Seattle, Washington

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,379
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,107
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,352
4. PENSION	97
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	73
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,116
8. MISCELLANEOUS	33
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	97
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	21
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	45
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,320
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,448,156.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$100,328,606.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$106,777,762.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,361
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,522
22. INTERVIEWS	2,603
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,767
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,075
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	7,287
27. MEMBERSHIP	22
28. BRIEFINGS	836
29. PARTICIPANTS	6722

Office: Huntington, West Virginia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	411
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	454
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	673
4. PENSION	14
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	25
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	134
8. MISCELLANEOUS	9
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	1,734
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$76,374,009.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$922,670,419.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$999,044,428.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,103
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	381
22. INTERVIEWS	1,352
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,984
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,229
27. MEMBERSHIP	18
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	934
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	916
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,761
4. PENSION	77
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	120
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	345
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	76
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	21
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	38
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,307
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,924,452.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,140,365.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$89,064,817.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,228
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,034
22. INTERVIEWS	2,987
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,049
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	6
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,033
27. MEMBERSHIP	369
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Cheyenne, Wyoming

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	405
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	416
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	375
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	33
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	14
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,308
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$734,029.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$12,803,007.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$13,537,036.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,199
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,271
22. INTERVIEWS	4,065
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,992
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	52
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,864
27. MEMBERSHIP	183
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: San Juan, Puerto Rico

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	743
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	484
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,236
4. PENSION	177
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	346
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	93
8. MISCELLANEOUS	337
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	13
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	48
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,480
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,339,599.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$57,059,912.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$60,399,511.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,580
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,111
22. INTERVIEWS	3,218
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,834
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	16
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,480
27. MEMBERSHIP	5
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	236

Office: Honolulu, Hawaii

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	211
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	296
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	275
4. PENSION	15
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	11
8. MISCELLANEOUS	10
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
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	828
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$693,614.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$11,423,466.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$12,117,080.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	713
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,235
22. INTERVIEWS	2,397
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	330
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,844
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,801
27. MEMBERSHIP	23
28. BRIEFINGS	294
29. PARTICIPANTS	3909

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Ron. I will entertain a motion to accept –

MR. STEVEN SMITH: Mic 3.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 3.

MR. SMITH: Steve Smith, Chapter 27, great State of New Jersey, makes the motion to accept Ron Minter's report.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: May I have a –

MR. ALLAN McCROSKEY: Mic 1.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: May I have a second? Mic 1.

MR. McCROSKEY: Allan McCroskey, Department Commander, Virginia, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

I would like to call on Chairman Brad Barton for the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRADLEY S. BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND 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 August 4th, 2012, by the Committee Advisors, Brad Barton and Edward Hartman.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Bradley Barton was elected 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 adoption for the National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution 184, add as Article III, Section 3.7, Paragraph 1:

"Department delegates and alternates shall be elected by their delegates assembled at their Department Convention or by the Department Executive Committee prior to a Convention and shall be certified to the National Organization on forms provided by the National Headquarters.

"Credentials shall be issued to Departments by the National Headquarters. The aforementioned credentials shall be prescribed by the National Organization."

Resolution Number 185, renumber Article III, Section 3.7, as Article III, Section 3.7, Paragraph 2 and delete "Departments and" in the second sentence of the current Article III, Section 3.7, to accommodate the addition of Article III, Section 3.7, Paragraph 1.

Resolution Number 186, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 7A to delete "in duplicate, printed or typewritten form" and replace with "in electronic or printed form".

Resolution 187, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 21B to include in the final sentence "and all other matters in which other public or private agencies charged with the improvement of disabled veterans and their dependents are concerned."

Resolution 188, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 21C to delete "and all other matters in which other public and private agencies charged with the improvement of disabled veterans and their dependents are concerned."

Resolution 189, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 21F to read as follows:

"Committee on Employment. This Committee shall consider all matters concerning all forms of employment of disabled veterans as well as preference rights in examination, appointments, retention, promotions or employment or reemployment rights in federal civil service and in state, county and city governments.

"This Committee will also consider matters relating to vocational rehabilitation, education and training for veterans and their eligible dependents."

Resolution 190, revise Article XIV, Section 14.9, beginning with the fifth sentence to read as follows:

"Such reimbursement shall be made only upon a full and final adjudication of theft or conversion which is either upheld on appeal and/or no longer subject to appeal. Such reimbursement shall also be subject to the limits and conditions of the reimbursement program as detailed in the pertinent regulations of the National Executive Committee."

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.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Brad. In accordance with Rule 9 – in accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Thank you. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Tuesday's Business Session. Thank you.

I would like to call upon Chairman Albert Church for the report of the Committee on Finance.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALBERT CHURCH: The report for the National Convention Committee Chairman, Committee on Finance, Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Finance was called to order on August 4th, 2012, by the Committee advisors Delphine Metcalf-Foster and J. Marc Burgess and Comptroller Anita Blum.

The first order of business was election of a Convention Committee chairman and a secretary. Albert Church was elected as chairman and Richard Patterson was elected as secretary. There were no resolutions submitted to the Committee and, therefore, none recommended for adoption.

The Committee then expressed its thanks to the Committee advisors Delphine Metcalf-Foster and J. Marc Burgess and Comptroller Anita Blum for their assistance in performing the work of this important Committee.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their service. They are now dismissed. Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Finance.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: You have heard the motion, may I have a second.

MR. THOMAS DEMPSTER: Comrade Commander, Thomas Dempster, Chapter 114, Department of Michigan, District 1, Executive Committeeman, I second the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: 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. Thank you. So ordered.

I would like to call upon Chairman Lacey Van Emmerick for the report of the Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services.

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LACEY VAN EMMERICK: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services was called to order on August 4th, 2012 by the Committee Advisor Lee Ewing, Joy Ilem and Ron Minter.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and a secretary. I, Lacey Van Emmerick, was elected as chairman and Bridgette Marker 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 the purpose of the resolution.

Number 014, support Secretary of VA enforcing the VA and Indian Health Service Memorandum of Understanding;

050, oppose collection of third-party payments for treatment of service-connected disabilities;

099, support dental care for all enrolled veterans within the VA health care system;

100, support legislation to require the president, vice president, and members of congress to receive health care solely from the VA;

Number 101 (Applause) 101, support legislation to create a separate office and appropriation for VA National Rehabilitative Special Events;

102, support a congressionally-authorized demonstration project through the VA for veterans with Alzheimer's Disease using other than traditional models of care;

117, urge congress and the VA to preserve and maintain certain VA properties in accordance with original deeds of trust and to give priority to homeless veterans;

Number 167, oppose means testing service-connected veterans for VA health care;

Number 209, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs to service-connected disabled veterans;

Number 210, support program improvement and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs;

Number 211, support top priority access for service-connected veterans with the VA health care system;

Number 212, improve VA purchased care program;

Number 213, support equal medical services and benefits for women veterans; (Applause)

Number 214, enhance long-term health care to service-connected disabled veterans;

215, support enhancement of medical services through modernization of VA health care infrastructure;

Number 216, Congress and the Administration must assure full implementation of legislation to guarantee sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care programs;

217, support the provision of comprehensive VA health care services to enrolled veterans;

218, improve the care and benefits for veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental hazards;

219, support state veterans' homes by requiring VA to pay a fair share of the cost in caring for service-connected disabled veterans;

220, oppose privatization of VA health care facilities and programs;

221, support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras; (Applause)

Number 222, support legislation to extend eligibility of a qualifying veterans' adult child for CHAMPVA;

Number 223, adequately fund and sustain the successful readjustment counseling service of the VA and its highly effective Vet Center Program;

Number 224, support legislation to establish a comprehensive program for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation;

Number 225, ensure timely access to quality VA health care and services;

Number 226, support legislation to authorize scholarships for new mental health practitioners in exchange for agreements to serve veterans in VA facilities; (Applause)

Number 227, protect veterans from employment discrimination when seeking health care for service-connected conditions;

Number 228, reduce VA medication co-payments equal to or less than the lowest charged by private sector commercial outlets; (Applause)

Number 229, support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductible for service-connected disabled veterans and increase beneficiary travel reimbursement rates;

Number 230, support full funding and resources for polytrauma units at VA medical centers;

Number 231, oppose recommendation that eligible military retired veterans can be prohibited from receiving health care at both DoD and VA facilities;

Number 232, support sufficient resources for VA health care for veterans living in rural and remote areas;

Number 233, improve reimbursement for non-VA emergency health care services for enrolled veterans;

Number 234, support sustained, sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans;

Number 235, enhance CHAMPVA services;

Number 236, support legislation to improve programs designed to prevent and treat substance use disorders in veterans;

237, require a veteran's attending VA physician to provide a medical opinion in support of a claim for VA disability compensation when benefits requested; (Applause)

Number 238, support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from post-deployment mental health challenges or other service-connected conditions; (Applause)

Number 239, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the George H. Seal Memorial Award program;

Number 240, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a candidate for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program;

Number 241, support the use of service and guide dogs in VA facilities; and

Number 245, extend appreciation to the VA Southern Nevada Health Care System for the success of the 91st National Convention. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes my report of the Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services. On the 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:)

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 014—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS EARNED BY NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

WHEREAS, per capita, a higher percentage of Native Americans have served in the armed forces than any other ethnic group, and many return to their reservations upon discharge from the military; and

WHEREAS, the reserved lands of the Indian Nations often can be hundreds of miles from VA facilities, where poverty, lack of transportation, and poor roads put great hardships on Native American veterans who need and have earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, in evaluating the needs of Native American and Alaska Native veterans, especially those living on reservation lands, the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations has reported among the most pressing needs to be the great travel distances for them to access VA health care services, a high percentage of homelessness, and a lack of local employment opportunity; and

WHEREAS, many Native American veterans who have completed military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and who may be challenged by readjustment and mental health disorders are not afforded responsive medical attention due to insufficient mental health service availability on reservations; and

WHEREAS, many VA clinical care providers lack knowledge and understanding of the Native American and Alaska Native cultures, including their traditions and methods of dealing with illness and disability, causing additional barriers to care for Native American and Alaska Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 and renewed in 2010, VA executed with the Indian Health Service (IHS) of the Department of Health and Human Services, a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate and provide health care services, including mental health services, to Native American and Alaska Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, nearly a decade after the original agreement was approved in 2003, the VA and IHS have not comprehensively implemented the Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, due to lack of implementation, Tribal Governments do not have broad knowledge of the existence of, or commitments in, the Memorandum of Understanding, and therefore have not generally disseminated relevant information to Native American and Alaska Native veterans about their VA and IHS rights and benefits under the agreement; NOW;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure the Memorandum of Understanding between the VA and the IHS is fully implemented, and that direct providers of services, as well as their leaderships in both agencies, be held accountable to faithfully carry out the agreement so that Native American and Alaska Native veterans, especially those living on reservation lands, can receive the full benefits and services they have earned and deserve.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 050—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 099—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT DENTAL CARE FOR 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, irrespective of service-connected disability, title 38, United States Code, section 1701(9) defines "preventive health services" as a broad collection of VA health services that improve, protect and sustain the general health and well-being of veterans enrolled in VA health care, to include "such other health-care services as the Secretary may determine to be necessary to provide effective and economical preventive health care;" and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 report by the Surgeon General of the United States, Oral Health in America, individuals who are medically compromised or who have disabilities are at greater risk for oral diseases, and, in turn, oral diseases further jeopardize their health, and that oral diseases are progressive and cumulative and become more complex over time, and can affect economic productivity and compromise the ability to work, and often significantly diminishes the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, VA maintains oral and dental programs within its health care system; NOW
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention
assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to amend title 38, United
States Code, section 1712, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 100—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 101—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 fair 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. 102—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ALTERNATIVE CARE MODEL
PILOT PROJECT FOR VETERANS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

WHEREAS, based on prevalence rates, it is estimated that over 550,000 veterans suffer with dementia, including more than 300,000 enrolled for VA health care; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia accounting for at least 50 percent of cases; and

WHEREAS, veterans with Alzheimer's could benefit from a designated program to address their unique health care needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges Congress to authorize an Alzheimer's demonstration project at a Department of Veterans Affairs facility or facilities; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this pilot project be uniquely designed for veterans with Alzheimer's disease, using other than the routine medical or psychiatric care models, and should include Alzheimer's research as an integral part of the veteran's treatment program.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 117—LEGISLATIVE
URGE CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PRESERVE
AND MAINTAIN CERTAIN VA PROPERTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORIGINAL
DEEDS OF TRUST, AND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) holds in trust for veterans over 20,000 structures and hundreds of thousands of acres that constitute the VA health care and benefits systems; and

WHEREAS, some VA properties were designated by their private grantors to be used in perpetuity solely for the benefit of war veterans; and

WHEREAS, the health care infrastructure of the VA is aging and many buildings are under utilized or remain idle, not serving veterans; and

WHEREAS, in some instances the VA is not maintaining properties in accordance with recognized needs for renovation, upkeep and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in some locations VA has attempted to dispose of properties for non-complimentary uses when local populations of homeless veterans could have been served by those properties as transitional residential settings or for temporary homeless shelter; and

WHEREAS, VA has not taken full advantage of the authorities granted to VA in law to find and obtain alternative and complimentary uses for such properties; and

WHEREAS, in certain locations VA is not sufficiently notifying and coordinating with interested local parties, including veterans, homeless assistance groups, and historic preservationists, in pursuing alternative uses of VA properties, and thus is not taking those concerns into account; and

WHEREAS, VA has established an initiative entitled "Building Utilization Review and Repurposing," the focus of which is to make more VA buildings available to serve homeless veterans and their families; through public-private partnerships; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges VA to renew and strengthen its program of alternative and complimentary uses of VA properties, to include greater participation by local interested parties, especially local veterans and veterans service organizations, in determining any new uses, with concern to protect such properties from uses incompatible with original deeds of trust, and to enhance use by homeless veterans and their families; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Disabled American Veterans asks Congress to use its oversight power to ensure VA follows Congressional edicts on land use, historic preservation and property disposal to ensure all parties of interest gain opportunities for their concerns to be taken fully into account, and that the public is given ample notice of its opportunity to consider such ramifications, prior to final decision-making on VA property disposal or alternative uses.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 167—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 209—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH CARE
OUT-OF-POCKET COST TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

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, premiums, health care cost sharing, and deductibles 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, in the seminal RAND Health Insurance Experiment, which gave rise to the use and increase of cost sharing, other important findings included that cost sharing reduced the use of both effective and ineffective care where the amounts of reductions for each were equal for hospitalizations and drug use, and cost sharing did not alter the quality of care patients received; and

WHEREAS, subsequent research continues to question the adverse effects of cost sharing 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 (VA) health care system under urgent circumstances and as a temporary necessity to contribute to reduction of the Federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, cost sharing is considered as a means of generating revenues in the Department of Defense (DOD) and VA health care systems; 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, based on practices in the private sector, the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Defense in the recent past, moved to dramatically impose fees and increase premiums and co-payments, as if operating a commercial enterprise; and

WHEREAS, as a continuing cost of national defense and as our Nation's foremost moral obligation, benefits for service connected disabled veterans must remain a first priority of our Government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DOD health care out-of-pocket costs for service connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 210—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCED RESOURCES FOR
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

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 post-deployment mental health challenges; 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 2012, VA reported that of the 804,704 separated OEF/OIF veterans who have sought VA health care since fiscal year 2002, a total of 424,803 unique patients had received a diagnosis of a possible mental health disorder and over 228,361 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 reported that, since 2007, it has experienced a 35% increase in the number of veterans receiving mental health services and a 41% increase in mental health staffing; and

WHEREAS, under scrutiny for failure to provide timely care for veterans needing mental health services in 2012, the VA announced that it will again increase mental health staff by 19,000—about 1,600 clinicians and 300 support staff; 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 availability of VA substance-use disorder programs of all kinds, including inpatient detoxification and long-term 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 is establishing 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports program improvements, data collection and reporting on suicide rates among veterans, sufficient staffing to meet demand for mental health services, and enhanced resources for 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. 211—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 assigned to the service-connected disability 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 increasing 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 212—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, over 40 percent of disabled veteran's enrolled in the VA health care system plans to receive at least 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 currently assign a Care or Case Manager to assist disabled veterans to access and coordinate non-VA care when they must or are authorized to receive such 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, such as 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 213—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; and

WHEREAS, the number of women veterans using VA health care has doubled in the last decade; and

WHEREAS with a majority of the new women veteran users of VA care being under the age of 30 and of child-bearing age, these women's needs represent new challenges to the current model and delivery of VA health care, which has traditionally focused on men; and

WHEREAS, the VA 2008 Report of the VA Under Secretary for Health Workgroup on Provision of Primary Care to Women Veterans 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, several Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports have confirmed that many deficiencies in the VA health care system still exist for women veterans including the inability to fully ensure privacy and a safe comfortable environment for women veterans at all VA facilities and have suggested VA revise key policies and improve oversight; and

WHEREAS, many women seeking VA health care report that certain services are difficult to obtain or health care personnel seem unprepared to understand or deal with their unique health care needs; 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 specific health issues and barriers to care that pose special challenges for women; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 NO. 214—LEGISLATIVE

ENHANCE 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, gero-psychiatry and chronic illnesses prevalent in the elderly veteran population; and

WHEREAS, today tens of thousands of 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, the number of veterans seeking long-term care services have increased annually and VA estimates this trend to continue into the future; 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; and

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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 215—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 \$24 billion in capital facilities improvements and new construction in the post-CARES years; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2012 VA Major and Minor Construction appropriations act provided \$1.1 billion, equal to the Administration’s request; and

WHEREAS, funding levels of this magnitude will prevent VA from modernizing its facilities for decades, despite well-recognized needs; and

WHEREAS, as of April 2012, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced 804,704 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 8.3 million individuals from earlier service periods; 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; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 216—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 six 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 2.7 million to more than 8.3 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 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, a law that requires advance appropriations for VA health care programs; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 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 Public Law 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, calls on Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to take all actions necessary to ensure full implementation of Public Law 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act.

RESOLUTION NO. 217—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 advance appropriations for medical care, it is still at the discretion of Congress to provide a sufficient level of funding; and

WHEREAS, in the past, because of restricted appropriations 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, including alternative and complementary care such as yoga, massage, acupuncture, chiropractic and other non-traditional therapies;
- 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, traumatic brain injury, 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; and
- Maintain a strong and veteran-focused research program; and
- Establish and sustain effective telemedicine programs as an aid to access to VA health care, particularly for rural and remote populations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 218—LEGISLATIVE
IMPROVE THE CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO
MILITARY TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

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, biological and radiological agents, “burn pits,” 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 screening and 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. 219—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM

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, there are over 140 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, under the State Extended Care Facilities Grant Program the federal government provides grants to cover up to 65 percent of the cost to construct, expand, rehabilitate or repair a State Home, with States required to cover a minimum of 35 percent of the cost of projects in matching funding; and

WHEREAS, Section 211 of Public Law 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006, required VA to reimburse State Veterans Homes for the full cost of care provided to veterans with 70 percent or higher service-connected disabilities or who require nursing home care for service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the final regulations implementing Section 211 of Public Law 109-461 did not achieve the intent of Congress to create a new option for long term care for the most seriously disabled service-connected veterans, and as a result some State Homes already providing such care faced reductions in their federal reimbursements, thereby threatening their continued financial viability, while other State Homes have refrained from admitting veterans with service-connected disabilities under this arrangement; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Veterans Homes has been working with VA for three years since the promulgation of these regulations to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution to implement the intent of Congress to provide an additional, and financially viable option for the most severely disabled veterans seeking long term care; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports an adequate VA per diem payment to State Homes 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 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports sufficient funding for the State Home Construction Grant Program; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports legislation to allow States more flexibility in caring for veterans with service-connected disabilities at State Veterans Homes as Congress intended with the enactment of Public Law 109-461; 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. 220—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have vastly improved and expanded over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, VA provides extensive preventive programs, and in an environment of safety offers veterans comprehensive primary, acute and rehabilitative care, including pharmaceutical, mental health and readjustment counseling services, to over eight million veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities are affiliated with the nation's premier health professions colleges and universities, including 104 schools of medicine, and through these relationships provide state-of-the-art health care to veterans, including service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, by law, VA provides first-priority care to veterans who are disabled as a consequence of their military service; and

WHEREAS, VA's biomedical research and development programs have established new treatments peculiar to the needs of disabled veterans, including a vast array of prosthetic and orthotic and other assistive devices, and elevate the standard of care for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, through existing law, VA conducts a major, national fee-basis and contract care program when circumstances or geography prevent sick and disabled veterans from gaining direct access to VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, significant privatization of VA health care programs or facilities would diminish the VA health care system and erode the significant gains VA has achieved, and could endanger first-priority care to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA and its infrastructure and employees represent a commitment by the United States to care for veterans injured by war, and this commitment should never be broken, diluted or abandoned; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes any effort or means by which VA health care services or programs would be contracted out, privatized, or vouchered out through the issuance of individual "credit cards," by local, regional or national contracting, or through individual or group vouchers for health care provided by others at VA expense; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Disabled American Veterans urges Congress to resist and disapprove any legislative proposals that would have the effect of privatizing VA health care, and to use its oversight and legislative powers to assure Disabled American Veterans that such efforts will not be supported.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 221—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT
SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS OF SEVERELY WOUNDED, INJURED
AND ILL VETERANS FROM ALL ERAS

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 such caregivers, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 222—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY OF A QUALIFYING
VETERAN'S ADULT CHILD FOR THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL
PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS

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 of a veteran is eligible for CHAMPVA if the veteran is rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, was rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at the time of death, died of a service-connected disability, or died on active duty, and the dependent is ineligible for Department of Defense (DoD) TRICARE benefits; and

WHEREAS, the eligibility of a dependent child for CHAMPVA ends at the age of 18, unless that child is enrolled in an accredited school as a full-time student, or ends at the age of 23 if a full-time student, marries, or is a stepchild who no longer lives in household of the CHAMPVA sponsor; and

WHEREAS, current law requires private health plans and insurers to offer coverage to adult children of beneficiaries to age 26 regardless of the child's financial dependency, marital status, enrollment in school, residency or other factors; and

WHEREAS, children of severely disabled veterans and survivors of veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice should not be penalized or denied the same rights and privileges as other citizens of a grateful nation enjoy; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to extend the eligibility of a qualifying veteran's child for CHAMPVA coverage to age 26 under the same conditions of covered adult children in private health plans.

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RESOLUTION NO. 223—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 about 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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, including in more rural communities, 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.

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RESOLUTION NO. 224—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM
FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION

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 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 benefitted 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, generations of veterans from earlier wars and conflicts may have suffered TBI but this injury went unrecognized, or was treated as mental illness; 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 National Military Medical Center suffer from TBI; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 all generations of veterans who suffer the lingering effects from earlier injuries; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges that any TBI studies or research undertaken by VA and DoD for the current generation of TBI-injured veterans include older veterans of past military conflicts who may have suffered similar injuries that went undetected, undiagnosed, and untreated.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 225—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 over 6 million veteran patients waiting long periods for primary, specialty, and dental care appointments; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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.

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RESOLUTION NO. 226—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR COMMITMENTS
TO SERVE VETERANS IN VA FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the nation faces a looming shortage of practitioners in mental health, including physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, 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 hundreds of Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 227—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 serve 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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.

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RESOLUTION NO. 228—LEGISLATIVE

REDUCE VA MEDICATION COPAYMENTS EQUAL TO, OR LESS THAN, THE LOWEST CHARGED BY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMERCIAL OUTLETS

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans has approved a longstanding resolution opposing copayments for medical care and prescription medications for military retirees and veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has periodically increased medication copayments, from the original charge of \$2.00, up to \$9.00 per 30-day supply of each prescribed medication for some enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has not agreed to eliminate copayments for VA health care services and medications, despite the origin of the requirement that was justified as a “temporary” measure to reduce the federal deficit; and

WHEREAS, numerous private sector commercial pharmaceutical outlets make medications available for much lower copayments than VA charges veterans in VA care, in some cases as little as \$4.00 per 30-day supply; and

WHEREAS, in many instances VA clinicians prescribe over-the-counter medications to veterans that would cost far less if purchased in a commercial pharmaceutical outlet (but also including VA's own Veterans Canteen Service) than charges in copayments for the same medications; and

WHEREAS, VA medication copayments cause an undue financial hardship for many sick and disabled veterans who need relief due to their high health care costs and fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, although DAV adamantly opposes health care and medication copayments for military retirees and veterans, DAV believes VA should not charge veterans required copayments that exceed copayments charged by large commercial pharmaceutical sources, and should not charge copayments that exceed the full retail prices of prescribed over-the-counter medications that are sold in the Veterans Canteen Service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation that will reduce the amount of medication copayments paid by veterans to be equal to, or less than, the lowest price copayments charged by private sector commercial outlets to veterans and non-veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should prohibit VA from charging medication copayments that exceed the retail cost of over-the-counter medications sold by Veterans Canteen Service retail stores.

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RESOLUTION NO. 229—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 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) report on the mileage rates for a privately owned automobile, the General Services Administration (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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 230—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 one of five polytrauma rehabilitation centers within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) located in Tampa, Richmond, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Palo Alto, for intensive care and long-term restoration and rehabilitation; 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, these veterans spend long periods at polytrauma centers recovering from their combat injuries and the care provided in these specialized polytrauma centers and polytrauma network sites is extraordinarily expensive and complex, often addressing complications from multiple amputations, traumatic brain injuries, burns, 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, since VA's current nursing home capacity is primarily 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 psychosocial 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 231—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION THAT MILITARY RETIRED VETERANS BE PROHIBITED
FROM RECEIVING HEALTH CARE FROM BOTH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DOD or the VA health care systems.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 232—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS LIVING IN
RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS

WHEREAS, 44 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, beginning in fiscal year 2009, Congress has provided VA \$250 million annually in funding to support enhancements to rural health care; and

WHEREAS, VA has funded over 500 projects and programs, authorized new mobile rural clinics in Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), appointed "Rural Health Consultants" in each of VA's 21 VISNs, and is conducting regularly scheduled meetings of VA's Rural Veterans 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 almost 800 community-based outpatient clinics, of which nearly half are located in areas considered by VA to be rural or highly rural; and

WHEREAS, VA must ensure the numbers of its Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers in rural and highly rural areas are sufficient to meet the demands for counseling of rural veterans in need of psychological readjustment after serving in combat deployments; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 233—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 234—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 Department of Veterans Affairs (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 war-related trauma, new and more comprehensive housing and child care services are needed; and

WHEREAS, according to VA, in 2011, more than 112,000 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 2010, Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was launched and the VA Secretary began 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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's specialized 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. 235—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, if the local VA medical facility does not participate in the CITI program, the beneficiary must seek care in the private sector and 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; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to make the CHAMPVA program more comprehensive, including dental and vision care, institutional and home-based long-term care, and reduce the catastrophic cap on CHAMPVA services to a more reasonable amount to lower 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; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports the CITI program and urges VA Medical Center directors to make that program available to CHAMPVA beneficiaries when resources are available.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 236—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS 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, in some locations, VA lacks timely access to a complete continuum of available services (from detoxification to rehabilitation) to treat substance use disorders; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 237—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 238—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT AND MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS
SUFFERING FROM POST-DEPLOYMENT MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES
OR OTHER SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

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, and 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 239—LEGISLATIVE
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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 240—LEGISLATIVE
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 (JBMYPSP) 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 JBMYPSP will award a total of \$75,000 in 2013 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 241—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT CONSISTENT REASONABLE ACCESS FOR SERVICE AND
GUIDE DOGS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, trained guide dogs and other trained service dogs can have a significant role in maintaining functionality and promoting maximal independence of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, some veterans with disabilities such as blindness, deafness, mental illness, and epilepsy and other seizure disorders are specifically aided by service and guide animals employed for these purposes by persons with such disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) approves guide and service dogs to veterans enrolled in VA health care when therapeutically indicated; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs has published guidance requiring each VA health care facility to maintain a policy on the admission of guide and service animals to VA premises; and

WHEREAS, each VA medical facility is expected to maintain reasonable policies on the control and admittance of such animals that accompany veterans on their medical visits to VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, VA is engaged in formal research efforts to determine the efficacy of the use of service dogs in non-traditional applications, such as acting as companions to the mentally ill; and

WHEREAS, veterans have reported that certain VA facilities do not permit service and guide dogs to accompany them into facilities, including primary care or mental health clinic appointments, while other facilities permit them into certain designated areas; and

WHEREAS, VA is experimenting with dog training programs led by veterans for veterans, to determine if the training of service dogs itself is a therapeutic method to reduce symptoms in veterans with post traumatic stress disorder; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges that VA carry out its policies to permit reasonable access to VA facilities by service and guide dogs to veterans consistently throughout the system; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Disabled American Veterans urges VA to complete its plan to conduct thoroughgoing research and expansion of ongoing model programs to determine the most efficacious use of guide and service dogs in defined populations, in particular veterans with mental health conditions, and to broadly publish the results of that research; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation setting forth VA standards for admission to VA properties and management of service and guide animals that are equivalent to rules applicable to every other private and public structure in the United States as dictated by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 245—ADMINISTRATIVE
EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, LAS VEGAS NEVADA, FOR
THE SUCCESS OF THE 91ST DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended to the delegates and guests of the 91st 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 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 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Southern Nevada Healthcare System, staffed and maintained a high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Bally's Hotel Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 91st National Convention were extended in a highly compassionate and professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, Las Vegas, Nevada, for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 91st National Convention and for contributing to the overall success of this Convention.

* * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. DEMPSTER: Mic 3. Thomas Dempster, Department of Michigan, District 1 Executive Committeeman, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: 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. (Applause)

I would like to call upon Chairman David Riley for the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights. David.

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DAVID RILEY: Thank you. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights was called to order on August 4th, 2012, by the Committee advisors Joseph A. Violante and Scott Trimarchi.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, David Riley, was elected as chairman and Bill Novak 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 resolutions.

Resolution 007, amend Title 38, U.S.C. to provide ten-year protection for service-connected disability evaluation;

Resolution 008, oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefit by VA compensation;

Resolution 009, oppose reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits;

Resolution 010, oppose lump-sum payments for service-connected disabilities;

Resolution 12, oppose the permanent rounding down of COLAs in veterans' benefits;

Resolution 16, redefine service in Vietnam to include service in waters offshore;

Resolution 017, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of SBP and DIC; (Applause)

Resolution 018, increase disability compensation; (Applause)

Resolution 019, support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans' disability compensation; (Applause)

Resolution 026 – excuse me – oppose subjecting compensation to means testing;

Resolution 030, oppose any change that would redefine service-connected disability or restrict the conditions of circumstances under which it may be established;

Resolution 031, support legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenetic diseases; (Applause)

Resolution 032, increase the grant for autos or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans;

Resolution 033, 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 034, compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illnesses circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War; (Applause)

Resolution 037, support legislation providing that SSB payments not be withheld from VA disability compensation payments;

Resolution 038, support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances;

39, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims;

Resolution 041, mortgage protection life insurance for 100 percent service-connected veterans; (Applause)

Resolution 042, support legislation to provide for waiver of premiums for Supplemental Service Disabled Veterans Insurance, RH;

Resolution 043, provide an open period to apply for service-disabled veterans insurance, RH;

Resolution 044, increase the face value of service-disabled veterans insurance;

Resolution 045, provide increase in specially adapted housing grant and separate temporary residence allowance grants;

Resolution 063, oppose any recommendations by any commission to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans; (Applause)

Resolution 066, support a change in the regulatory requirements under Section 4.3.0 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide for a temporary total rating for incapacitation of more than 21 days;

Resolution 067, reduce the ten-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation;

Resolution 069, provide a temporary total rating for the period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

Resolution 070, support legislation to provide for service-connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures;

Resolution 072, support legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of Title 38, United States Code 111.4.R.1 to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities;

Resolution 073, support interest payments for disabled, Department of Veteran Affairs retroactive awards of one year or more;

Resolution 074, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life;

Resolution 077, support reasonable presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses for Gulf War veterans;

Resolution 078, support legislation to allow veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay;

Resolution 080, exempt disability compensation in determination of eligibility for governmental programs;

Resolution 081, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans' Appeals;

Resolution 82, support legislation to require the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims to decide each of the appellate's assignments of error;

Resolution 084, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for benefits counseling and claims services before the VA;

Resolution 086, support an increase in the Department of Veteran Affairs Burial Allowance for service-connected veterans; (Applause)

Resolution 087, increase the home improvement and structural alterations grant;

Resolution 088, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled;

Resolution 089, support legislation that would exempt the benefits paid to war-time service-connected disabled veterans from the pay-go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act;

Resolution 090, extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans; (Applause)

Resolution 091, extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents;

Resolution 124, amend the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities, Mental Disorders;

Resolution 156, eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S.C.; (Applause)

Resolution 157, minimal – minimum compensation for hearing loss with use of hearing aid;

Resolution 158, presumptive service connection for tinnitus and hearing loss;

Resolution 161, support adequate funding for all VA programs;

Resolution 201, oppose all attempts to change the basis of the VA Rating Schedule from the Average Impairment of Earnings Capacity Standard; – excuse me

Resolution 202, extend military commissary and exchange privileges and space-available air travel to 30 percent or higher service-connected disabled veterans separated from the service prior to October 1949; (Applause)

Resolution 203, expand POW presumptions;

Resolution 204, establish service connection for the residuals of military sexual trauma; (Applause)

Resolution 205, support reform in the Veterans' Benefits Administration's Disability Claims process;

Resolution 206, reduce premiums for service-disabled veterans' insurance to be more consistent with life expectancy.

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 that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 007—LEGISLATIVE PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EVALUATIONS

WHEREAS, section 110, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports amendment of section 110, 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. 008—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 009—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 010—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 012—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 (COLAs) 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes permanent rounding down of COLAs for veterans' benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 016—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase “served in the Republic of Vietnam” includes service in the waters offshore.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 017—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 54,000 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, support legislation to repeal the offset between SBP 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. 018—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 earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 019—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 026—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 030—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine or restrict service connection.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 031—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, the Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 032—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE GRANT FOR AUTOMOBILES OR OTHER CONVEYANCES
AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a grant to assist eligible disabled veterans and servicemembers in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the amount of the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of lower-priced automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later amendments established grants in amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been adjusted regularly concurrent with increases in the costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant of approximately \$19,000 represents about 66 percent of the total average cost of automobiles based on most current available pricing; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 033—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, title 38, United States Code, and section 17.119(a), 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, 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, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 034—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 United States military personnel.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 037—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL SEPARATION BENEFITS
PAYMENTS NOT BE WITHHELD FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, as a result of the downsizing of our military forces, many career military personnel have left service prior to becoming eligible for longevity retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are entitled to separation pay; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals also become eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, VA General Counsel, in an opinion rendered on June 22, 1992, held that any monies received as a result of the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) must be recouped from any VA disability compensation payment; and

WHEREAS, SSB payments are in no way related to a disability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 038—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR REALISTIC COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor provides statistical information and analysis that impacts the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for disabled veterans, military retirees, and Social Security recipients; 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, the COLA formula has been adjusted to remove items such as groceries and fuel from such calculations; 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, there have been recent attempts to adjust the COLA downward in various methods such as "Chained COLA;" 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, many disabled veterans and their survivors are on fixed incomes and rely on COLAs to meet their current living expenses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to provide for a COLA formula that represents a realistic cost-of-living allowance for our nation's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 039—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 041—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

WHEREAS, Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) is presently available to veterans entitled to the special adapted housing award under section 2101(a), 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; and

WHEREAS, section 407 of Public Law 111-275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, increased VMLI for disabled veterans from \$90,000 to \$150,000, effective October 1, 2011, and to \$200,000 effective January 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the VMLI program provides mortgage life insurance to severely disabled veterans and service members who have also received a Specially Adapted Housing grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 042—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR WAIVER OF PREMIUMS FOR
SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, section 1922A(a), title 38, United States Code, provides for supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI) for totally disabled veterans, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, section 1922A(d), 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to allow for the waiver of premiums, for any and all Supplemental S-DVI 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. 043—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 (S-DVI) 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the S-DVI Program.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 044—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance under section 1922, 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), title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, this 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; and

WHEREAS, Section 401 of Public Law 111-275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, increases Supplemental Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) for totally disabled veterans from \$20,000 to \$30,000, effective October 1, 2011, but does not increase S-DVI coverage for other service-connected disabled veterans with lower disability ratings; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports amendment of section 1922(a), title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of insurance coverage available under S-DVI.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 045—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE INCREASE IN THE SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING GRANT AND
SEPARATE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE ADAPTATION GRANTS

WHEREAS, section 2101(a), title 38, United States Code, authorizes a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) 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 or severe burn injuries; 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, Public Law 109-233, the Veterans' Housing Opportunity Benefits Act of 2006, authorized the VA to provide Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grants for veterans who have service-connected disabilities for certain combinations of loss or loss of use of extremities and blindness or other organic diseases or injuries when those veterans reside in but do not intend to permanently reside in a residence owned by a family member; and

WHEREAS, assistance may not exceed \$14,000 for veterans who have a permanent and total service-connected disability as a result of the loss or loss of the use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair; and

WHEREAS, the assistance may not exceed \$2,000 for veterans who have a permanent and total service-connected disability rating due to blindness in both eyes with 5/200 visual acuity or less and the disability includes the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands; and

WHEREAS, this grant will be adjusted annually as a result of passage of Public Law 110-289, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, based on a cost-of-construction index, but the TRA grant will not; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation which would provide a realistic increase in the grant as well as annual cost-of-living increases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should separate the TRA grant as a stand-alone program so that the grant amount would not count against the overall grant for SAH.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 063—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 066—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports a change in section 4.30, 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. 067—LEGISLATIVE

REDUCE THE 10-YEAR RULE FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, Section 1318 (b) (1), title 38, United States Code, provides Dependent & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of certain veterans noted totally disabled for 10 or more 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, support legislation to reduce this 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, should such change not occur, that the Disabled American Veterans calls for legislation to allow for a graduated percentage of the total DIC benefit of 10 percent for each year the veteran has been rated permanent and total up to such time as the 10-year time frame has been reached.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 069—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 070—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 072—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AWARD SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF TITLE 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of Section 1114(r)(1), title 38, United States Code, to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 073—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 074—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 Department of Veterans Affairs (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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 077—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT REASONABLE 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges that legislation be enacted to extend the presumptive period for service connection for ill-defined and undiagnosed illnesses to a reasonable period.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 078—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 080—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, seeks legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for purposes of entitlement to benefits or services under other government programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 081—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 082—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE UNITED STATES COURT OF
APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE EACH OF
APPELLANT'S ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR

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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 084—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CAP ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR BENEFITS
COUNSELING AND CLAIMS SERVICES BEFORE THE 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, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 Department of Veterans Affairs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 086—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS

WHEREAS, in 1973, the National Cemetery Administration established a burial allowance that provided partial reimbursement for eligible funeral and burial costs, with a payment of \$2,000 for service-connected burial allowance, \$300 for nonservice-connected burial allowance and \$300 for nonservice-connected plot allowance; and

WHEREAS, passage of Public Law 111-275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, resulted in an increase in both plot allowance and burial allowance from \$300 to \$700 for nonservice-connected deaths in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, effective October 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this same law does not increase the \$2,000 for burial and funeral expenses for service-connected deaths outside of VA facilities, nor is it indexed to the Consumer Price Index for annual adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the plot allowance introduced in 1973 was an attempt to provide a plot benefit for veterans who did not have reasonable access to a national cemetery, neither the plot allowance nor the burial allowance was intended to cover the full cost of a civilian burial in a private cemetery; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable at a rate equal to that of inflation since 1973 in the case of death due to service-connected disability regardless of the place where the death occurred.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 087—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE HOME IMPROVEMENT AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS GRANT

WHEREAS, under section 1717, title 38, United States Code, 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 benefit provides up to \$6,800 to service-connected veterans, and up to \$2,000 to nonservice-connected veterans as a result of the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, calls for a reasonable increase to the HISA improvement benefits for veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 088—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF
SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

WHEREAS, chapter 35, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under chapter 35, title 38, United States Code, to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80 percent or more.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 089—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE BENEFITS PAID
TO WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS FROM THE
"PAY-GO/CUT-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"/"cut-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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the "pay-go"/"cut-go" provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 090—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 091—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 124—LEGISLATIVE
AMEND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SCHEDULE
FOR RATING DISABILITIES FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

WHEREAS, under title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4.130, the criteria for evaluating mental disorder is very ambiguous; and

WHEREAS, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, delirium, dementia, and amnesic and other cognitive disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, somatoform disorders, mood disorders, and chronic adjustment disorders, are all evaluated using the same general rating formula for mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM IV) specifically lists different symptoms for posttraumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and other psychiatric disorders; and

WHEREAS, one veteran service connected for schizophrenia and another veteran service connected for another psychiatric disorder should not be evaluated using the same general formula; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports amendment of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 4.130 to formulate different criteria to evaluate the various mental disorders under the appropriate psychiatric disorder.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 156—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 157—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
VETERANS REQUIRED TO USE A HEARING AID

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 VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 158—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS

WHEREAS, veterans of the armed services who served in combat or in certain occupational specialties have a high incidence rate of hearing loss or tinnitus as a direct result of acoustic trauma; and

WHEREAS, many pre-service and discharge examinations, particularly for World War II and Korean conflict veterans, were usually accomplished with the highly inaccurate whispered voice test; and

WHEREAS, veterans, in those cases, were not afforded a comprehensive audiological examination upon entrance and discharge from military service; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the second leading disability granted service connection by the Department of Veterans Affairs was for hearing loss or tinnitus; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports entitlement to service connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran suffering from hearing loss or tinnitus, which manifests itself to a degree of 10 percent or more within a year of discharge from military service, and the evidence shows the veterans participated in combat or worked in a position or military occupational specialty likely to cause acoustic trauma.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 161—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 201—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE ALL ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE BASIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS RATING SCHEDULE FROM THE “AVERAGE
IMPAIRMENTS OF EARNINGS CAPACITY” STANDARD

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) that was adopted in 1945 requires that, “... ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity” as stated in title 38, United States Code, section 1155; and

WHEREAS, the standard of “average impairments of earning capacity” was first adopted under the War Risk Insurance Act of 1917, and except for a short-lived alteration between 1924 and 1933 attempting to reflect individual occupational factors, this philosophy has formed the basis for determining levels of veterans’ disability compensation for almost a century; and

WHEREAS, the current VASRD has been updated, revised and modified numerous times since 1945 to reflect advances in medical knowledge, diagnosis, treatment and technology for injuries, illnesses and disabilities related to military service, but the standard of “average impairments of earnings capacity” has remained unchanged due to its practicality, equity and fairness to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, determining rating levels based on the “average impairments of earning capacity” ensures that veterans who have similar manifestations of the same disabilities are treated equally and fairly without consideration of their age, education, work experience or current work status; and

WHEREAS, by basing the VASRD on the “average impairments of earnings capacity,” rather than on individual measurements of earnings loss or functionality, disabled veterans are actually encouraged to seek vocational rehabilitation training in order to find jobs and become more productive wage earners without fear of being penalized for doing so; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently updating the entire VASRD and has committed to update each body of the section of the VASRD every five years, and throughout this process numerous proposals have been and will be considered to alter the VASRD; and

WHEREAS, any attempt to replace “average impairment of earnings capacity” with a new standard based on individual earnings loss or measurements of functionality would dramatically alter the purpose and effectiveness of the VA disability compensation program; create disincentives for veterans interested in rehabilitation and work, and lead to reductions in compensation for millions of disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS any attempt to eliminate all consideration of impairments and impacts outside of the workplace fails to properly recognize that disability affects a veteran’s entire life—including social, marital, familial, emotional and spiritual aspects—all of which have some effect on their “earnings capacity;” and

WHEREAS, any attempt to model the VA disability compensation program on the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or workers’ compensation programs fails to recognize that those programs have separate purposes based on injuries and illnesses incurred in the civilian workplace, that do not compare with the unique challenges faced and sacrifices made by the men and women who serve and have served in our Armed Forces; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012 opposes any attempt to change or modify the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities, or the statute and regulations underlying it, which would change

the longstanding, accepted and successful policy that ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity."

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 202—LEGISLATIVE
EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE-AVAILABLE
AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, disabled enlisted personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space-available air travel aboard military aircraft, to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949, for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the VA as 30 percent or more disabling and who retained at least a 30 percent evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 203—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 204—LEGISLATIVE
ESTABLISH SERVICE CONNECTION FOR RESIDUALS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans maintains a longstanding resolution from our membership that advocates an open process to govern establishment of service connection for diseases and injuries incurred in or aggravated during service in the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, establishing a causal relationship between certain injuries and later disability can be daunting due to lack of records or human factors that obscure or prevent documentation or even basic investigation of such incidents after they occur; and

WHEREAS, military sexual trauma is evermore recognized as a hazard of service for one percent of men serving and 20 percent of women serving in the armed forces and later represents a heavy burden of psychological and mental health care for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);

WHEREAS, an absence of documentation of military sexual trauma in the personnel or military unit records of injured individuals prevents or obstructs adjudication of claims for disabilities of this deserving group injured during their service, and may interrupt or prevent their care by VA once they become veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DOD) has established an office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) to establish department-wide policies and procedures for the handling of sexual assault and injury cases for active military service members and members of reserve and Guard units, including documentation, records retention and protection of the privacy of the individuals involved in such cases; and

WHEREAS, both DOD and VA have agreed on some procedures that would govern documentation sufficient to justify service connection of sexual assault and other military sexual trauma; and

WHEREAS, the VA has issued regulation (section 3.304(f)(5), title 38, Code of Federal Regulations) that provides for a liberalization of requirements for establishment of service connection due to personal assault, including military sexual trauma, even when documentation of an “actual stressor” is not found, but when evidence in other records exists of a “marker” indicating that a stressor may have in fact occurred; and

WHEREAS, VA has trained adjudication personnel, especially its rating staffs in VA regional offices, in better evaluating disability claims for military sexual assaults, and has emphasized these particular claims must be made subject to special attention in consonance with new regulation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports VA's new practices in evaluating disability claims associated with military sexual trauma, and urges VA to conduct rigorous oversight of adjudication personnel and review of data to ensure the present policy is being faithfully followed and standardized in all VA regional offices; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Disabled American Veterans urges VA to reopen and reevaluate claims for conditions associated with military sexual assault that were denied under previous rating criteria that required significant evidentiary documentation to establish nexus, since nexus is no longer a prerequisite to positive adjudication of these cases.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 205—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 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, regulations and/or laws 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation that fulfills the above criteria, significantly reducing the backlog and ensures that all claims are decided correctly the first time.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 206—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 servicemembers because the increased hazards of military service make them an unacceptable risk for the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, coverage for servicemembers 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 (S-DVI) program in 1951 by Public Law 82-23, the Insurance Act of 1951, to provide life insurance to service-connected disabled veterans at standard rates; and

WHEREAS, under Public Law 82-23, S-DVI 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, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to amend section 1922 of title 38, United States Code, to provide that SDVI premiums will be based on current mortality tables.

* * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. MIKE GODICH JR.: Mic 3. Mike Godich Jr., Department of Pennsylvania, Chapter 76, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolution to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered, unanimously. Thank you, Dave.

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RILEY: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Now I would like to call on our National Adjutant to make any announcements.

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you, Commander. Our next business session will begin Tuesday morning at 8:30. We will start off with committee reports, including the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

We will hear an important report on what the Charitable Service Trust is doing to ensure that our nation fulfills its promises to those who have served. Then, after introducing the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats, we'll receive a report from the National Service Foundation.

The Communications Department will be holding a seminar this afternoon at 1:00 o'clock in Grand Ballroom Gold. Those of you who are interested in learning more about the exciting future of DAV's communications will surely want to be there.

On Monday afternoon at 2:30, VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Retired Brigadier General Allison Hickey, will be the guest speaker at the Women Veterans Seminar. This highly anticipated event will be held in Grand Ballroom Platinum on the Casino Level of this hotel.

Tuesday afternoon's session, of course, will conclude with nomination and election of officers in the afternoon session. In that regard, the Nominating Committee will meet this afternoon at 1:00 o'clock to hear more candidates or to interview more candidates in Skyview 2 on the 26th floor.

And, finally, the five winners of backpacks for today's session are Eldon Armstrong from Texas; Richard DiGloria from Georgia; George Manes from Missouri; and Richardson – I'm sorry, Matthew Williams from Colorado and Algermon Hill from North Carolina. (Cheers) Success. (Laughter)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Art. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Chaplain Edwards to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Let us pray. 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, and for our commitment in fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

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 SAMUELS: The Convention stands in recess until 8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning. (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 o'clock, a.m. on Sunday, August 5, 2012.)

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THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

August 7, 2012

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The Third Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 91st National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday morning, August 7, 2012, and was called to order at 8:34 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Donald L. Samuels.

COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS: The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder to everyone, please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I'd like to call on our Chaplain, Chaplain Edwards, to lead us in prayer. Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Father in Heaven, we thank You on behalf of those gathered here for the ability and nobility to remember You in our deliberations during this business session. Be near us always, our God, to guide us in our decisions, to comfort us in our failures, and to keep us humble in our success.

We pray that this time we share will draw us closer together as individuals and as a great organization. Be with us as we meet our commitments in fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. We pray for these among us who may be experiencing pain or suffering in some way, for our comrade Bill Paycheck who is hospitalized. He is the Commander of Chapter 2, Youngstown, Ohio.

May we be filled now with purpose and pride because of the Chapters, Departments and Districts in which we serve and represent, the country – the home of the brave – the land, the freedom we defended, the Creator, the God in whom we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER SAMUELS: 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 a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized the delegate must state their name, chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to call on the Credentials Committee for a report, Chairman Warren Tobin. Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Good morning National Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Wilson, delegates and guests. The National Convention Committee on Credentials met this morning in the Skyview 1. The roll call showed 1,218 delegates and 42 alternates present. This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects registration as of 4:00 o'clock p.m. on August 6th, 2012.

At the present time we have 464 Chapters, 44 Departments, 40 National Officers, 9 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,237 delegates and 54 alternates, and a total vote count of 8,292. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. This is a reminder that registration will close this morning at 10:00 a.m. I would like to call upon Chairman Brad Barton for the final report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Comrade Commander, 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 184, add as Article III, Section 3.7, Paragraph 1:

"Department delegates and alternates shall be elected by their delegates assembled at their Department Conventions or by the Department Executive Committee prior to a Convention and shall be certified to the National Headquarters on forms provided by the National Headquarters.

"Credentials shall be issued to the Departments by the National Headquarters. The aforementioned credentials shall be prescribed by the National Organization."

Resolution Number 185, renumber Article III, Section 3.7, as Article III, Section 3.7, Paragraph 2 and delete "Departments and" in the second sentence of the current Article III, Section 3.7, to accommodate the addition of Article III, Section 3.7, Paragraph 1.

Resolution Number 186, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 7A to delete "in duplicate, printed or typewritten form" and replace with "in electronic or printed form".

Resolution 187, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 21B to include in the final sentence "and all other matters in which other public and private agencies charged with the improvement of disabled veterans and their dependents are concerned."

Resolution Number 188, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 21C to delete "and all other matters in which other public and private agencies charged with the improvement of disabled veterans and their dependents are concerned."

Resolution 189, revise Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 21F to read as follows:

"Committee on Employment. This Committee shall consider all matters concerning all forms of employment of disabled veterans as well as preference rights in examination, appointments, retention, promotions or employment or reemployment rights in federal civil service and in state, county and city governments.

"This Committee will also consider matters relating to vocational rehabilitation, education and training for veterans and their eligible dependents."

Resolution 190, revise Article XIV, Section 14.9, beginning with the fifth sentence to read as follows:

"Such reimbursement shall be made only upon a full and final adjudication of theft or conversion which is either upheld on appeal and/or no longer subject to appeal.

"Such reimbursement shall also be subject to the limits and conditions of the reimbursement program as detailed in the pertinent regulations of the National Executive Committee."

Comrade Commander, this completes the resolutions that the Committee recommended for adoption. Commander, on behalf of the Committee I move the Committee recommendations be accepted, that the resolutions be adopted, and the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the Convention.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Brad. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. MICHAEL SATER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. SATER: Mike Sater, Department of Maryland, I second the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Past National Commander Dick Marbes is one of the most enduring figures in our organization and one of the most respected people I have ever known.

While serving in the U.S. Air Force, Dick lost his right leg and was medically retired in 1958. Since then he has continued service in DAV and is widely recognized for his dedication and commitment to our cause, both nationally and by his home state of Wisconsin. He truly is a veteran's advocate and an inspiration for all of us.

He continues to serve veterans in his community as a driver and coordinator with the DAV Transportation Network program. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to Past National Commander Dick Marbes, Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you, Commander Samuels, for that warm introduction. And let me also extend

the DAV Charitable Service Trust's gratitude to National Adjutant Wilson, our National Officers, our delegates and guests.

As chairperson, let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They are Vice Chairman Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum of Florida, and our Directors: National Commander Don Samuels, Gene Murphy from South Dakota, Dennis Nixon from Texas, and Jim Sursely of Florida. On behalf of the Trust and our Board I am proud to present our annual report to this National Convention.

In 2011 troops in Afghanistan sustained the second-highest number of casualties since the beginning of the war. And the number of Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans seeking health care from the VA climbed toward three-quarters-of-a-million. Even as the total number of veterans in America declines, the number of veterans with service-connected disabilities has actually risen in recent years to 3.4 million.

Every day in the DAV you and I see the pain growing among those veterans and their families and yet in the eyes of many Americans the needs of those who fought and continue to fight have once again become largely invisible. More than ever, veterans disabled in defense of this country need the powerful leadership offered by the DAV.

And if the DAV has been the voice for our wartime veterans who came home sick and injured, the DAV Charitable Service Trust has been a helping hand, delivering the care that veterans and their families most dearly need.

Filling in the gaps, the Trust looks out for the most vulnerable among America's veterans, the most profoundly wounded, the homeless, the growing needs of aging veterans.

We hone in on programs and services that are unfunded or under-funded by government and other, more traditional sources. And as I stand before you today, I must emphasize that the Trust's work has never been more critical in the care of our veterans and their families.

Few in America know that 50,000 troops have come home to face serious eye injuries and vision loss. Few understand the incredible, life-long needs of veterans who suffered multiple amputations and other profound bodily injuries.

What does it really mean to say that 780,000 returning troops face a daily battle with PTSD and that 500,000 or more have endured serious brain injuries?

These quickly listed stats from our most recent wars provide only a glimpse of the human cost of war – a cost the people in this room have been paying throughout their adult lives. Yet in the face of so much pain our fellow Americans are less aware than ever of the price of freedom – a human cost you and I pay every day.

In a recent poll the majority of people saw your sacrifices and mine as “just part of being in the military.” Now, that's not just insulting, it is dangerous. And it underscores the absolutely essential nature of the Trust's work as it raises funds from The Combined Federal Campaign, other workplace giving programs like the United Way, corporate matching gift programs, corporations and foundations, and individual donors across America.

In 2011 alone these gifts totaled more than \$5 million, allowing the Charitable Service Trust to devote \$4 million to rehabilitative services, crisis outreach, employment assistance, and so much more.

And let me emphasize a point of pride here – 94 cents out of every dollar the Trust spends supports service programs for veterans and their families – 94 cents out of every dollar. (Applause) Thank you. A mere 6 cents goes to administrative and fund-raising costs.

Now few – and I mean very few – charitable institutions can boast of such low costs for fund-raising, management and administration. As DAV members, you, too, can share our pride in this achievement.

With the Ford Motor Company and the Harley-Davidson Foundation the Trust helps DAV to carry out two of its most critical outreach programs: the DAV National Transportation

Network and its Mobile Service Office Program. And let me pause here for a moment to thank the DAV's devoted network of volunteer drivers and let me also thank our wonderful National Service Officers.

While the Trust remains the DAV's stalwart partner in providing core services, it also extends the DAV's reach by tackling a variety of concerns for veterans with disabilities.

With unemployment among our youngest veterans at a staggering 30 percent, joblessness remains one of the leading challenges for today's veterans. In response, the Trust invests in a variety of programs that help veterans to plug into promising employment programs. Here is an example:

At Archi's Acres a veteran of three combat tours in Iraq uses a Trust grant to teach sustainable and organic agriculture to troops ready to leave the service. While proudly supporting a veteran-owned business, this grant also primes veterans to enter a growing industry.

The Trust was also proud to co-sponsor the 2011 Summit on Women Veterans.

It also aggressively addresses the lingering problem of homelessness among those who served. Though the overall number of homeless veterans is falling, we see an alarming increase in the homeless among veterans who are young and/or women.

The VA provides truly exemplary health care for veterans facing a range of life-changing combat injuries. Yet it cannot fund every important research and therapy initiative. So here the Trust extends the VA's capacity, offering healing opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Inspiring programs build greater independence and well-being. These include sports therapy, arts programs, and animal-assisted rehabilitation.

For example, on the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Team wounded warriors overcome physical and psychological obstacles through the camaraderie and personal strength they discover on the ice. The power of such programs often helps veterans cope with haunting wounds like PTSD.

And at a time when returning troops continue to take their lives at unprecedented rates, the Trust will continue to invest in better and more effective treatment for psychological injuries.

Each year DAV highlights one of our grant recipients here at our National Convention. Last year, you will recall, it was the Achilles Track Club. This year it's the New Directions Veterans' Choir from Los Angeles. And you got a taste of their talent in our opening session and at the National Commander's reception.

This is a magnificent example of veterans helping veterans and I hope you, too, shared the inspiration I felt when I heard those wonderful harmonies.

Before I close, let me emphasize that now is the time to carry the message of the DAV to the American people, including the message of the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

Too many people in our country believe that the end of combat in Afghanistan will bring the end of the costs associated with war. But as everyone in this room can attest, nothing could be further from the truth.

The human cost of our nation's defense lasts a lifetime. For you and me there is absolutely no way to avoid this reality. And I don't mean to spread pessimism here. That's not who I am. Actually, surrounded by supporters like you I am filled with hope.

You will endure. You will make sure the DAV continues to stand at the right hand of all veterans who bear the scars of our nation's defense – physical, psychological, and spiritual. As you do, I hope you will take up the mantle as an ambassador for the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

Suggesting the Trust as a deserving beneficiary for gifts through The Combined Federal Campaign, United Way and other workplace giving programs is one critical way you can serve fellow veterans who, like you, sacrificed their blood and their health for America.

At this point, let me address a special appeal to our National Service Officers, Transition Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators. As baseball broadcaster Red Barber would have said, "You're sitting in the catbird seat."

You are remarkably well positioned to promote the Trust as you work side-by-side with precisely those individuals who make such a huge difference through the CFC. Your local office also gives

you a unique opportunity to share our message during this autumn's United Way campaigns, as well as other workplace drives.

Please understand, I don't ask for your help today for the benefit of the Trust, which is but a vehicle of assistance for veterans and families in need. I ask for your help on behalf of our fellow veterans – men and women who will suffer without our continued support.

They're counting on you – on all of us. They're counting on our Chapters, Auxiliary Units, Departments and individual members. United we can succeed in building a brighter future for the veterans who profoundly sacrificed for their country.

And as I end my report today, I express my deepest wish that you will join me in devoting your hands and hearts to our sick and wounded brothers and sisters. I would like to acknowledge Nancy O'Brien, the Administrator of the Trust, and her extremely capable staff back at the National Headquarters for their day-to-day support of the Board and the Trust.

And I thank you for all your good, hard work for veterans and their families last year – and well into the future. God bless each and every one of you and God bless our great U.S. of A. (Applause)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the Years
Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, and
Independent Auditors' Report

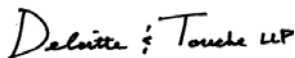
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust") as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 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 audits 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 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 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.



March 30, 2012

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 787,821	\$ 979,121
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	31,730	32,635
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE — Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$531,107 in 2011 and \$519,864 in 2010	405,085	423,549
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	23,505	21,343
INVESTMENTS — Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of \$7,433,273 and \$7,247,097 in 2011 and 2010, respectively	<u>18,326,463</u>	<u>16,921,984</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 19,574,604</u>	<u>\$ 18,378,632</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable — DAV	\$ 235,300	\$ 253,741
Accounts payable — other	2,590	2,349
Annuity payment liability	<u>4,487,269</u>	<u>4,490,190</u>
Total liabilities	4,725,159	4,746,280
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>14,849,445</u>	<u>13,632,352</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 19,574,604</u>	<u>\$ 18,378,632</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	Unrestricted	
	2011	2010
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:		
Contributions — net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$520,691 in 2011 and \$514,979 in 2010	\$ 4,755,405	\$ 4,547,274
Contributions of charitable gift annuities — net	290,252	122,247
Bequests	410,381	306,559
Interest and dividend income — net	160,693	182,250
Gain (loss) on sale of investment securities	188,286	(190,985)
Total support and revenue	5,805,017	4,967,345
EXPENSES:		
Program services	4,086,231	3,768,030
Management and general	83,177	67,205
Fundraising	166,311	215,868
Total expenses	4,335,719	4,051,103
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	1,469,298	916,242
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(252,205)	882,336
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,217,093	1,798,578
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	13,632,352	11,833,774
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$ 14,849,445	\$ 13,632,352

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011			2010				
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:								
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 3,987,359	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,987,359	\$ 3,675,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,675,925
Grant proposal processing	50,160			50,160	44,655			44,655
Administrative charges		33,440	126,260	159,700		29,770	171,122	200,892
Travel		15,150		15,150		9,032		9,032
Advertising	18,277	1,218	4,874	24,369	24,716	1,648	6,591	32,955
Printing, postage, and supplies	9,788	9,788	21,200	40,776	6,310	6,310	26,091	38,711
Legal fees			7,160	7,160		815	6,840	7,655
Professional fees	18,862	18,862		37,724	14,440	14,440		28,880
Insurance	1,785	1,785		3,570	1,984	1,984		3,968
Other expenses		2,934	6,817	9,751		3,206	5,224	8,430
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,086,231	\$ 83,177	\$ 166,311	\$ 4,335,719	\$ 3,768,030	\$ 67,205	\$ 215,868	\$ 4,051,103

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011	2010
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 1,217,093	\$ 1,798,578
Noncash contributions	(42,974)	(173,396)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized depreciation (appreciation) of investments	252,205	(882,336)
(Gain) loss on sale of investment securities	(188,286)	190,985
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	905	2,232
Campaigns' pledges receivable	18,464	(12,737)
Prepaid expenses and other	(2,162)	(5,226)
Accounts payable — DAV and other	(18,200)	17,553
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,237,045</u>	<u>935,653</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(55,121,574)	(94,922,809)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>53,696,150</u>	<u>93,886,726</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,425,424)</u>	<u>(1,036,083)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from contributions reserved for investment subject to annuity agreement	787,374	815,752
Payments to annuitants	<u>(790,295)</u>	<u>(788,993)</u>
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>(2,921)</u>	<u>26,759</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(191,300)	(73,671)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>979,121</u>	<u>1,052,792</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 787,821</u>	<u>\$ 979,121</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, 2011 AND 2010

1. ORGANIZATION

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.

New Accounting Standard — In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU No. 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. The Trust has not yet adopted the ASU and does not expect the ASU to have a material impact on the Trust's financial position, cash flows, or results of operations.

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures — In January 2010, the FASB issued FASB ASU No. 2010-06, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, which amends Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (originally issued as FASB Statement No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*), adding new disclosure requirements for Levels 1 and 2; separate disclosures of purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements; and clarification of existing fair value disclosures.

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 \$1,588 and \$2,011 in 2011 and 2010, 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.

Income Recognition — In 2011, the Trust was a member of Independent Charities of America (ICA) and Military Family & Veterans Service Organizations of America (MFVSOA). ICA and MFVSOA are charitable agency federations, certified by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to participate in the annual combined federal campaigns, 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 \$405,085 are expected to be received in 2012. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MFVSOA during 2011 and 2010 (name changed in 2011 from Military, Veterans & Patriotic Service Organizations), the Trust was assessed a portion of MFVSOA'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 MFVSOA (versus a member agency) and other revenue, such as interest income, are shared among all member agencies in this same proportion. Therefore, if MFVSOA'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 \$205,714 and \$179,654 in 2011 and 2010, respectively, for excess income recognized by MFVSOA in 2010 and 2009.

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 at a fair market value of \$42,974 in 2011 and \$173,396 in 2010.

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 — ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, 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, disclosure, and transition. The Trust applies ASC Topic 740 and notes 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.

3. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments include investment of contributions and charitable gift annuity agreements (see Note 6). 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 or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. 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. The Trust's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents, which include money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and market value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2011 and 2010, are summarized below:

2011	Cost	Market	Unrealized Appreciation
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 927,390	\$ 927,390	\$ -
Short-term U.S. government agency notes	5,982,423	5,985,867	3,444
U.S. government securities	4,258,764	4,292,233	33,469
Common stocks	4,125,751	4,664,704	538,953
Mutual funds	<u>2,171,932</u>	<u>2,456,269</u>	<u>284,337</u>
Total	<u>\$ 17,466,260</u>	<u>\$ 18,326,463</u>	<u>\$ 860,203</u>

2010	Cost	Market	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 590,989	\$ 590,989	\$ -
Other short-term investments — variable rate notes	4,841,140	4,840,454	(686)
U.S. government securities and corporate bonds	4,882,009	4,915,524	33,515
Common stocks	3,886,980	4,670,215	783,235
Mutual funds	<u>1,608,458</u>	<u>1,904,802</u>	<u>296,344</u>
Total	<u>\$ 15,809,576</u>	<u>\$ 16,921,984</u>	<u>\$ 1,112,408</u>

Net interest and dividend income is \$160,693 and \$182,250 for 2011 and 2010, respectively. The year 2011 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$215,477, less \$54,784 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2010 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$234,045, less \$51,795 for investment management and custody fees.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with fair value measurements and disclosures, the Trust categorized its financial assets based on

- Quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1)
- 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)

At no time during 2011 or 2010 did the Trust 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 for debt and equity securities are determined on the basis of the nature and risks of the investments. There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2.

The major categories of the Trust's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, are as follows:

2011 Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 927,390	\$ -	\$ 927,390
Short-term U.S. government agency notes		5,985,867	5,985,867
U.S. government securities	4,292,233		4,292,233
Common stocks:			
Communication	755,862		755,862
Energy	697,883		697,883
Finance	432,678		432,678
Health care	521,210		521,210
Industrials	781,330		781,330
Materials	203,929		203,929
Consumer staples	321,962		321,962
Technology	949,850		949,850
Total common stocks	4,664,704	-	4,664,704
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	2,424,517		2,424,517
Fixed-income funds	31,752		31,752
Total mutual funds	2,456,269	-	2,456,269
Total assets	\$ 12,340,596	\$ 5,985,867	\$ 18,326,463

2010 Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 590,989	\$ -	\$ 590,989
Corporate bonds		454,704	454,704
U.S. government securities	9,301,274		9,301,274
Common stocks:			
Communication	189,811		189,811
Consumer discretionary	709,824		709,824
Energy	522,509		522,509
Finance	528,570		528,570
Health care	514,466		514,466
Industrials	923,197		923,197
Materials	209,529		209,529
Consumer staples	192,042		192,042
Technology	880,267		880,267
Total common stocks	<u>4,670,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,670,215</u>
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	1,888,622		1,888,622
Fixed-income funds	<u>16,180</u>	<u></u>	<u>16,180</u>
Total mutual funds	<u>1,904,802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,904,802</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 16,467,280</u>	<u>\$ 454,704</u>	<u>\$ 16,921,984</u>

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV personnel assist the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, the Trust reimbursed DAV \$204,660 and \$240,360, in 2011 and 2010, respectively. As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the Trust owed DAV \$235,300 and \$253,741, respectively. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities and equipment at no charge.

In 2011 and 2010, the Trust granted \$650,000 and \$645,000, respectively, to the DAV National Service Foundation, Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. Also in 2011, the Trust granted \$225,000 to the Columbia Trust Fund for DAV Department and Chapter service programs.

In 2011, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	\$ 10,500
Mobile Service Office Program	350,324
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	25,000
National Transportation Network	200,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	101,660

In 2010, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	\$ 33,000
Mobile Service Office Program	350,000
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	25,000
National Transportation Network	200,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	74,615

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of Directors of the Trust.

6. ANNUITY PAYMENT LIABILITY

The Trust enters into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. In the statements of activities, contributions of charitable gift annuities of \$290,252 and \$122,247 for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively, are net of \$286,160 and \$375,681, respectively, of changes in activity 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% as of December 31, 2011 and 2010.

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 applicable state statutes, the fair market value of which is \$5,554,648 and \$5,524,475 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California and Tennessee statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California and Tennessee. The fair market value for the California reserve account is \$1,815,923 and \$1,688,391 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The fair market value for the Tennessee reserve account is \$62,702 and \$34,231 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The minimum required balance of the segregated accounts for California and Tennessee donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California and Tennessee 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 \$2,946,004 and \$2,756,907 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2011, but before March 30, 2012, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Dick. May I have a motion to accept that wonderful report?

MR. GODICH: Mic 3, please.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. FRED WAGAR: Fred Wagar, Department of Nevada, Chapter 1, moves to accept that wonderful report.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. May I have a second?

MR. GODICH: Mic 3.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 3.

MR. GODICH: Mike Godich Jr., Pennsylvania Department, Chapter 76, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. I'd like to call upon Chairman Chad Richmond for the report of the Committee on Employment. Chad.

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT CHAIRMAN CHARLES RICHMOND: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on August the 4th, 2012, by the Committee Advisors Harold Hicks and Jeff Hall.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, Chad Richmond, was elected as chairman and Rick Newell 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 the purpose of these resolutions.

Resolution Number 021, drop the 12-year rule to request VA vocational rehabilitation benefits under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended;

Resolution 168, provide reasonable transition period for all service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses following the death of a veteran;

Resolution Number 191, support veterans' preference in public employment;

Resolution 192, provide adequate staffing, funding and permanency for veterans' employment and/or training programs;

Resolution Number 193, support legislation enhancing government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

Resolution Number 194, support licensure and certification of active-duty service personnel;

Resolution Number 195, oppose using DVOP/LVER to work with or process public assistance programs or reinforce mandate to assist veterans;

Resolution Number 196, increase staffing levels of the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service;

Resolution Number 197, support outreach and employment of women veterans;

Resolution Number 198, transfer the Veterans Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Resolution Number 199, monitor changes to mandatory TAP and DTAP;

Resolution Number 200, support verification improvements for veterans' businesses within the VA.

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:)

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 021—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 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 168—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE TRANSITION PERIOD FOR ALL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES TO RETAIN THEIR FEDERAL PROTECTED STATUS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE DISABLED VETERAN

WHEREAS, section 308, Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 established a procurement program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13360, Contracting with Service-Disabled Veterans' Businesses, directs all Federal agencies to provide opportunities for SDVOSBs to increase their Federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 established a "Veterans First Contracting Program" specifically for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase business opportunities with the VA for SDVOSBs; and

WHEREAS, SDVOSBs and other small businesses are the focus of Public Law 111-240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (SBJA 2010), which provides enhanced opportunities for SDVOSBs to compete for Federal project and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB small business category has encouraged many service-disabled veterans to take the personal risk of establishing small businesses with the support of their families, their own personal financial resources, the VA and, in some cases, commercial institutions; and

WHEREAS, these SDVOSBs have created new job opportunities for American citizens and, in many cases, have hired other service-disabled veterans and veterans during very challenging economic times; and

WHEREAS, by passing the SBJA 2010, the Federal government acknowledges that it is essential to create and grow small businesses in order to create new jobs and help the country recover from a most severe recession and provide for future job growth; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB category requires the service-disabled veteran to own at least 51 percent of the stock in the business and remain active in the day-to-day operations of the business in order for the business to maintain its SDVOSB status; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for the SDVOSB program does not currently include a provision dealing with the treatment of the business after the death of the veteran owner; and

WHEREAS, since loss of the company's SDVOSB status would put the service-disabled veteran's investment, family heirs, and employees at severe risk due to either downsizing or closing the business due to loss of Federal procurement opportunities and thus, laying off the workers; and

WHEREAS, section 8127 (h)(2)(C), Public Law 109-461, (specifically for the VA only) allows for a ten-year transition period to a surviving spouse of a 100 percent service-disabled veteran or a veteran who dies as a result of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, allowing the surviving spouses or heirs of service-disabled veterans to have a reasonable transition period for the SDVOSB program would help to maintain the jobs created by the SDVOSBs for service-disabled veterans, veterans and other employees and will not unduly put these individuals at increased financial risk and hardship due to likely job loss or downsizing of the business; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports the enactment of legislation that will provide for a reasonable transition period for all SDVOSBs, not covered by Public Law 109-461, to retain their SDVOSB status with the Federal government following the death of the service-disabled veteran via a surviving spouse, children, or heirs and thus, allowing the business to restructure over time without necessarily downsizing, laying off workers, or closing down.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 191—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the Disabled American Veterans strongly supports federal, state, and local veterans' preference laws; and

WHEREAS, under title 5, United States Code, Section 2108, qualified veterans with military service in periods of conflict receive a 5-point preference in federal hiring and service-disabled veterans receive a 10-point preference; and

WHEREAS, there exist numerous special hiring authorities in federal law for veterans and service-disabled veterans, including the Veterans Recruitment Appointment Authority, Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 Hiring Authority, and the 30 Percent or More Disabled Veterans Hiring Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, requires most federal contractors to have an "Affirmative Action" plan for service-disabled veterans, veterans who served during periods of conflict, and recently separated veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act was enacted to protect veterans from job discrimination and ensure their right to reemployment after an absence due to service in the uniformed services, to include protection for seniority, health insurance and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies generally have not taken a proactive position on identifying patterns and practices of veterans' preference employment discrimination violations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment; enforcement provisions and increased accountability for veterans' hiring compliance; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans supports appropriate recognition and enforcement of systemic veterans' preference discrimination; broader utilization of veterans and service-disabled veterans hiring preference; and substantive improvement of recruitment and hiring of veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 192—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS'
EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the extended economic downturn has had a greater impact on veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically than many other groups; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs reaching out to provide critical assistance but are in need of adequate staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, these 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 193—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING GOVERNMENT-WIDE GOAL FOR
PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND
CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, Section 502, Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, codified "the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans shall be established at not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year;" and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) has the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), which maintains VA's database of veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) as well as serving as an advocate for VOSBs, SDVOSBs, historically underutilized business (HUB) zone businesses, and woman-owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the database, www.vetbiz.gov vendor information pages (VIP), lists businesses that are 51 percent or more owned by veterans and is the only one within the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the VIP was originally established to act as a single-source database of certified VOSBs and SDVOSBs to supply all federal agencies and prime contractors information to assist the federal government with achieving the not less than 3 percent goal of set-aside contracts for SDVOSBs and/or contracts being awarded to SDVOSB or VOSB concerns, as mandated in Public Law 106-50; and

WHEREAS, while section 8127 (f)(4), Public Law 109-461, required verification of veterans' ownership of listed SDVOSBs and VOSBs, as well as verification of the service-disabled status of SDVOSBs, the federal agencies tasked with ensuring set-asides and timely, comprehensive verification have failed to do so; and

WHEREAS, according to the VA Office of Inspector General report, "Audit of Veteran-Owned and Service Disabled-Owned Small Business Programs," Report Number 10-02436-234, dated July 25, 2011, 32 of 42 statistically selected businesses that were reviewed, 76 percent were either ineligible to participate in the programs or were ineligible for the awarded contracts; and

WHEREAS, few government agencies have met much less exceeded the set-aside program goal for disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, based on Section 1347, Public Law 111-240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, SDVOSBs, HUB zone businesses, woman-owned small businesses and small businesses now have the same meaning, thus providing parity to each of these businesses when competing for contracts; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, calls for all government agencies to meet the set aside goal of not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime and subcontract awards going to businesses controlled by service-disabled veterans each fiscal year; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation requiring the federal government make set-asides mandatory rather than goals, and should require under-performing federal agencies to make up any shortfalls in the subsequent fiscal year, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should revise the enforcement penalties for misrepresentation of a business concern as a VOSB or SDVOSB from a reasonable period of time as determined by the Secretary to a period of not less than five years, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must ensure adequate resources are available to OSDBU to expedite verification of VIP business listing eligibility and all federal agencies to effectively monitor and hold accountable those agencies that are not meeting the set aside goal of not less than 3 percent, and require all federal agencies to list in their annual reports their prior fiscal year's actual percentage of meeting this goal, the results of which will serve as an annual report card on which agencies need the most assistance in the development and implementation of stronger contracting plans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 193—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING GOVERNMENT-WIDE GOAL FOR
PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY
SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, Section 502, Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, codified "the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans shall be established at not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year;" and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) has the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE), which maintains VA's database of veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) as well as serving as an advocate for VOSBs, SDVOSBs, historically underutilized business (HUB) zone businesses, and woman-owned small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the database, www.vetbiz.gov vendor information pages (VIP), lists businesses that are 51 percent or more owned by veterans and is the only one within the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the VIP was originally established to act as a single-source database of certified VOSBs and SDVOSBs to supply all federal agencies and prime contractors information to assist the federal government with achieving the not less than 3 percent goal of set-aside contracts for SDVOSBs and/or contracts being awarded to SDVOSB or VOSB concerns, as mandated in Public Law 106-50; and

WHEREAS, while section 8127 (f)(4), Public Law 109-461, required verification of veterans' ownership of listed SDVOSBs and VOSBs, as well as verification of the service-disabled status of SDVOSBs, the federal agencies tasked with ensuring set-asides and timely, comprehensive verification have failed to do so; and

WHEREAS, according to the VA Office of Inspector General report, "Audit of Veteran-Owned and Service Disabled-Owned Small Business Programs," Report Number 10-02436-234, dated July 25, 2011, 32 of 42 statistically selected businesses that were reviewed, 76 percent were either ineligible to participate in the programs or were ineligible for the awarded contracts; and

WHEREAS, few government agencies have met much less exceeded the set-aside program goal for disabled veteran-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, based on Section 1347, Public Law 111-240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, SDVOSBs, HUB zone businesses, woman-owned small businesses and small businesses now

have the same meaning, thus providing parity to each of these businesses when competing for contracts; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, calls for all government agencies to meet the set aside goal of not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime and subcontract awards going to businesses controlled by service-disabled veterans each fiscal year; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation requiring the federal government make set-asides mandatory rather than goals, and should require under-performing federal agencies to make up any shortfalls in the subsequent fiscal year, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should revise the enforcement penalties for misrepresentation of a business concern as a VOSB or SDVOSB from a reasonable period of time as determined by the Secretary to a period of not less than five years, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must ensure adequate resources are available to OSDBU to expedite verification of VIP business listing eligibility and all federal agencies to effectively monitor and hold accountable those agencies that are not meeting the set aside goal of not less than 3 percent, and require all federal agencies to list in their annual reports their prior fiscal year's actual percentage of meeting this goal, the results of which will serve as an annual report card on which agencies need the most assistance in the development and implementation of stronger contracting plans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 194—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION OF ACTIVE DUTY
SERVICE PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DOD) establishes, measures, and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces, providing some of the best vocational training in the nation to its military personnel; and

WHEREAS, that training is not recognized as fulfilling the training or educational certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations by each of the states of the union; and

WHEREAS, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not certified or licensed to perform a comparable job in the civilian workforce once they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, there are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that could translate to a civilian occupation if DOD, in collaboration with states, unions and certifying/licensing entities would expand its training curriculum to meet the various certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations or forge some other path to doing so; and

WHEREAS, once DOD expanded its training to meet the requirements of civilian equivalent career paths, service members could take certification or licensure equivalency examinations to gain journeyman status on a par with the military occupation level of proficiency for the state in which they plan to reside; and

WHEREAS, the state in which the military member plans to reside could then confer the appropriate journeyman equivalent status upon them; and

WHEREAS, as military members continue in the service, additional training or education could be counted as continuing training or education credits thereby allowing them to retain certification and/or licensure status; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 112-56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, mandates the Department of Labor's (DOL) Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a demonstration project on credentialing to facilitate the seamless transition of members of the Armed

Forces to civilian employment by selecting up to five military occupational specialties with a skill or set of skills that is required for civilian employment in an industry with high career demand; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports the elimination of employment barriers that impede the transfer of military job skills to the civilian labor market; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans urges Congress to engage in a national dialogue, working closely with the Administration generally, and DOD, VA and DOL specifically, as well as state governments, employers, trade unions, and licensure and credentialing entities to establish a clear process so military training meets civilian certification and licensure requirements for the states in which they choose to live once they leave the military.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 195—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, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS) provide intensive services to disabled veterans and veterans with barriers to employment in finding work, and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) work with nondisabled veterans, informing them of employment opportunities, and perform outreach to community businesses to locate employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Law 112-56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, state employment agencies are now directed to utilize DVOPS and LVERs to work on public assistance related programs, including food stamps, which diverts DVOPS/LVERs from their prime mission to assist veterans with their employment and training needs; and

WHEREAS, this same law directs the Secretary of Labor to conduct regular audits to ensure compliance with this provision; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges Congress to monitor DVOPS/LVERS or audit results ensuring focus on assisting veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 196—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 service-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 service-disabled veterans, thus reducing their 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 additional 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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports a strengthening of VA's VR&E program to meet the demands of service-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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 197—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges Congress to enact legislation to establish and fund special programs and outreach to women veterans, especially service-disabled 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans calls for additional training to be provided to service providers to address the delivery of services to and the under-representation of women veterans in career employment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 198—LEGISLATIVE

TRANSFER THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, veterans' educational benefits are administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), not the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, veterans' health services are administered by VA, not the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, veterans' housing programs are administered by the VA, not the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service is the only non-VA federal agency administering a major veterans' program; 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 senior management to monitor the delivery of each veterans' employment and training program; and

WHEREAS, when the Department of Veterans Affairs was created, the initial reason for doing so was to avoid duplication, fragmentation or delay in the various services provided to veterans; 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, establishing a fourth administration within VA dedicated to creating economic opportunities for veterans would increase the visibility and accountability of all veterans employment-related programs; and

WHEREAS, this new centralized veterans economic opportunity administration should be administered through a new position of Under Secretary for said organization; and

WHEREAS, such a move would allow the Under Secretary for Benefits to focus specifically on the delivery of disability compensation and pension benefits to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, recommends that Congress transfer the entire staff and funding of Veterans Employment and Training Service from the Department of Labor to the Department of Veterans Affairs and that it should be appropriately funded and administered by an Under Secretary for said organization.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 199—LEGISLATIVE
MONITOR CHANGES TO MANDATORY TRANSITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM AND DISABLED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, current law authorizes 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, the transition from military service to civilian life is very difficult for most veterans who must overcome many obstacles to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, TAP and the DTAP were created with the goal of furnishing separating service members with vocational guidance to aid them in obtaining meaningful civilian careers; and

WHEREAS, TAP workshops are now mandatory for active duty service members, except under certain circumstances as specified in Public Law 112-56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act; and

WHEREAS, continuation of TAP and DTAP is essential to easing some of the problems associated with transition, as is periodic review of training methodology and the collection and analysis of course participant critiques to ensure the program is fulfilling its intended objective, which are also mandated in Public Law 112-56; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges Congress to monitor the review of training methodology and delivery of services, collection and analysis of course critiques to ensure the program is meeting its objective and follow-up with participants to determine if they have found gainful employment.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 200—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT VERIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS' BUSINESSES
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the historical high unemployment rate of returning veterans and the current state of the economy present a career challenge for former military personnel, resulting in high levels of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the military is downsizing, which means that thousands of former military personnel who have honorably served their country could be unemployed when they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, small business development assistance to veterans who have honorably served this country is a veterans' benefit that dates back to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under the Veterans First program to enter into contracts first with Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and then with Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs); and

WHEREAS, Congress has found that VA has entered into contracts pursuant to the Veterans First program with companies that were not legitimate SDVOSBs or VOSBs; and

WHEREAS, VA has implemented a formal verification process that is overly burdensome; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, recommends VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the Department's Veterans First Contracting Program.

* * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Chad. May I have a motion to accept that wonderful – sorry.

MR. McCROSKEY: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUEL: Yes, I would – you have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. McCROSKEY: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. McCROSKEY: Allan McCroskey, Department Commander, Virginia, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER SAMUEL: 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, Chad.

I would like to call upon Chairman John Parker for the report of the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN PARKER: Comrade Commander, delegates, Mr. Wilson, friends, the National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on August 4, 2012, by Committee Advisors Adrian – damn it – Atizado and Chad Moos – damn. (Laughter)

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, John Parker, was elected as chairman and Sarah Royce 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 purpose of saving time I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution 046, support legislation to ensure military retirees receive all benefits they were promised;

Resolution 047, seeking the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive from all wars;

Resolution 048, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States;

Resolution 049, support a strong national defense;

Resolution 094, encouraging all disabled veterans to become registered voters and vote;

Resolution 095, support the construction of a courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims;

Resolution 096, support the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command;

Resolution 097, support construction of a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans;

Resolution 138, support former POW-slave labor claims against Japanese firms;
Resolution 140, support debit card system for payment instead of canteen books;
Resolution 182, support the establishment of veterans' treatment courts throughout the nation;
Resolution 183, support legislation against claiming fraudulent military service records or awards for material gain;

Resolution 207 – that's 207, oppose any authorization of use of members of the armed forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent;

Resolution 208, support move to renew prisoner of war/missing in action discussions;

Resolution 242, appreciation to Bally's Las Vegas Hotel/Casino for the success of the 91st National Convention;

Resolution 243, appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 91st National Convention;

and "the" Resolution 244, appreciation to National Commander Donald L. Samuels.

According to tradition, I will read Resolution 244, appreciation to National Commander Samuels, in its entirety. Resolution 244, expressing appreciation to National Commander Donald L. Samuels:

"WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans National Commander Donald L. Samuels, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, is a combat disabled veteran; and

"WHEREAS, honorably answering the call to military service Commander Samuels served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1969; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Samuels sustained severe injuries from leading his infantry platoon in a ground assault against North Vietnamese Regulars as the platoon sergeant, First Platoon, India Company, Third Battalion, 26th Marines; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Samuels was discharged from the military, having received numerous military awards, including the Purple Heart medal, Combat Action Ribbon, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and two Presidential Citations for his commitment to preserving our nation's freedoms; and

"WHEREAS, in 1970 Commander Samuels joined the DAV professional staff as the National DAV – Nashville DAV National Service Officer, serving as supervisor until his retirement in 1989; and

"WHEREAS, since his retirement from DAV in 1989, Samuels continued his service to veterans as the Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs until his retirement in 2011, where he expertly directed all claims activity, outreach, legislation, and played a part in establishing state veteran cemeteries and veteran nursing homes in Tennessee; and

"WHEREAS, a Life member of Chapter 3 in Nashville, Commander Samuels has admirably held numerous Chapter and Department positions including a Hospital Service Coordinator, Department Service Officer, Director, Department Adjutant, and was named Disabled Veteran – Disabled American Veteran of the Year for Tennessee in 2005; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Samuels who also served as a past member of the National Legislative Interim Committee, Past Chairman of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, and is the co-chair of Operation Stand-Down Nashville, a homeless veterans' operation that has received national recognition; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Samuels continued his distinguished career when he was elected as National Office as the National Third through National Senior Vice Commanders, commencing with the organization's 2007 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was elected National Commander of the 1.2 million member organization at the culmination of the 90th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Samuels is the proud father of two daughters as well as two sons who are carrying on the family's exceptional military tradition as a master gunnery sergeant and staff sergeant in the United States Marine Corps; NOW

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4th through 7th, 2012, expresses its members' heartfelt

appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Samuels 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 Samuels’ wife – spouse – Sandra and their family for their support and sacrifices during his year as DAV’s National Commander.”

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions. 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:)

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 046—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation to require our Government to provide military retirees with all benefits promised them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 047—LEGISLATIVE

SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, THE VIETNAM 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 wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 048—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 049—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the defense of our Nation both at home and abroad.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 094—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 United States 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 095—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 twenty 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 096—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 097—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 138—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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 140—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT THE USE OF DEBIT CARDS IN VCS RETAIL STORES

WHEREAS, the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) was established in VA by Public Law 636, 79th Congress, 1946, as amended, to furnish at reasonable prices merchandise and services to certain individuals; and

WHEREAS, the primary beneficiaries of VCS operations are hospitalized or domiciled veterans, veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system, and recognized veteran organization representatives who may be employed at a VA facility where canteen services are provided; and

WHEREAS, coupon books sold by the VCS are often used by patients rather than cash to purchase merchandise and services offered by VCS retail stores; and

WHEREAS, coupons will not be accepted by the canteen if previously detached from the book unless the VCS chief determines that the acceptance of detached coupons is justified; and

WHEREAS, coupon books are only offered in three denominations; and

WHEREAS, many veterans who wish to avail themselves of the merchandise and services offered by VCS retail stores suffer from injuries resulting in the inability to manipulate coupon books and redeem the coupons contained therein; and

WHEREAS, debit cards is a negotiable instrument that could address the limitations of the current VCS coupon books at an operational savings to VCS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, urges VA and VCS to implement the use of debit cards in lieu of coupons books to purchase merchandise and services offered by VCS retail stores.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 182—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONWIDE VETERANS TREATMENT
COURTS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS

WHEREAS, many military service members and veterans return from today's overseas combat engagement with signature wounds of polytrauma, traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health and repatriation challenges; and, veterans from earlier eras have absorbed their own signature disabilities, including PTSD; and

WHEREAS, some veterans resort to overuse of legal and illegal substances in their attempts to cope with their chronic physical and mental health challenges, other barriers and obstacles, and pain; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of chronic substance-use disorder or lasting residuals of combat exposure, a minority of veterans display antisocial and even criminal behaviors, and thus become involved with law enforcement and justice systems; and

WHEREAS, veterans treatment courts evolved from a proven national model of diversionary drug courts and mental health courts, to address the specific situations of veterans, and to maximize efficiency of available resources while making use of the distinct military culture to which veterans are accustomed; and

WHEREAS, many veterans are eligible for the financial benefits, social supports and health care services available through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and through other national, state and local veterans programs; and

WHEREAS, grouping troubled veterans together within specific court dockets expedites access to helpful resources and promotes the camaraderie and mutual support found amongst all veterans; and

WHEREAS, veterans in general deeply value their military experiences and share an inimitable bond with their peers, and the veterans courts build upon this bond by enabling veterans to proceed through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated, and by pairing together veterans and mentors; and

WHEREAS, years of experience from the veterans treatment courts now in existence nationwide has produced a statistically significant reduction of recidivism rates in veterans compared to persons in other treatment courts and individuals not involved in any sort of alternative or diversionary court;
NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports the continued growth of the veterans treatment courts throughout our nation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 183—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION AGAINST FRAUDULENT CLAIMS BASED ON
MILITARY SERVICE FOR MATERIAL GAIN

WHEREAS, the first formal system for rewarding members of the United States military "[N] to only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service," was established under general orders by General George Washington on August 7, 1782; and

WHEREAS, it is right and proper that eight decades later the U.S. government established the Medal of Honor as the highest military decoration so the Nation can hold in its highest respect and esteem those, who through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, risk of their life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against any enemy of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 6-3 decision, has ruled the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, which makes it a crime to falsely claim receipt of military decorations or medals and provides an enhanced penalty if the Medal of Honor is involved, an unconstitutional abridgment of the freedom of speech under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, it is unconscionable for any individual to defame, commit fraud, or cause other legally cognizable harm based on a false statement of receiving any medal, decoration or other device for service in the U.S. Armed Forces; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, supports legislation providing criminal penalties to one who intentionally renders a fraudulent claim to have served in the United States Armed Forces or to have been awarded a medal, decoration or other device based on such service for material gain.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 207—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 servicemembers 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of servicemembers for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 208—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 United States 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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. 242—ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO BALLY'S LAS VEGAS HOTEL AND CASINO FOR THE
SUCCESS OF THE 91ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the excellent service and ambience of the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino contributed greatly to the success of the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in Las Vegas, Nevada; 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 91st National Convention a truly memorable experience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, expresses its deepest appreciation for the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino and to its entire staff for their friendly, personalized attention which helped make the 91st National Convention a resounding success.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 243—ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS
OF THE 91ST DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 91st DAV National Convention convened in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 William Baumann; 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests who participated in our convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend our gratitude to Convention Chairman William Baumann, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 244—ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
NATIONAL COMMANDER DONALD L. SAMUELS

WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans National Commander Donald L. Samuels, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, is a combat-disabled Vietnam veteran; and

WHEREAS, honorably answering the call to military service, Commander Samuels served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1969; and

WHEREAS, Commander Samuels sustained severe injuries while leading his infantry platoon in a ground assault against North Vietnamese Regulars as the Platoon Sergeant, 1st Platoon India Co., 3rd Bn. 26th Marines; and

WHEREAS, Commander Samuels was discharged from the military, having received numerous military awards including the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and two Presidential Unit Citations for his commitment to preserving our nation's freedoms; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Commander Samuels joined the DAV professional staff as the National Service Office at the Nashville DAV National Service Office, serving as Supervisor until his retirement in 1989; and

WHEREAS, since his retirement from DAV in 1989, Samuels continued his service to veterans as the Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs until his retirement in 2011, where he expertly directed all claims activity, outreach, legislation and played a part in establishing State veteran cemeteries and veteran nursing homes in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a life member of Chapter 3 in Nashville, Commander Samuels has admirably held numerous Chapter and Department positions, including a Hospital Service Coordinator, Department Service Officer Director, Department Adjutant, and was named Disabled American Veteran of the Year for Tennessee in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Commander Samuels also served as a past member of the National Legislative Interim Committee, past Chairman of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, and is the co-chair of Operation Stand Down Nashville, a homeless veterans operation that has received national recognition; and

WHEREAS, Commander Samuels continued his distinguished career when he was elected to national office as the National 3rd through National Senior Vice Commanders, commencing with the organization's 2007 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was elected National Commander of the 1.2 million-member organization at the culmination of the 90th DAV and Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Commander Samuels is the proud father of two daughters as well as two sons who are carrying on the family's exceptional military tradition as a Master Gunnery Sergeant and a Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 4-7, 2012, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Samuels 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 Samuel's spouse Sandra, and their family, for their support and sacrifices during his year as DAV's National Commander.

* * *

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, John. You have heard the motion – (Applause) You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. McCROSKEY: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. McCROSKEY: Allan McCroskey, Commander, Department of Virginia, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. In accordance with Rule 9 now the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions that you wish read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

Please join me in welcoming incoming Imperial Golden Rodent Franklin Brown, Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Albert Sorrentino and the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats. (Boos)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats entered the room and advanced to the podium.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER ALBERT SORRENTINO: How is everybody this morning?

(Response of "Boo.")

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Ain't this some convention? God bless all of you for being here. (Applause) Every year we get better and better. More members have joined our organization, not only in the DAV but also in the Trench Rats. I wanted to thank every Department that is here for your continued support in helping us and our organization grow and grow.

Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Art Wilson, National staff, National Officers, and all you disabled veterans out there, we are very proud of you in our Trench Rats and hope one day a lot of you will be part of us because we're surely part of you. (Applause)

National Commander Samuels, could you please come forward.

(Whereupon, Commander Samuels joined Mr. Sorrentino and Mr. Brown at the podium.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: We have a little donation to the National Columbia Trust for \$3,000. We also have (Applause) \$300 for our past three Imperial Golden Rodents that just passed away: Terry Flick, Jimmie Foster, and George Zoscsak. In six weeks three of our past Imperial Rodents died and we surely in your own way would you please stand for a minute of prayer.

(Whereupon, a moment of silent prayer was observed.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Thank you. Commander, God bless you, your staff. This is a little gift from us.

(Whereupon, on behalf of the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats Mr. Sorrentino and Mr. Franklin presented Commander Samuels with a check.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

(National Order of Trench Rats Resolutions on behalf of deceased member Terrence Flick follows:)

"WHEREAS, God has seen in his infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Terrence Flick; and

"WHEREAS, He did by his acts and diligence as an Imperial officer help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service to Disabled American Veterans;

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at this 88th Rendezvous in Las Vegas, Nevada, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of \$100 as a memorial to him to be placed in the trust account of the National Service Foundation of the Disabled American Veterans, the income of which shall be used from time to time toward the maintenance of nationwide rehabilitation activities of the Disabled American veterans and their dependents; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, his name be inscribed on the memorial honor rolls so all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the Disabled American Veterans as exemplified by Terrence Flick, Imperial Rodent 85."

(National Order of Trench Rats Resolutions on behalf of deceased member Jimmie Foster follows:)

"WHEREAS, God has seen in his infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond Jimmie Foster; and

"WHEREAS, He did by his acts and diligence as an Imperial officer help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service to Disabled American Veterans; NOW

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at this 88th Rendezvous in Las Vegas, Nevada, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of \$100 as a memorial to him to be placed in the trust account of the National Service Foundation of the Disabled American Veterans, the income of which shall be used from time to time toward the maintenance of nationwide rehabilitation activities of the Disabled American veterans and their dependents; AND

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, his name be inscribed on the memorial honor rolls so all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the Disabled American Veterans as exemplified by Jimmie Foster, Imperial Rodent 75."

(National Order of Trench Rats Resolutions on behalf of deceased member George Zoscsak follows:)

"WHEREAS, God has seen in his infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond George Zoscsak; and

"WHEREAS, He did by his acts and diligence as an Imperial officer help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service to Disabled American Veterans; NOW

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at this 88th Rendezvous in Las Vegas, Nevada, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of \$100 as a memorial to him to be placed in the trust account of the National Service Foundation of the Disabled American Veterans, the income of which shall be used from time to time toward the maintenance of nationwide rehabilitation activities of the Disabled American veterans and their dependents; AND

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, his name be inscribed on the memorial honor rolls so all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the Disabled American Veterans as exemplified by George Zoscsak, Imperial Rodent 67."

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: As you see, we came in supporting your next National Commander Larry Polzin. (Applause and Boos) In the thirty-some-odd years I've been involved with the Trench Rats Larry Polzin has been a leader in our organization and one of my peers that I highly respect. Larry Polzin would you please come up here.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Polzin joined Mr. Sorrentino and Mr. Franklin at the podium.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: I don't know how you did in Vegas but we have a little – a little money to give you to help you with your losses. (Laughter) We have a gift here for Larry from all the Trench Rats that are here, Larry.

God bless you. Have a great year. And the Trench Rats are surely behind you. I don't think he wants to tell you what we're giving him, so. Congratulations, Larry. (Applause)

(Whereupon, on behalf of the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats Mr. Sorrentino and Mr. Franklin presented Senior Vice Commander Polzin with a check.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Now we will hear from our Incoming Imperial Golden Rodent, Frank – oh, Tim Hedgecock. (Laughter)

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT TIMOTHY HEDGECOCK: Thanks. With the new technology that is out there they sent me the schedule electronically and I saw there was 45 minutes on the – I mean 4 to 5 minutes on the schedule for us so we'll try to get this done.

For many of us younger veterans – and even though I got called "old" at this Convention for the first time – we can actually say the light at the end of the tunnel has always been carried by DAV, the DAVA, and the National Order of Trench Rats.

You've all been part of my family for years. My children are now grown. They are still part of the family. And my family and friends would like to welcome each one of you. Thank you for being part of our family. And hopefully we will serve well this year.

And Commanders, Department Commanders, Chapter Commanders, if you need our help, we're there. If you don't have rats, look for the infestation that's about to start. (Laughter) Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, "Everybody Must Get Stoned" by Bob Dylan played as the National Order of Trench Rats withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Since being wounded in Vietnam, Gary Burns had devoted much of his life to serving veterans. It began when he was befriended by a DAV National Service Officer who inspired him to become an NSO, himself.

So, for the next 30 years Gary served his fellow veterans as an NSO. What's more, he continued serving veterans after his retirement in 2000 and rose to become Commander of the Department of Maine and served as Department Treasurer, as well.

He has been a member of the National Service Foundation Board since 1996, and was elected President in 2001. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to present National Service Foundation President Gary Burns. (Applause)

PRESIDENT GARY BURNS: Thank you, Commander Samuels, for your kind introduction. Adjutant Wilson, I think that's the first time that I've ever been up here that Adjutant Wilson wasn't next to me so now I'm very nervous. (Laughter)

National Officers, delegates and guests, as President of the DAV National Service Foundation, let me begin my remarks, please, my annual report for 2011, by introducing our distinguished Board of Directors: Vice President, National Adjutant Art Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Joyner; and our Directors: National Commander Don Samuels from the State of Tennessee; Sal Tornatore from the State of New York; Alan Bowers, Massachusetts; Daniel Contreras, California; Ex Officio member and DAV Board Chair Wally Tyson, now of Florida as well as our Administrator Nancy O'Brien from the State of Kentucky and a very proud Kentucky Wildcard National Champion fan so how about that.

Hopefully that's up there – all right, where is the barometer?

(Whereupon, a barometer was viewed on the screens at the front of the ballroom.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Right there. Okay. You folks see that? That's new. I'm going to talk about the barometer in a few minutes and hopefully it's going to add a little bit of excitement, a little fun, to our time-honored tradition. Now, it is time for us or for me to get serious.

Next month you and I will observe the 11th anniversary of the tragic 9-11 terror attacks that sent our troops to war, first in Afghanistan and then in Iraq. So much has changed since then. The world is different. The United States of America is different.

So much American blood has been spilled over the last eleven years, so many terrible wounds, the tragic ravages of brain injuries, PTSD, depression and more. As Gulf War veterans enter into middle life, many face each day haunted by illnesses that, still, no one understands.

The retirement years bring wide-ranging changes to the lives of those disabled during Vietnam, World War II, and Korean, who now need more attention than ever. Right there in a few sentences, you see the historical challenge facing the DAV National Service Foundation.

And right now there is a 19-year old soldier in a hospital bed in San Antonio, Texas. Some day he or she will become the older veteran whose war has long since been written into history. When that day comes he or she will look at the world with much the same perspective as a World War II veteran does today.

It's the job of the National Service Foundation to make sure that DAV's service programs are ready for that day and all the days between. Today I extend my deepest gratitude to all of you who have helped advance this critical mission as I report \$2.3 million in donations and bequests to the Foundation in 2011. That is \$2.3 million. (Applause)

That generosity, coupled with prudent investments, helped the Foundation end the year with \$84.1 million in net assets, (Applause) – thank you – \$84.1 million in total assets, a \$2.6 million increase over 2010 – \$2.6 million over 2010.

It's a powerful achievement at a time when years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan have created an avalanche of need that VA continues to – excuse me – that continues to overwhelm the VA.

Too many veterans, young and old, are going without their benefits and programs they earned. While many Americans fail to see the crisis, you and I know what happens when our country falls short in its duty to the sick and wounded.

Time is not on the side of veterans. Many suffer devastating health conditions. Most have few financial resources. Left untreated injuries like PTSD and TBI shatter lives.

Through involvement in the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary, nearly everyone in this room has witnessed calamity first-hand. We've seen fellow veterans lose everything – families, homes, savings and life itself.

But, side by side with the DAV, the National Service Foundation confronts every challenge with the highest standard of stewardship. You can take pride that 89 cents of every dollar spent went directly to the Foundation's primary purposes. That's right, 89 cents of every dollar. (Applause) And that's right. Last year \$2.2 million was expended on the needs of veterans. That is success.

The Foundation helped our NSOs by purchasing office equipment and reference manuals, enhancing their edge as America's most effective advocates of veterans and their families.

As these NSOs won more victories than any other veterans' service organization, the Foundation continued to support pro bono representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

We also helped sick and injured veterans through The Columbia Trust, making grants of \$1.3 million in 2011 to Departments and Chapters to support the National Transportation Network, Hospital Service Coordinators, Department Service Programs, and other local and state service initiatives.

Each year the DAV's National Organization matches every dollar – hear that. Each year the National Organization matches every dollar given to The Columbia Trust, doubling its impact in the lives of veterans who paid the price of freedom.

I also praise the National Order of Trench Rats for their commitment to DAV's Legislative Program. And I present to National Commander Don Samuels a check for the \$6,825 earned on the special National Order of Trench Rats Legislative Fund last year. Commander Samuels. (Applause)

(Whereupon, President Burns presented Commander Samuels with a check from the National Order of Trench Rats Fund.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: That's yours.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: You are welcome. As you thumb through the Foundation's 2011 Annual Report, which is included in your Convention registration packet, take pride in the Foundation's many accomplishments and please keep an eye on the ongoing need the Foundation addresses together with the DAV.

In the face of this urgent need, let me direct your attention to the members, Departments and Chapters who made the Foundation's work possible through generous gifts last year. Please pay special heed to the exemplary benefactors whose tremendous generosity earned a place or a higher position on our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors.

Through gifts that attain the highest prestige with the Foundation, these donors earn special recognition plates and stars on the plaques that line the walls of our National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C. – on Maine Avenue, incidentally –M-a-i-n-e.

Let me give special recognition today to Alliance Chapter Number 50 in Ohio that reached the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors' plateau in 2011. Also – please allow me also to thank Orleans County Chapter Number 22, Department of Louisiana that reached the

\$1,000 level last year. The vision of these Chapters is driving the Foundation's work into the future, ensuring that the needs of all disabled veterans are met today and tomorrow.

As I congratulate the outstanding contributions of these Chapters, let me also thank the individuals, foundations, companies, and other organizations that earned special recognition.

In 2011, 122 – yes, 122, took a place on the Grand Memorial Honor Roll or attained a National Service Foundation commendation. And a number of Chapters and Departments earning Certificates of Commitment during the past year rose to 48. I encourage you to note these generous donors in the Annual Report, please.

Read the names of those in the Honor Roll of Benefactors from your state who made a gift to their fund last year which totaled \$100 or more. And if you donated during the year, accept my heartfelt and sincerest salute. You made great things happen.

Now, let me applaud another group, one that's essential in ensuring the Foundation's financial success and one, of course, that's very close to my heart. National Service Director Garry Augustine and his team of NSOs make a daily, life-changing difference in the lives of our sick and wounded veterans. And gifts to the Foundation made in their honor create a legacy that will live for years to come.

The Pacesetting Performance Award recognizes the National Service Officer in each of five divisions who has the largest cumulative total contributions credited in his or her name.

Unfortunately, Garry Augustine cannot be with us this morning. However, I will ask Assistant National Service Director Jim Marszalek to help me to honor these National Service Officers.

(Whereupon, Assistant National Service Director James Marszalek stood to assist President Burns.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Division 1 – and once again, I might add – and how many years, Bill? How many? He is not listening. (Laughter) Once again, National Service Officer William Gibney from Albany, New York, with a total of \$10,904. How many years in a row is this?

MR. WILLIAM GIBNEY: This is my third year, Gary.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Congratulations, my friend. (Applause)

MR. GIBNEY: Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to William Gibney of the Albany, New York, office.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Step right up here, please.

MR. GIBNEY: Thank you very much, Gary. The acoustics are not very good back here and –

PRESIDENT BURNS: No, they're not.

MR. GIBNEY: – and my mind has a tendency to wander. (Laughter) But I want to – this is the third year in a row I have been privileged to accept this award which reflects the combined efforts of the National Service Officers, the Department Service Officers and the Chapter Service Officers in the great State of New York. (Applause)

It also reflects the tremendous generosity of the disabled veterans in the State of New York. These are people who doesn't come from a lot of wealth. These are people who appreciate the money that they get and it's very valuable. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, William. Appreciate it. Division Number 2, Gregory Dubin, National Service Officer at Muskogee who is credited with \$3,242. Gregory, congratulations. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Gregory Dubin of the Muskogee, Oklahoma, office.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Please.

MR. GREGORY DUBIN: Kind of have to echo what Bill just said. In the State of Oklahoma it's a unique partnership between our Department Service Officers, our Chapter Service Officers, and the National Service Office. We work as a solid team together, supporting one another. It wouldn't be possible without the support of the fellow National Service Officers in my office, the support staff and all the Chapter Service Officers we have.

And most of all, it wouldn't be possible without the my family support, my wife and my kids who aren't here. They are back home in Oklahoma, hopefully watching this on the live feed. Thank you guys for all your support. I love you and I miss you guys. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, again, Greg. (Applause) Division 3, National Service Officer Len Harris of Saint Louis with a grand total of \$25,306. And this is not Len's first trip up here, either. I'm not sure how many years but he will tell us. Len, thank you. Congratulations. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Leonard K. Harris of the Saint Louis, Missouri, office.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Congratulations.

MR. LEONARD K. HARRIS: Once again, I am up here. It's an honor to be up here. My Department and the National Service Office themselves, they work very hard every year and I am seen to be the recipient of this and take all the credit for it but obviously that's not true.

The Chapters with our Department, the Department itself is very generous and works hard every year to recognize the importance of the National Service Foundation and what we do with those funds. I'd like to commend the Board and the National staff for all the efforts that they assist us in that process.

I'd like to thank the support staff in my office. They are wonderful every year on getting us, the word out and the mail out to help us out and make me look good every year. I think this is our 13th year in a row and I hope to be up here next year. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, big guy. Division 4, National Service Officer Kevin Noel of our Pittsburgh office with a total of \$12,509. Congratulations, Kevin. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Kevin Noel of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania office.)

MR. KEVIN NOEL: Gary directed me to tell everyone out here that I learned everything I know from him when I worked in Maine. But I'd be remiss in not mentioning Jim Marszalek since I have to see him on the way back. I learned from him as well.

This is just me accepting on behalf of the office. I appreciate all of the help from the support staff, the other service officers, and everyone that donated. Talk to the Department, this will only get better. You will see us up here every year. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Division 5, Michael Mills, National Service Officer in our New York City office with a total of \$13,043. Michael, congratulations. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Michael Mills of the New York City, New York, office.)

MR. MICHAEL MILLS: Good morning, everyone. Not to sound redundant but, again, I would like to thank all the Department, Chapter Service Officers, National Service Officers, not only in the State of New York but the State of New Jersey.

Without you guys doing your job, I wouldn't be up here today to accept this award so thank you and I appreciate it. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, again. These NSOs are on the frontlines of the Foundation's mission. Their tireless work makes sure America keeps her promises to you and me.

Today we stand at a critical moment. As war in Afghanistan draws toward a conclusion, the men and women who shed their blood during the last eleven years risk being forgotten. You and I cannot allow this to happen – not now, not ever – especially not with the need poised to swell up like tidal wave in the coming years.

Warning signs on the horizon demand our vigilance. The Foundation's resolve must endure well beyond a decade or two or five. Its work must span the lifetime of all disabled veterans whose sacrifices never end.

So I call on you to safeguard the Foundation's mission. Will you reach out today – and tomorrow – as you do two critical things? First, I ask you to be a voice for our disabled veterans, sharing their stories and their needs wherever indifference or forgetfulness threatens.

And, second, I ask you to demonstrate your resolve through the National Service Foundation right now at this National Convention.

Even as I thank you from the heart for the, for helping the Foundation achieve so much – and we did achieve so much in the last year – I want to change a time-honored tradition. That brings me to that gadget – as Nancy refers to it – on the screen. Yes, there it is.

It is going to let us measure the impact of your gifts from the Convention floor this morning. Each gift, large or small, will lift the mercury. You can watch as your donation moves the mercury higher. It's your day.

Will you help – by cash – and understand if you got here Thursday – and this is Tuesday – that you might not have a lot of cash. I understand that. (Laughter) And check – probably a lot of you guys don't bring checks. But, guess what? We can do the credit card now if you've got a credit card. (Laughter) So no excuse. No excuse. A credit card.

So please open your heart and your wallets and let's roll. As you make your gifts we will be able to see how your gift takes us to greater heights in the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, The Columbia Trust, or the Trench Rats Fund, as you specify.

To start the rise of the mercury I'm pleased to acknowledge contributions from National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Frank Maughan – did I pronounce that correctly? – \$2,000 designated to support the van program. Thank you, Frank. Two thousand dollars to the van program. (Applause)

Oak Cliff, Texas, Chapter 32, \$500. And this is just a small donation for those of you who missed the meeting yesterday of the National Service Foundation: from the Finnegan Law Firm a most generous donation of \$150,000. (Applause)

And Mr. Philip Fiumara – I hope I pronounced that correctly – I met him in the corridor before I came in here. He has to be at a meeting and he could not be here. He gave me a check for \$1,000. Thank you, Philip. (Applause)

So let's get that barometer moving, please. Thank you all once again. Very much appreciated. And over here we're lined up taking money.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Here is \$2,500 from me for the service trust.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Who is this from, Don? Twenty-five hundred. Twenty-five hundred bucks to the DAV Charitable Service Trust and that's from you?

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Commander – \$2,500, Commander Don Samuels. (Applause) Charitable Trust.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER POLZIN: Gary, I'd like this go to into the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Okay, Larry Polzin. Thank you. From Larry Polzin for the National Service Foundation, \$1,800. (Applause) Thank you, Larry. Here we go. Okay. Right up here, please.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Lord McCallen and this is Lady McCallen. And we have the honor on behalf of the Moral Rearmament League to make a donation to the National Service Foundation which is our fourth annual donation in the amount of \$1,500. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir, 1,500.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Come on right up.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Commander Bugbee and the National Blind Chapter in memory of those who are, have passed away this year, we donate to the National Service Foundation \$1,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Hi, Al.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Department Adjutant of Florida. The Department donates \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. LINDEN: All right.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. ALEXANDER KOVAC: Alex Kovac, Department of Florida Commander, has a check for the National Foundation on behalf of Past Department Commander Richard Tolfa from the great State of Florida.

PRESIDENT BURNS: How much?

MR. KOVAC: For \$100. Excuse me. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. KOVAC: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Welcome.

MR. LEROY TALMON: Thank you. I'm Commander Lee Talmon, Chapter 12, Henderson, Nevada, on behalf of our Chapter we'd like to donate \$500 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. TALMON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Appreciate it.

MR. EDWARD JOHNSON: Ed Johnson, Carson City, Nevada Chapter 7, we have a check for \$100 for the Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Appreciate that. (Applause) Please.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Frieda Shank, Commander, Department of Pennsylvania, \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

MR. JAMES BOGAN: James Bogan with the California Rehabilitation Foundation and we make a donation of \$25,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, James. Wow.

MR. CURTIS JOHNSON: Curt Johnson, Department of California, for The Columbia Trust, I would like to donate \$25,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: All right. Thank you. Good morning.

MR. GARY CROSSLAND: Good morning. Gary Crossland, Past State Commander, California, I would like to make a personal donation of \$1,000 in honor of Larry Polzin but I don't know where he went. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Gary. Good morning.

DR. MARAIANA RABA: Dr. Mariana Raba, DAV Chapter 6, Sacramento, would like to make a donation for the Disabled Veterans Memorial for Life in the amount of \$1,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, ma'am. Welcome.

MR. MIKE CURRAN: Thank you. I'm Mike Curran. On behalf of the Board of Directors for the DAV Charities of Central California we would like to donate \$2,500 to The Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Much appreciated. Good morning.

MR. CHARLES HICKS: Good morning. Charles Hicks, Commander, Los Angeles Chapter 5, State of California, we scraped together 50,000 pennies for a check for \$500. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. DOUG SHEPHERD: Good morning. I am Doug Shepherd, Commander of the Department of Tennessee. We're donating \$2,500 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MS. MARY PATTERSON: Mary Patterson, NSO, San Diego, on behalf of Dick Cosgrove Chapter 2, San Diego, we present the National Service Foundation with a check for \$3,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. JOHN HOOD: Good morning. John Hood, Dick – Chapter 2, San Diego, donating \$3,000 to The Columbia Trust Fund. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Good morning.

MR. PAQUETTE: Good morning. My name is Roland Paquette, Chapter 20, of the great State of Texas. I have two donations, one for \$500 from the Chapter to continue the assistance of the Disabled Veteran Life Memorial Fund and a personal donation on behalf of a World War II veteran – We were very close – who met at final taps and roll call a year-and-a-half ago of 100, (Applause) also for the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Fund.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it. Good morning.

MR. RONALD RINGO: Good morning. I'm Chaplain Ringo from the State of California. (Applause) And on behalf of my dear friend and run-to-the-wall riding partner who came to this Convention a couple of days ago and instantly joined as a lifetime member of the Auxiliary for California and National, for his Foundation, Operation Enduring Freedom Family Fund, I present this \$10,000 check for The Charitable Trust. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Wow. Good morning.

MR. GLENN MARTIN: Good morning. Glen Martin, Department of Georgia. We'd like to make a \$500 donation to the National Service Fund, a \$500 donation to The Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. BILL (UNDISTINGUISHABLE): Good morning. My name is Bill (Undistinguishable). DAV Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri, would like to present a check to the National Service Foundation in honor of Len Harris and his staff of \$30,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Wow, thank you. Good morning.

MR. DEAN TRAVIS: Good morning. I'm Dean Travis, State Department Commander. I have a check here for the National Service Foundation for \$25,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Wow. Thank you very much.

MR. TRAVIS: You are welcome.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning. Thanks.

MR. RODNEY MILLER: My name is Rodney Miller. I'm from Chapter 9, Houston, Texas. We have a donation of \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

MR. JAKE STAFFORD: Good morning. I am Jake Stafford from the 6th District. I'm the NEC. And the 6th District, made up of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, D.C., and Puerto Rico, and we're making a pledge for the National Service Foundation of \$5,500. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. ROBERT WILCOXEN: I'm Bob Wilcoxen, Commander for the Department of Maryland. I have two checks, one for the National Service Foundation for \$1,000, also a check for the Winter Olympics for \$1,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MS. DOROTHY PRIDMORE: Good morning. I'm Dottie Pridmore from Chapter 91 out of Snellville, Georgia. I have a check for my father, Technical Sergeant Hermon Pridmore, in loving memory of him, for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Hey, Richard. Good morning.

MR. RICHARD W. SCHATZ: Good morning. Richard W. Schatz, NEC, 3rd District and Commander of Poisson Cournoyer Carpenter Bacon Chapter 12, the Department of Rhode Island.

On behalf of the members of Chapter 12 with respect to all the National Commanders that have served and especially to Arthur H. Wilson for his many years' dedication and commitment to see that our organization runs the course of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served, \$500 to the National Service Foundation and also \$500 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Richard. Good morning.

MR. ROBERT PIXLEY: Good morning. Hi. I'm Bob Pixley from the Department of Vermont and I have two checks here – well, a number of checks from the Department of Vermont and the Chapters from Vermont: \$1,225 to the – this is – The Columbia Trust and \$1,225 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Thank you. Appreciate it. Good morning.

MR. BENJAMIN SAXON: Good morning. Commander Benjamin Saxon from the great State of New Hampshire, the Granite State. I have a check for \$500 for the National Service Foundation, also a check for \$500 for The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

Also from Chapter 19 out of Concord, New Hampshire, my Chapter, I have a \$100 check for the Service Foundation and also a \$100 check for The Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it. Please, come right up, please.

MR. JOHNNY STEWART: Good morning. I'm Johnny Stewart, Commander, Department of Arizona. We'd like to make a pledge of \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate that. Come right up, sir.

MR. CHARLES PICARONI: I'm Charlie Picaroni, State Commander of Delaware. On behalf of my line officers, PDCs, both present and past, we have a check for \$200 for the National Service organization. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Much appreciate it. Hi.

MS. PAM BEALE: Hi. Pam Beale, Chapter 7, Anchorage, Alaska, we have a check for the Chapter, \$1,000, and for the Department we have a \$200 check for the National Service Foundation for both. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Much appreciated. Good morning.

MS. JOANN FISHER: Good morning. My name is Joann Fisher, Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Washington, D.C. We are proud to present a check for \$500 to the National Service Foundation and thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. RICHARD FOURNIER: Good morning.

PRESIDENT BURNS: How are you, Commander?

MR. FOURNIER: Commander, Department of Maine, Richard Fournier. Department of Maine has a check to the National Service Foundation for \$1,000. Chapter 1 has a check to the National Service Foundation for \$500.

Chapter 3 also has a check to the National Service Foundation for \$500. Chapter 6 has a check to the Service Foundation office for \$500. Chapter 10 has a check for \$200 to the National Service Foundation; and also Chapter 19 to the National Service Foundation, \$300. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Commander.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. HAROLD MUILENBURG: Commander Muilenburg from the beautiful state of South Dakota. I have a check for \$500 in honor of our DAV NSO Eric Van Emmerick. And I also have a donation from District 14 for \$151 for the Disabled Americans for Life Memorial. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Much appreciated. Thank you, sir.

MR. MICHAEL SMITH: Good morning.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. SMITH: Good morning. Mike Smith on behalf of District 11, Department of Ohio, home of Joe Johnson, our National Officer, first, a check to the National Service Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 in honor of our NSO Supervisor Dave Bilinovich and his spouse Sherri who, Dave is about to retire. (Applause) And a second check to The Columbia Trust in the same amount of \$5,000 from Ohio. Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning, Commander.

MR. McCROSKEY: I'm Allan McCroskey, Commander, Department of Virginia, and we have a check for \$1,000. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning. How are you doing?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, I am the Commander from the finest Chapter in South Dakota, Chapter 1, and I have two checks: one for the National Service Foundation in honor of Eric Van Emmerick for \$250 and an additional check from Past Commander or National Commander Gene Murphy for \$100 to the National Service Foundation in the memorial of Roger Andall. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much, sir. Good morning.

MS. LUZ BERRIOS: Good morning. My name is Luz Berrios from the Department of Puerto Rico, Commander, the donations: for the Department of Puerto Rico for the National Service Foundation, \$500 in honor of the NSOs of Puerto Rico for their outstanding job; for the National Service Foundation, Chapter 5, Puerto Rico, \$100; for the National Service Foundation, my family, \$50; and this is a new one, for the 6th District NEC, \$200. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Omaha Beach Chapter 7, \$2,500 for the Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Joe.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, Joe. Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Department of South Carolina, I would like to make a donation of \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Commander.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it.

MR. JAMES McDERMOTT: James McDermott, Department of Illinois Commander, makes the pledge of \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. RICHARD KRAJEWSKI: Good morning. Richard Krajewski Commander, Department of North Dakota, Chapter 3, Bismarck-Mandan, North Dakota, has pledged \$5,000 to The Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Much appreciate that. Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. ALFRED REYNOLDS: I'm Al Reynolds, Commander, Macon County Chapter 17 from the Department of Illinois. I have a check for \$5,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Much appreciate it.

MR. JOHN COURTER: Good morning. I'm John Courter from the great State of Louisiana, from Chapter 30, \$15,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, much.

MR. DANNY OLIVER: Good morning. My name is Danny Oliver. I'm the adjutant for the State of Oklahoma. And on behalf of the Clarence H. Diehl Chapter 39 in Midwest City, in memory of Clarence H. Diehl we would like to present this check for \$1,500 because he lived his life fulfilling the promise. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Won't have any problem cashing that, will I?

MR. COURTER: No, it will clear. (Laughter) Just bring it to Oklahoma.

MS. PENNY FOX: Hi. I'm Penny Fox of the Department of Hawaii. We'd like to donate \$500 to The Columbia Trust and \$500 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

MS. FOX: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate that. Good morning.

MR. ROBERT ERICKSON: Good morning. Bob Erickson, Department Commander, great State of Minnesota, have a \$3,000 check for the Charitable Service Trust and another check for \$5,000 for the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. How are you doing? Good morning.

MR. FRED WHITE: Good morning. Fred White. On behalf of the Department of Oklahoma I have \$500 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. BARRY BLEVINS: Hi. I'm Barry Blevins from the Department of North Carolina, Department Commander. We have a donation for the National Service Foundation for \$500. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, much. Appreciate it. Good morning.

MR. JOHN DIXON: Good morning. I'm John Dixon, Craven County Chapter 40, North Carolina. We have a \$500 donation to the National Service Foundation and also a personal \$20 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. JEFF CARSON: Good morning. Jeff Carson, Department of Nevada. I'd like to present a check for \$1,700 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir.

MR. CARSON: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MS. LINDA MINGO: Good morning. I'm Linda Mingo from the State of South Carolina, Chapter 51, and I'm making a donation on behalf of our Chapter for \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

MS. MINGO: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. BOB ADDYMAN: Good morning. I'm Bobby Addyman, Commander, Chapter 7, Lakewood, Colorado. I have a check for The Columbia Trust for \$5,000 and in honor of Brian Austin from the Department of Colorado a check for \$5,000 to the National Service Office. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

MR. ADDYMAN: You're very welcome, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. KEVIN JOHNSON: Good morning. My name is K.C. Johnson. I'm past Department Commander for Department of Wisconsin and Chapter 3, Green Bay, member. I'd like to make a personal donation of \$100 in honor of our Chapter 3 member Richard Marbes for The Charitable Service Trust Fund. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Hi.

MR. THOMAS DOLENZ: Hi. Tom Dolenz, Commander, Chapter 1, Saint Louis, Missouri, I have a check for \$5,000 for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning. Come right up here. Please.

MR. THOMAS REITER: Good morning. I'm Tom Reiter. I'm the Commander of New York State. I'd like to start off with \$800 for the National Service Foundation by the Past Department Commander's Club of New York in memory of Samuel R. Daniel, Joseph A. Pong, Thomas A. Startis, James V. (undistinguishable), Raymond B. Desmond Sr., Alfred W. Novak, Anthony Fosco and Clyde L. A. Nelson.

With that I'd like to donate \$1,000 to The Columbia Trust and another check for the National Service Foundation of \$1,000. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate that. Good morning.

MR. KENNETH KOOYMAN: Good morning, sir. Ken Kooyman from the Department of Massachusetts and on behalf of the Department we'd like to give \$500 to the National Service Foundation with a pledge of an additional \$500; and from Chapter 46 in the honor of Past National Commander Alan Bowers \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it. And I have a check here from Past National Commander Dennis Joyner in the amount of \$500 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you, Dennis. (Applause)

MR. CLARENCE MAIER: Clarence Maier, Commander of Chapter Number 11, Salina, Kansas, gives a check for \$500 and then a personal check for another \$25. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Good morning.

MR. DAVE BOLTON: Good morning. Dave Bolton from the great State of Iowa. I have two checks here on behalf of Chapter 20 from Des Moines, Iowa: one for the National Service Foundation, \$500 and one for The Columbia Trust for \$500. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: As a proud member of the William C. Melia Chapter 1, Scranton, Pennsylvania, the second-oldest chapter in the nation, I have a personal contribution of \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much, sir. Good morning.

MR. TERRY YOUNG: Terry Young, Commander, Department of Kansas, a donation of \$500. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. EUGENE SMITH: Good morning. My name is Eugene Smith from the great State of Ohio. I am the adjutant-treasurer of Chapter 1, the mother chapter of all DAV. And I am honored to present a \$5,000 check to The Columbia Trust and a \$5,000 check to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it.

MR. GERARD MULLIGAN: Gerry Mulligan, Commander, Chapter 24, Toms River, New Jersey, \$100 for National Trust and \$100 for Columbia Trust. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Thank you, sir. Appreciate that. Good morning.

MR. DOUGLAS WELLS: Doug Wells, the President of the NSO Guild. Gary, Commander, it's my privilege to present to you in honor of former Deputy National Service Director Brenda Kecskes a check for the National Service Foundation in the amount of \$500 from the NSO Guild. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. RONALD FORBES: I'm Ron Forbes of Chapter 13 in California. And our Chapter voted to donate \$500 for the van replacement program.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. CLARENCE BROWN: Good morning. I'm Chaplain Clarence Brown. I'd like to make a personal donation to the National Charitable Trust for \$200.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Appreciate that. Good morning.

MR. GREGORY BACON SR.: Good morning. I'm Gregory Bacon Sr., Commander for the Department of Idaho. On behalf of our members of Idaho the Department would like to give the National Service Foundation a check for \$500. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. TOMMY COOK: Good morning. I'm Tommy Cook Second Junior Vice from the Department of Mississippi. I would like to present a check for \$1,000 to the National Service Fund in memory of three of our deceased past Department Commanders: Bob Seraphim, Jim Nealey and James Stewart. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN: Hello. My name is William Brown from the great State of Texas, DAV James T. Hall Chapter 9, Houston, Texas. I am making a personal donation. My World War II, 4th Marine Division veteran (hoo-ah) told me not to take any wooden nickels at the casino. Unfortunately, that's all I've been paid so I'm cashing them out. This is a personal donation of \$20 to the DAV Charitable Service Trust. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MS. SHANDA TAYLOR-BOYD: Good morning, everybody. My name is Shanda Taylor-Boyd. I served 23 years and I'd gladly do it again. I have PTSD and a TBI but I'm still alive. I actually have to be honest to tell you that I was in the wrong meeting.

I was in the Auxiliary meeting and I found my way over here. And I had no idea about these donations. So, I don't know how personal this is supposed to get but for my 50th birthday I was planning to go to Thailand but, you know, what? This is a much more worthy cause.

So on a personal note on behalf of my three daughters, Olivia, Danielle and Taylor, I'd like to make this personal donation, \$500 to the Winter Sports Clinic that changed my life (Applause) and \$500 for the National Service organization. (Applause) I'm so grateful. Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Thank you, young lady. Appreciate it. You want to get a picture taken?

(Whereupon, a photograph was taken of Ms. Taylor-Boyd with Commander Samuels and President Burns.)

MS. TAYLOR-BOYD: Wait, we need one.

(Whereupon, another photograph was taken.)

MS. TAYLOR-BOYD: Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. DONALD SWEENEY: Good morning. My name is Donald Sweeney. I'm from Connecticut Chapter 15. And on behalf of Chapter 15 I'd like to donate \$100 and I'm personally going to contribute another \$150 myself to this great organization. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. BAUMANN: Good morning. I'm Bill Baumann, your National Convention Chairman this year. Anyway, on behalf of my wife Joan and myself I'd like to make a personal donation and I'm also with Black Mountain Chapter 12 here in Henderson, Nevada, so – and I hope you all had a wonderful time. (Applause)

To you, Commander, here is a personal donation of \$100 for the Trust and for Colorado Trust and for the National Service Foundation, 100 to each. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

MR. BAUMANN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

MR. BAUMANN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MS. BRIGITTE MARKER: Good morning, everybody. My name is Brigitte Marker. I'm the immediate past Department Commander for the Department of Oregon. And I would like to give a personal donation on behalf of myself and my family of \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

MS. MARKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. JOHN FREDERICKSON: Good morning. John Frederickson, Department of Wisconsin Commander, and on behalf of the great State of Wisconsin I'd like to donate \$1,500 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. DOUGLAS STRAND: Good morning. Hello, my name is Doug Strand, Chapter 233 with the great State of Texas. I have three donation checks to make today to the National Service Foundation.

The first one is from Chapter 233, a check for \$400, sir; the second one from Carl Forward, also a member of Chapter 233, \$500; and on behalf of Military and Veterans in Chronic Pain Association, the organization which has formed in order to obtain a VA ratings for people in chronic pain, they donate \$100. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. CEDERIC ALEXIS: Good morning. My name is Cederic Alexis. I wanted to give a personal donation to the National Service Foundation.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. (Applause) Appreciate it.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WALLACE E. "WALLY" TYSON: Good morning. (Applause)
Good morning. I have three personal donations this morning. President Burns, Commander, I have \$1,000 for the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TYSON: In memory of a good friend and a good friend to many of you in this room, to The Columbia Trust I donate on behalf of Bob Gushee's memory \$250. (Applause) And also a \$250 donation to the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial. That darned thing is going to be seen very soon. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Appreciate that. Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. CARROLL PROSSER: Good morning. Carroll Prosser, past Department Commander of South Carolina, I have a personal donation of \$100 to honor all members of the Department of South Carolina and also to honor my fellow First Division members. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Yes, sir.

MR. MICHAEL GOLDBERG: Good morning. I'm Michael Goldberg, Chapter 48, Junior Vice Commander and it's a \$100, personal, for the van. And I want to thank Ken Wingett, my adjutant and past State Commander who has had faith in me and has just said do the best I can. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you.

MR. HENRY WRIGHT: Good morning. Henry Wright, Department Commander, the best little state, Rhode Island – best little state in the United States, Rhode Island. This morning I come here to donate a personal \$100 to The Charitable Trust in memory of a great friend and a great mentor who just recently passed away who was a driving force for the Department of Rhode Island: past Department Commander Mike Minitelli. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

JUDGE ADVOCATE MICHAEL DOBMEIER: Gerald Litzinger, Chapter 2 member Grand Forks, North Dakota, asked me to make this \$100 donation in honor of his brother Bill. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. EDWARD KAWAMURA: Aloha.

(Response of "Aloha.")

MR. KAWAMURA: I'm Edward Kawamura from the Island of Kawai. I'd like to make a \$200 donation to the National Service Foundation. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. FRED WAGAR: Good morning. I'm Fred Wagar from Chapter 1, Reno, Nevada. Welcome to Nevada. I would like to make a donation to the National Service Foundation on behalf of my late good friend in memory of Roger Andall of South Dakota and also in honor of John Hanson an NSO out of Reno. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you very much. Hey, good morning. How are you doing?

(Whereupon, a very young man advanced to the podium.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Pick him up. Pick him up.

(Whereupon, President Burns and Commander Samuels lifted the young man up to the microphone.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: How much is it? Is that for me or for the DAV?

MASTER RONALD BAKER: DAV.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Okay. (Laughter) How much?

MASTER BAKER: Twenty dollars.

PRESIDENT BURNS: All right. That's not bad. Did you win it?

MASTER BAKER: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Okay, good. He won it. Thank you. What's your name?

MASTER BAKER: Ronald Baker.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Ronald Baker? All right. Appreciate that.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Ronald.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you for joining us. Thank you, Ronald.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Appreciate it.

(Whereupon, Master Baker was directed from the podium and the stage with another round of applause.)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Good morning.

MR. MURRAY CODMAN: Good morning. Murray Codman, Chapter 123, Culver City, California. Sorry to say we've had some problems this year but I'm donating \$100 anyway. And next year I hope it will be much more. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: That's all right.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: We'll take it. Thank you, sir. Good morning.

MR. ROBERT ELDRIDGE: Good morning. Better late than never. That's what my wife always says. Bob Eldridge from Chapter 11, Florence, South Carolina, got \$100 here for the little pile, National Service organization. And this is – this is just in gratitude to my District Commander and my State Commander there in South Carolina. (Applause)

PRESIDENT BURNS: Thank you. Appreciate it.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURNS: Where is the – what's the count? Have we got that? No? All right. That's it. Thank you very much, everyone. Much appreciated. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Gary, for that excellent report.

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, and
Independent Auditors' Report

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 Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation") as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 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 audits 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 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, 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.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

March 30, 2012

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 552,032	\$ 1,911,167
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	45	86
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	5,649	9,192
INVENTORY	250,782	258,795
PREPAID EXPENSES	3,182	5,961
INVESTMENTS	<u>83,527,722</u>	<u>79,644,194</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 84,339,412</u>	<u>\$ 81,829,395</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV	\$ 118,178	\$ 163,825
Due to DAV Legislative Program	6,825	5,468
Other liabilities	<u>73,375</u>	<u>183,748</u>
Total liabilities	<u>198,378</u>	<u>353,041</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	14,720,532	13,200,963
The Columbia Trust	1,644,848	1,974,979
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	27,824,954	26,532,709
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>570,518</u>	<u>1,356,643</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>44,760,852</u>	<u>43,065,294</u>
Temporarily restricted:		
The Columbia Trust and other	38,554,306	36,721,062
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>610,582</u>	<u>1,474,704</u>
Total temporarily restricted	39,164,888	38,195,766
Permanently restricted	<u>215,294</u>	<u>215,294</u>
Total net assets	<u>84,141,034</u>	<u>81,476,354</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 84,339,412</u>	<u>\$ 81,829,395</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011			2010		
	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	\$ 1,517,245	\$ 738,850	\$ -	\$ 1,217,655	\$ 759,750	\$ -
Revenues:						
Interest and dividend income — net	1,285,379	1,201,999		956,492	890,218	
Gain on sale of investment securities	527,149	632,807		2,079,382	341,199	
Sales of fraternal items	891,920	-		908,622	-	
Total revenues	2,704,448	1,834,806	-	3,944,496	1,231,417	-
Net assets released from restrictions	740,412	(740,412)	-	761,528	(761,528)	-
Total public support and revenues	4,962,105	1,833,244	-	5,923,679	1,229,639	-
EXPENSES:						
Program expenses:						
Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,346,591			889,519		
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	67,351			86,426		
Costs of fraternal items sold	626,813			637,244		
Other program expenses	159,688			184,422		
Total program expenses	2,200,443	-	-	1,797,611	-	-
Management and general expenses	170,306			305,169		
Fundraising expenses	109,673			135,640		
Total expenses	2,480,422	-	-	2,238,420	-	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	2,481,683	1,833,244	-	3,685,259	1,229,639	-
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(786,125)	(864,122)		38,567	2,227,043	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS AFTER CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED (DEPRECIATION) APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	1,695,558	969,122	-	3,723,826	3,456,682	-
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	43,065,294	38,195,766	215,294	39,341,468	34,739,084	215,294
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$44,760,852	\$39,164,888	\$215,294	\$43,065,294	\$38,195,766	\$215,294

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011			2010		
	Management and			Management and		
	Program	General	Fundraising	Program	General	Fundraising
EXPENSES:						
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 1,361,324	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 925,162	\$ -	\$ -
Costs of fraternal items sold	626,813			637,244		
Grant proposal processing	51,048			49,001		
Administrative charges		51,048	43,295		49,001	73,863
Travel		21,274			19,185	
Postage and shipping	121,781	9,310	29,007	116,987	9,053	28,380
Printing, stationery, and supplies	185	16,290	26,753	52	24,660	22,515
Advertising	38,000			42,603		
Legal fees			6,840			6,840
Professional fees		28,955			27,546	
Project costs				25,000		
Insurance		2,965			3,295	
Registration fees		90	3,778		90	4,042
Awards		8,031			8,158	
Miscellaneous	1,292	32,343		1,562	164,181	
TOTAL	\$2,200,443	\$ 170,306	\$ 109,673	\$ 1,797,611	\$ 305,169	\$ 135,640
						\$2,238,420

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010

	2011	2010
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 2,664,680	\$ 7,180,508
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized depreciation (appreciation) of investments	1,650,247	(2,265,610)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(1,159,955)	(2,420,581)
Loss on disposal of development-in-process assets		128,987
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	41	284,364
Accounts receivable	3,543	62,881
Inventory	8,013	(9,637)
Prepaid expenses	2,779	24,582
Due to DAV	(45,647)	(8,119)
Due to DAV Legislative Program	1,357	(603)
Other liabilities	(110,373)	95,455
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,014,685</u>	<u>3,072,227</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(61,182,808)	(137,278,624)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<u>56,808,988</u>	<u>135,369,467</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,373,820)</u>	<u>(1,909,157)</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,359,135)	1,163,070
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>1,911,167</u>	<u>748,097</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 552,032</u>	<u>\$ 1,911,167</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, 2011 AND 2010

1. ORGANIZATION

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 DAV, 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.

New Accounting Standard — In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU No. 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. The Foundation has not yet adopted the ASU and does not expect the ASU to have a material impact on its financial position, cash flows, or results of operations.

Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures — In January 2010, the FASB issued FASB ASU No. 2010-06, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, which amends Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (originally issued as FASB Statement No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*), adding new disclosure requirements for Levels 1 and 2; separate disclosures of purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements; and clarification of existing fair value disclosures.

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 that are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. The earnings credit received on the Foundation's checking accounts were \$1,831 and \$2,110 in 2011 and 2010, 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.

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, solicitation materials, and other items.

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 DAV.

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy for the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund and 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 60% Russell 3000/40% 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, 2011 and 2010, had the following activity:

	2011	2010
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,292,245	\$ 1,217,655
Revenues:		
Interest and dividend income — net	1,285,379	956,492
Gain on sale of investment securities	527,149	2,079,382
Sale of fraternal items	<u>891,920</u>	<u>908,622</u>
Total public support and revenues	<u>3,996,693</u>	<u>5,162,151</u>
Expenses:		
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	67,351	86,426
Cost of fraternal items sold	626,813	637,244
Other program expenses	210,736	733,423
Management and general	170,306	305,169
Fundraising	<u>109,673</u>	<u>135,640</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,184,879</u>	<u>1,897,902</u>
Change in unrealized (depreciation) appreciation of investments	<u>(786,125)</u>	<u>38,567</u>
Total change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund	<u>\$ 2,025,689</u>	<u>\$ 3,302,816</u>

For 2011 and 2010, the Board has designated \$1,644,848 and \$1,974,979, respectively, as total unrestricted net assets for The Columbia Trust and are not included in the Board-designated endowment fund. The Columbia Trust recorded a decrease in unrestricted net assets of \$330,131 in 2011 and an increase in unrestricted assets of \$421,010 in 2010. In 2011, the Columbia Trust received \$225,000 from DAV Charitable Service Trust (CST) to be used for DAV Department and Chapter service programs. No unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments is designated to The Columbia Trust's net assets.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets — Funds contributed to The Columbia Trust are matched 100% by DAV, up to a maximum of \$3,000,000 per year. In 2011 and 2010, The Columbia Trust received \$44,425 and \$37,375, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV. In 2011 and 2010, The Columbia Trust received \$650,000 and \$645,000, respectively, from CST to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2010, The Columbia Trust also received \$40,000 from an unrelated third party to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, The Columbia Trust held \$1,448,331 and \$797,622, respectively, in money market funds.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets — Contributions by the National Order of Trench Rats for the DAV Legislative Program are permanently restricted. Investment income of \$6,825 and \$5,468 in 2011 and 2010, 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.

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 — ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, 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, disclosure, and transition. The Foundation applies ASC Topic 740 and notes no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, 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 — In 2010, the Foundation determined that the software application that had been in development since 2006 did not meet, in its capabilities and condition, the organization's business needs. Additionally, further development of the application would not provide any tangible value to the investment. Therefore, a loss of \$128,987 was recorded as a component of miscellaneous expenses in the management and general section of the statement of activities for 2010.

3. 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 or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. 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, which include money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and market value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2011 and 2010, are summarized below:

2011	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
Cash equivalents	\$ 4,002,566	\$ 4,002,566	\$ -
Common stock	6,563,517	7,268,407	704,890
Fixed-income mutual funds	32,996,122	34,274,050	1,277,928
Equity mutual funds	<u>38,784,417</u>	<u>37,982,699</u>	<u>(801,718)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 82,346,622</u>	<u>\$ 83,527,722</u>	<u>\$ 1,181,100</u>
2010			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,776,001	\$ 2,776,001	\$ -
Common stock	8,928,775	9,715,193	786,418
Fixed-income mutual funds	29,558,253	30,082,203	523,950
Equity mutual funds	<u>35,549,818</u>	<u>37,070,797</u>	<u>1,520,979</u>
Total	<u>\$ 76,812,847</u>	<u>\$ 79,644,194</u>	<u>\$ 2,831,347</u>

Net interest and dividend income is \$2,487,378 and \$1,846,710 for 2011 and 2010, respectively. 2011 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$2,508,569 less \$21,191 for investment management and custody fees. 2010 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$1,886,116 less \$39,406 for investment management and custody fees.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with fair value measurements and disclosures, the Foundation categorized its financial assets based on

- quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1)
- 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)

At no time during 2011 did the Foundation 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 for debt and equity securities are determined on the basis of the nature and risks of the investments. There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2.

The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, are as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
2011			
Asset Category			
Cash equivalents	\$ 4,002,566	\$ -	\$ 4,002,566
Common stock:			
Consumer discretionary	815,347		815,347
Energy	690,746		690,746
Finance	664,245		664,245
Health care	902,298		902,298
Industrials	1,153,508		1,153,508
Materials	458,435		458,435
Consumer staples	1,139,329		1,139,329
Technology	1,249,452		1,249,452
Utilities	195,047		195,047
Total common stock	7,268,407	-	7,268,407
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	30,322,275		30,322,275
International stock funds	7,660,424		7,660,424
Domestic fixed-income funds	31,916,688		31,916,688
International fixed-income funds	2,357,362		2,357,362
Total mutual funds	72,256,749		72,256,749
Total assets	\$83,527,722	\$ -	\$83,527,722
2010			
Asset Category			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,776,001	\$ -	\$ 2,776,001
Common stock:			
Consumer discretionary	1,214,003		1,214,003
Energy	1,394,149		1,394,149
Finance	1,220,357		1,220,357
Health care	981,884		981,884
Industrials	1,278,988		1,278,988
Materials	829,816		829,816
Consumer staples	989,115		989,115
Technology	1,709,808		1,709,808
Utilities	97,073		97,073
Total common stock	9,715,193	-	9,715,193
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	29,009,843		29,009,843
International stock funds	8,060,954		8,060,954
Fixed-income funds	30,082,203		30,082,203
Total mutual funds	67,153,000	-	67,153,000
Total assets	\$79,644,194	\$ -	\$79,644,194

5. 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 DAV \$123,672 and \$168,081 in 2011 and 2010, respectively. At December 31, 2011 and 2010, the Foundation owed DAV \$118,178 and \$163,825, respectively. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities and equipment at no charge.

As discussed in Note 2, DAV contributed \$44,425 and \$37,375 to The Columbia Trust in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

In 2011 and 2010, CST made contributions of \$650,000 and \$645,000, respectively, to The Columbia Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. Also, in 2011, CST made a contribution of \$225,000 to The Columbia Trust to be used for DAV Department and Chapters service programs.

In 2011, the Foundation awarded a grant of \$4,200 to DAV Auxiliary for DAV Auxiliary fraternal items sold. In 2010, DAV Auxiliary sold \$19,681 of its fraternal items to the Foundation to be sold alongside the Foundation's fraternal items. Estimated obsolescence was \$4,500, and a net amount of \$15,181 was reimbursed to DAV Auxiliary for the inventory.

In performing the duties of their positions, 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.

6. GRANTS AND EXPENSES OF THE COLUMBIA TRUST

At December 31, 2011 and 2010, the grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

	2011	2010
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 635,614	\$ 176,900
National Transportation Network Van Grant Program	618,359	626,836
Other grants to service programs	40,000	35,000
Miscellaneous expenses	1,570	1,782
Grant proposal processing	<u>51,048</u>	<u>49,001</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,346,591</u>	<u>\$ 889,519</u>

In 2011, temporarily restricted net assets of \$740,412 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$606,179 were used. In 2010, temporarily restricted net assets of \$761,528 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$127,991 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of \$740,412 and \$761,528, are shown as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the accompanying statements of activities for 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Net assets are released from restrictions by incurring expenses to satisfy the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2011, but before March 30, 2012, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

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COMMANDER SAMUELS: May I have a motion to accept the report from President Burns for the National Service Foundation?

MR. WAGAR: Mic 2.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 2.

MR. WAGAR: Fred Wagar, Chapter 1, Reno, Nevada, District 18, moves to accept that wonderful report and all the great donations.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. May I have a second.

MS. BEALE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 3.

MS. BEALE: Pam Beale, Chapter 7, Alaska, accepts that motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. (Applause) Will you please welcome Floyd Watson of Wyoming, who is the newly-elected President of the Commander and Adjutants' Association for 2012-2013. (Applause)

MR. FLOYD WATSON: National Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Art Wilson, National Officers, delegates, and guests, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. WATSON: I am proud to have been elected President of the State Commanders' and Adjutants' Association for 2012-2013. 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 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 Floyd Watson, Wyoming; Vice President, Chad Richmond, Alabama.

Executive Committee: Brenda Reed, Iowa; Dennis Krulder, New York; Dennis (sic) Oliver, Oklahoma; Teresa Johniken, Texas, Warren Tobin, North Dakota; Pamela Beale, Alaska;

Secretary-Treasurer, David Tannenbaum, Florida; Assistant Secretary, Rita Alberegg, Virginia. Judge Advocate, Jimmy Stewart, South Carolina. Chaplain Brian Wilner, Georgia. Sergeants-at-Arms: Faye Lyon, Washington.

Resolutions Committee: Robert Burchee, Ohio; Bob Brandt, Oklahoma; Mike Dreiling, Kansas. Audit/Finance Committee: Stephanie Whitehead, Minnesota; Richard Marker, Oregon; Allan McCroskey, Virginia; Charles Vanderplas, Wisconsin.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Carl Bailey, Alabama; Robert Wilcoxon, Maryland; Dennis Hammonds, Oklahoma; John Ashmore, South Carolina. Special Projects: David Spurgeon, Arkansas; Cynthia Madison, Virginia; Sarah Royce, Washington; and Erin Straub, Colorado.

Would National Commander Samuels and National Adjutant Wilson please join me to receive a presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander Samuels and Adjutant Wilson joined Mr. Watson at the podium.)

MR. WATSON: 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 Joe Connelly, and a check for \$1,500. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, Mr. Watson presented Commander Samuels and Adjutant Wilson with the two checks.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Floyd. And congratulations on your election to office. At this time I will ask Bill Taylor, Chairman, and Vince Darcangelo of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation.

MR. WILLIAM B. TAYLOR: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. TAYLOR: This morning before we present the flag to the Senior Vice Commander I would like to have Vince read and provide you with some information pertaining to the POW flag and how it came about. Thank you.

MR. VINCENT DARCANGELO: Good morning. The POW flag began with an idea and is now a symbol recognized throughout America and beyond. The flag has flown over the White House and in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. In fact, the POW flag is the only flag other than Old Glory that has ever flown over the White House.

Legislation passed in 1998 requires the flag to be flown in numerous federal facilities on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.

It all started with the wife of a Navy pilot. In 1970 Lieutenant Commander Michael Hoff was declared missing in action after his A7 Corsair crashed in Laos. His wife, Helen Hoff, joined other spouses, determined to obtain an accounting of prisoners of war and missing in action from countries in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. Hoff recognized the need for a symbol to honor the POWs and MIAs and to create public awareness of the POW/MIA issue. Recalling the Blue Star Banners of World War II, she wrote to the flag-making business of Anion and Company and asked their vice president, a World War II veteran, to design a banner.

In turn, the company contracted with a graphic designer, Newt Heisley, a World War II veteran, who created the symbol that we are all familiar with today, the POW/MIA flag. (Applause)

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Vince. At this time could we have Junior Vice Commander Polzin come – Senior Vice Commander Polzin come forward, please.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Polzin joined Mr. Taylor and Mr. Darcangelo at the podium.)

MR. TAYLOR: Larry, on behalf of the Committee we would like to present you with this flag and ask that you fly this flag proudly at your home state of California, which I am sure you do as a Marine. Thank you very much. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Mr. Taylor presented the POW/MIA flag to Senior Vice Commander Polzin.)

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Art, at this time do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT WILSON: This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30. We will start off with the important business of nomination and election of officers. Please be on time. This evening's activities include introduction of National Officers at six o'clock followed by a delicious dinner and great entertainment.

A couple of other announcements. The Nominating Committee will meet promptly at 12:15 this afternoon in Skyview 2 on the 26th Floor. Ford Motor Company has asked us to announce the winner of the two round-trip airline tickets from the Ford booth where they discussed the mobility programs and X plan programs.

The winner of two round-trip airline tickets is Tony Lee from New York. (Applause) Tony, if you would see us up here on the stage after the session is over or see Ron Minter, our Director of Voluntary Services, and he will get you pointed in the right direction.

Apparently there is a missing Marine Corps ring. If it's found, please bring it to the office or bring it to the stage as soon as you can. Thank you.

As you know – there is a reward, too, for that item. (Laughter) As a reminder, we are giving away DAV backpacks to five delegates attending the Convention. If your name is called and you are in the hall please see Tony Baskerville up here on stage as soon as we adjourn to receive your backpack. And, as you know, you have to be present to win.

The winners are Jack Johnson from Florida, Donald Williams from New Jersey, Donald Sayers from North Carolina, William Price from Arizona and Patrick Knowlton from Colorado. (Applause) That's all I have, Commander.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Art. Chaplain Edwards will you lead us in 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 and our achievements are incomplete without Your blessings.

We pray that You will give us continued wisdom and understanding that we might accomplish the mission which is ours – fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

Now may the strength of God sustain us, may the power of God preserve us, may the hand of God protect us, may the shield of God defend us, and may God bless all of the men and women who are members of the Disabled American Veterans. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER SAMUELS: The Convention stands in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:35 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.)

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FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 7, 2012

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 91st National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of the Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday afternoon, August 7, 2012, and was called to order at 1:32 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Donald L. Samuels.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Can I have your attention, please. The Convention will come to order. As a reminder once again, we ask that everyone in attendance please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices.

In opening this afternoon's business session it is fitting and proper that we render respect due to the flag. Hand salute – two. We will now be led in prayer by the Chaplain Edwards.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: None of us work alone. We are all part of the same team. We need each other in order to stay on target and to reach our goals in fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

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. We are thankful for those whose term is about to end. We thank them for a job well done. Now, God, we seek Your blessings for the coming year.

Give Your special blessings to all of those who assume the duties of leadership. Walk with each of them day by day so that they will serve to the best of their ability. May their hearts be humbled by the sense of their responsibilities yet proud of the confidence placed in them by the delegates of this Convention.

Be with us as we begin the final business session. And may we ever be true to You, our God, to our country, the United States of America, and to all our fellow disabled American veterans. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

ADJUTANT WILSON: Commander, just a lost-and-found issue as we start off this afternoon. There is a gentleman who has lost his Convention bag – and I know there is an awful lot of them around but this bag had his Department Commander cap on the inside. Could you – if anyone discovers it, would you kindly turn it in to the DAV Headquarters office or you could bring it up to the stage this afternoon. Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Art. 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 their name, Chapter number, and the state they represent.

I would like to remind everyone that registration of delegates is now closed. I will call upon Chairman Warren Tobin for the final report of the Credentials Committee. Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, this is the final report of the Credentials Committee and reflects the total registration as of 11:00 a.m. on August 7th, 2012.

There are 1,219 delegates and 42 alternates registered which includes 44 Departments and 464 Chapters. There are 9 Line Officers, 31 National Executive Committee members and 9 Past National Commanders registered, for a total of 49 National Officers. The total vote count is 8,292. At this time I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee members and to our Committee advisors.

Comrade Commander, that completes the final report of the Credentials Committee and I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Warren. May I have a motion to approve the final report of the Credentials.

MR. TIMMERMAN: Mic 1.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 1.

MR. TIMMERMAN: Tim Timmerman, State Commander, New Mexico, Chapter 9, I so move that we accept his final report.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: A second.

MR. DEMPSTER: Mic 1.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 1.

MR. DEMPSTER: Comrade Commander, Thomas Dempster, Chapter 114, Commander, Department of Michigan, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. I will now call on Dennis Joyner, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS JOYNER: Thank you. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Nomination of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on Saturday, August 4th, 2012, by Committee Advisors Gene A. Murphy and Richard Marbes.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Dennis Joyner, Florida, was elected as chairman and Al Reynolds, Illinois, was elected as secretary. The Committee met on Saturday afternoon and interviewed six candidates.

The Committee again met on Sunday afternoon and interviewed an additional six more candidates for a total of 12 candidates that were interviewed for National Office. The Nominating Committee met today at 12:15 to review, to interview any more candidates, of which there were none. And we've elected the following individuals that, to be – that we would recommend for the National offices.

For the office of National Commander, Larry A. Polzin from California; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice Commander, Joseph W. Johnston of Ohio; (Applause) for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, Ronald L. Voegeli, South Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander, Ron F. Hope, North Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander, Moses A. McIntosh Jr., Georgia; (Applause) for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, David W. Riley, Alabama; (Applause) for the office of National Chaplain, Ronald R. Ringo, Jr., California; (Applause) for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier, North Dakota. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of this report.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I will now call for a second that the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers be adopted and that the Committee be discharged.

MR. GODICH: Mic 3.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Mic 3.

MR. GODICH: Mic 3. Mike Godich Jr., Department of Pennsylvania, Chapter 76, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. You have heard the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers and they have nominated Larry Polzin for National Commander. Here to second the nomination is Department of California Adjutant Dan Contreras.

MR. DANIEL CONTRERAS: Commander Samuels and my fellow DAV members, it is a great honor for me as Adjutant of the Department of California to second the nomination of Larry Polzin for the high office of National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans.

It has been my sincere pleasure to have been the beneficiary of Larry's friendship and mentorship over many years. And I'm not alone. Veterans throughout California and all over the nation have had a great friend and advocate in Larry Polzin.

A DAV member since 1971, Larry began a career with DAV in 1972. For more than a quarter-century he dedicated his professional life to the betterment of his fellow veterans as a DAV National Service Officer in Los Angeles.

While he may have technically retired as a DAV NSO in 1998, he really just shifted his duties from the professional side of the organization to the fraternal side. On the Chapter, Department and National levels he has been a leader who generates consensus and tirelessly looks out for the good of the organization.

At a time when DAV is taking bold new steps to reach out to the public, Larry is a veteran who will stand up for us and build upon DAV's tradition of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who serve.

It is with distinct honor and joyful pride the Department of California seconds the nomination of Larry Polzin for the high office of National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Adjutant Contreras. The Chair will now call for any further nominations of the office of National Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I close the nominations and declare Larry Polzin elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election. (Applause)

ADJUTANT WILSON: I, Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, cast one unanimous ballot for Joe Johnston, National Senior Vice Commander. (Murmuring) What did I do? Hey. Hey. (Laughter) I've got so many of these I can't read them all, Commander. (Laughter)

The Nominating – no, wait a minute. That's not me, either. (Laughter) I, Arthur H. Wilson National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Larry Polzin for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: The Nominating Committee has nominated Joseph Johnston for the office of National Senior Vice Commander I now will call for any further nominations for National Senior Vice Commander.

Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Joseph Johnston elected as National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Ronald Voegeli for the office of National First Junior Vice. I will call for any further nominations for National First Junior Vice.

Are there any other nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Ronald Voegeli elected as National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Moses McIntosh for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Murmuring) No, I'm sorry. Ron Hope. Okay. (Laughter) We're doing the same thing, Art. (Laughter)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Ron Hope for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. I will now call for any further nominations for National Second Junior Vice Commander.

Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I will close the nominations and declare Ron Hope elected National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Moses McIntosh 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 further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Moses McIntosh elected National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated David Riley 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 further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations I will close the nominations and declare David Riley elected as National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Mike Dobmeier for the office of National Judge Advocate. I will call for any further nominations for National Judge Advocate. Are there any further nominations?

Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Mike Dobmeier elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Ron Ringo for the office of National Chaplain. I will now call for any further nominations for National Chaplain. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations, I close the nominations and declare Ron Ringo elected as 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 Joseph Johnston as National Senior Vice Commander; Ronald Voegeli for National First Junior Vice Commander; Ron Hope for National Second Junior Vice Commander; Moses McIntosh for National Third Junior Vice Commander; David Riley for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander; Michael Dobmeier for National Judge Advocate; and Ronald Ringo for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. I would like to ask the newly-elected officers and their spouses and families to be escorted to the stage please.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and families were escorted to the stage.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: I would like to call upon our National Commander-Elect Larry Polzin for his remarks. (Applause)

COMMANDER-ELECT LARRY A. POLZIN: Thank you. Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: National Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Arthur Wilson, Commanders, Chapter Commanders, Auxiliary members, honored guests, friends, and my fellow Disabled American Veterans. Thank you all very much for this is a very humbling opportunity to serve you. I take this immense honor and responsibility very seriously.

You can be assured that I will put my all into carrying out the highest traditions of this organization, working vigorously for every disabled veteran, their family and their survivor. Together, we will continue to stand up for veterans and fulfilling our promise to the men and women who have served. (Applause)

In 1971, I found myself in a tough place. The company that had hired me after I was discharged from the Marine Corps five years earlier suddenly turned its back on me when it was discovered that I needed to have open-heart surgery.

Laid up in a VA hospital, a DAV Department of California Service Officer stopped in to check on me. He offered to help me file a claim for the benefits that I had earned. I was so encouraged to meet a fellow veteran who was committed to helping me – for free. Later, however, he did ask me if I wanted to join the DAV. (Laughter)

I hadn't thought of that until then. And of course I quickly said yes. I am grateful that he had asked me. So the next time that you are out asking veterans if they want to join, you may be recruiting a future national commander. (Applause)

As I became active in this organization, I was offered a job as an NSO. It was an amazing change to my life for – my chance to help veterans, fellow veterans. That has been my life ever since.

You can be assured that I remember where I came from and that I will stay focused on our core mission – fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served this organization. Thank you.

I want to express my personal gratitude to a few of the incredible people who made this a reality for me. I would like to thank the 16th District and the Department of California. And a special thanks to the late Ken Musselmann. I would not be up here today if it wasn't for his guidance, support and encouragement. We all dearly miss Ken. Would those in the 16th District please stand to be recognized if you can.

(Whereupon, the delegation from the 16th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: Thank you. You are an incredible, dedicated group. And you each mean a great deal to me. I would not be up here without your long-time support. I am going to do my best to make you proud of me.

A very special thanks to my entire family. I am very fortunate to have two sons here. My son Leigh, a Marine Corps veteran and a member of the DAV, accompanied by his daughter Lindsey. Please stand.

(Whereupon, Leigh and Lindsey Polzin stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: My other son Lance is here from Ohio with his son Logan and his beautiful wife Shannon.

(Whereupon, Lance, Shannon and Logan Polzin stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: My sister and her husband Alan Tanner in the audience, please stand.

(Whereupon, Shirley and Alan Tanner stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: I also have a couple of very close personal friends that have come (sic) today to share this opportunity with me. Bob Harsker and his wife Dotty. Bob and I joined the Marines Corps together on a buddy system and we've stayed close friends ever since then, Bob and Dotty.

(Whereupon, Bob and Dotty Harsker stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: Also, another personal friend and his wife, Duane and Sylvia Wilkenson from Arizona. Duane was in the Navy but I don't hold that against him and we were neighbors and had a lot, shared a lot of good times together in San Diego.

(Whereupon, Duane and Sylvia Wilkenson stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: And, most importantly, I want to thank my wife, Judy. She has gone to almost – almost all the Department conventions with me and keeping me going on. She has always been there for me and I can never thank her enough. Thank you, honey.

(Whereupon, Judy Polzin stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: I would like to congratulate Commander Samuels on an outstanding year. Commander, you have made all of us very proud. And it is going to be a very tough road to follow. But thank you for your deep dedication to injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors. Thank you, Don. (Applause)

Lastly, through the leadership, the vision and dedication of Art Wilson, our professional staff in Cold Springs and in Washington continue to take this organization to new levels, further distinguishing DAV and its unquestionable leaders among veterans' service organizations. We owe all of you our sincere appreciation.

I believe this is the very best we have and the best leaders. Throughout the years Art keeps an amazing corps of volunteers and staff focused on what the DAV is all about, making sure everyone is headed in the right direction. Thank you, Art. (Applause)

It is an immense honor to stand before you on this stage today. No other group comes close to our dedication. Our service to the men and women who have served and have sacrificed have kept America strong and free cannot be matched.

I am very much looking forward to this year and the challenges that will come during the election year. That said, we stand ready to work with the government so that this nation can keep its promises to the men and women who have served, helping whoever wins in November understand and address the needs of our injured and ill veterans and their families.

Our biggest challenge remains doing all we can to help the VA put into place a much quicker and a whole lot more accurate claims processing system. As veterans helping veterans we need to aid those who are suffering, getting them the benefits that they deserve before it is too late.

To have a successful year I need everyone to continue to be relentless. Our grassroots organization sets the DAV apart from everyone else. All of us, our blue caps in particular, we need to ensure our government knows that the VA urgently needs to modernize the disability benefits claim processing system.

And I am counting on all the Chapters and the Department leaders to continue taking an active role. Leading from the front and mentoring our new members is key to reality – embracing our younger injured and ill veterans, showing them they are needed to help ensure our future. Every single veteran is important to our success.

I am excited about continuing our leadership with the Harley-Davidson team during my term. The Harley's Heroes® program is doing great things for veterans by getting our Mobile Service Offices into communities around the nation, helping us bring benefits, education, and counseling to our veterans free of charge.

I appreciate Harley-Davidson's commitment and I appreciate our skilled counselors who are developing and processing veterans' claims.

Our Voluntary Service Program is as strong as ever, making sure that the injured and ill men and women who have served are not left behind, taking them to their medical appointments, getting them the care that they need and have earned.

Our volunteers in the hospitals, visiting disabled veterans at home, going where the government cannot nor will not go. The DAV is leading the way and I am extremely proud to be part of this organization.

Please, could all of our volunteers who can stand please stand to be recognized.

(Whereupon, the volunteers present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: Our largest endeavor in fulfilling that mission is our Service program. Clearly, our unparalleled program is the DAV backbone, extending from the Chapters through the Departments to the National level. For those of you who make it your mission to serve, I sincerely appreciate and thank you.

Our Transition Service Officers and Department and Chapter Service Officers are on the frontlines, carrying our flag, continuing our outstanding service and tradition of service.

They are the best of the best, ensuring that every earned benefit is received. And I am particularly proud of the job that they do for us and are most deserving of our support.

After more than 25 years as a National Service Officer myself, I know how much hard work and dedication it takes to provide the level of service that the DAV pledges to deliver.

Our National Service Officers have never wavered in their commitment to serve or nation's service-connected disabled veterans, their families, and survivors. No one has more impact on our organization's ability to meet our primary mission.

No one has more impact on our organization's stellar reputation. And I believe that no one has a tougher task than those of you representing our veterans, their families, with claims for benefits from the government.

As more and more active duty and recently discharged veterans learn about the DAV, we will continue seeking more and more veterans, seeking the help from our NSOs, our TSOs, our Department and Chapter officers. Please, ensure you are prepared to provide them with the very best service possible. They deserve it for those veterans, their families and this wonderful organization depend on you to be ready.

Please, could we have all of the service officers who are present please stand to be recognized if you can.

(Whereupon, all service officers present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: Thank you. Thank you so much for this opportunity. This responsibility is indeed an honor. God bless you. God bless those still serving. God bless the DAV. And God bless America. And thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Commander Polzin, come up here. I have something for you.

(Whereupon, Commander-Elect Polzin joined Commander Samuels at the podium.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: The DAV official National Commander's cap for 2012-2013. Let's see how you look in it.

(Whereupon, Commander Samuels presented Commander-Elect Polzin with his National Commander's cap, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT POLZIN: Thank you.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Now we would like to call on our National Senior Vice Commander Joseph Johnston.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: Hello, friends.

(Response of "Hello.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: I want to thank you all for electing me as your Senior Vice Commander. It's a very humble acceptance that I take for this position within our great organization. I know of no greater honor that could be bestowed on me than to be part of the National leadership of this most excellent organization.

Please rest assured that I will devote myself to the principles and established missions and goals of the Disabled American Veterans as long as I am alive. Commanders Don and Larry, you have been my examples. You have rendered me friendship and support. And I know that those feelings of friendship and support are reciprocal in nature.

Art, thank you for being my friend, my counselor, and for all of the good work that is done by you and your staff each and every day in the DAV that we all take for granted that we shouldn't.

To my family here with me, Vicki, my wife, two of my sons – Michael and James – I love you very much. Thank you for standing by me all of these years in whatever endeavors that I have undertaken. And, coincidentally, Vicki and I are married 42 years this week. (Applause)

To our members present from Ohio, I want to particularly thank you for your understanding, for your love, for your support, for your friendship and confidence in me through these many years. Please stand and be recognized.

(Whereupon, the delegation from Ohio stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: To all DAV members, my brothers, my sisters, my friends, you are my inspiration each and every day. You are the greatest group of veterans that this nation has ever known.

And, finally, to Almighty God, who has given me this calling in my life to reach out and support veterans and serve them in whichever way that I may, and to ensure that our veterans receive all the benefits to which they are entitled.

May God bless you all May God certainly bless the Disabled American Veterans. And may God continue to shed his blessings on our great country, the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Joe. Now I'd like to introduce our National First Junior Vice Commander Ronald Voegeli. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT RONALD L. VOEGELI: Commander Don, Commander Larry, National Adjutant Art Wilson, first of all I'd like to thank God. (Applause) I don't think I'd be here without him. I'd like to thank my state, South Carolina, please stand.

(Whereupon, the delegation from South Carolina stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT VOEGELI: And I have some special friends that were on my Nominating Committee that I think left already. They seen their job as done so they took off. (Laughter) And I'd like to thank my lovely wife, Sandra, for over 40 years. (Applause) She has been by my side the whole time.

I promise – I didn't come up here even knowing I was going to get elected to anything, let alone move up. But I am thankful and I will do the best job that I can and as I have done for the last 28 years. You can count on that.

Every state that I have been to the last two years I made so many friends and was treated with so much respect I can't thank you enough. And all the states that are in here that I've been to, you all know who you are, it's just been a humbling experience and you've heard that two or three times.

But if you ever need me, call me. I'm available. I'm approachable. I'll be here tonight. I've been here all week. And if you ever want to talk to me about something, please do. Thank you very much and God bless America. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. Now I'd like to introduce our National Second Junior Vice Commander-Elect Ron Hope. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT RON F. HOPE: Thank you, Commander Samuels, National Adjutant Wilson, and everyone out there in my DAV family. I want to thank you for this opportunity.

I will pledge to you that I will do everything I can to serve this organization and serve you in the manner that it deserves. Please feel free to call on me at any given time. I promise that I will get back to you. Sometimes I don't get back to you very quick but I will.

I want to thank everybody in North Carolina and would like to ask them to stand if you would, all of the NSOs, all of the participants and everyone – and everyone in the 9th NEC that has supported me over the past 23 years.

(Whereupon, the delegation from North Carolina and the 9th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT HOPE: Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Ron. Now I would like to call on our National Third Junior Vice Commander-Elect Moses McIntosh. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT MOSES A. McINTOSH, JR.: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT McINTOSH: First, giving honor to God, Past Commander Don Samuels, our current Commander Larry Polzin, our National Adjutant, Mr. Arthur Wilson, I also give special thanks to our Executive Director Marc Burgess and Mr. Jesinoski.

And it gives me great pleasure. I am indeed humbled and I am honored. And, again, I want to thank you for your support. As I have told you all before, I did not get here by myself. There is no "I's". There is no "me." It is us. It is we.

The type leadership I have is to serve the people. That's why they call me Moses the Servant Leader. (Laughter) And my leadership style I can guarantee you one thing is to further the mission and the values of the DAV. And I will always embody the service, the quality, the integrity and the leadership that the DAV have taught us over the years.

But you know as we go on I'm looking out here in the audience and that's why I said thank you. But first of all I want to say thank you go my wife Marjorie. But, you know Paige is sleeping because she follows me everywhere I go. (Laughter)

But I want to thank the Departments because everything is done as a team effort. I want to thank the Department of Georgia, the Department of South Carolina, and also the Department of North Carolina which makes up the 9th District. And 9th District, will you please stand.

(Whereupon, the delegation from the 9th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT McINTOSH: Thank you. And in closing I tell you one thing I will always do: I will always remain humble. I will always be above reproach and will not bring discredit upon the DAV or any of you members that would cause any type of embarrassment. But one thing, I will remain humble but yet I'm very decisive. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Moses. Now I will call on our National Fourth Junior Vice Commander-Elect David Riley. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID W. RILEY: Thank you, Commander Samuels. Thank you incoming Commander Larry Polzin and National Adjutant Arthur Wilson. I want to thank the whole district that got behind me. I couldn't have done it without them.

And I look forward to this year and serving you and following the path I believe I've been put here to do. My wife and I have also been married 25 years this week so – (Applause) I look forward to serving you and approach me any time. I'll help out as much as I can. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Now I'd like to call on our National Judge Advocate-Elect Mike Dobmeier. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Thank you, Commander. Thank you to the Nominating Committee and for all of you for your continued support and your trust. And I can guarantee you that nobody on this podium takes this for granted. Thank you to my wife, Sandy. Would you stand please.

(Whereupon, Sandra Dobmeier stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: And to the small but mighty 14th District for your never-ending support, would you all stand, please.

(Whereupon, the delegation from the 14th District stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: Commander Don, thank you for such a great year. Commander Larry, I think I can speak for everybody on this stage when I say that we have your back. God bless America and God bless the DAV. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Mike. Now I'd like to call on our National Chaplain-Elect Ron Ringo. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT RONALD R. RINGO, JR.: Wow. Following after everybody here. This is such a humbling honor. Commander Samuels, Commander-Elect Polzin, Adjutant Wilson,

Executive Director Burgess, Executive Director Jesinoski – a hard one to say – members, guests, line officers, it is truly a humbling experience and honor to be here.

I am truly grateful for this special opportunity. It is a joy to serve those who have served their fellow man and who have given so much. I look forward to the year ahead and being a part of this wonderful, compassionate service of the DAV organization which provides for the veterans and their families.

Thank you for allowing me to represent and provide the spiritual and emotional component. A quick special thank you to my Heavenly Father for giving me this opportunity, for Chaplain Edwards and his example, for Dan Contreras for your faith and confidence in supporting me, for the California leadership and membership, I'd like you to stand and appreciate your representation and supporting of me.

(Whereupon, the delegation from the State of California stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT RINGO: For my son who served two tours in Iraq – he was there the first day in Anasaria where we lost a lot of our Marines, I had the opportunity of returning home with him on the last ship. He is 100 percent disabled at this time but we're working through those things. And I appreciate his love and support of his country and his fellow Marines.

And, finally, for my sweet wife who couldn't be here with us at this conference, for her support and love in the service I love to render, thank you for allowing me this opportunity. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: We will continue with the unfinished business of the Convention. At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion? If I don't get a motion you're going to be here for another week. (Laughter)

MR. GODICH: Mic 3.

MR. DEMPSTER: Mic 1.

MR. GODICH: Mic 3. Mike Godich Jr., Pennsylvania, Chapter Number 76, moves for the discharge of your committee.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, sir.

MR. DEMPSTER: Mic 1.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: May I have a second?

MR. DEMPSTER: Mic 1. Thomas Dempster, Livonia Chapter 114, Department of Michigan, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. I would like now to ask our Adjutant to read the list of newly-elected NEC members.

ADJUTANT WILSON: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term of 2012-2014: District 2, David Wilson; District 4, Herman Wischmann; District 6, Glynn Parker; District 8, Chad Richmond; District 10, John Lamphere; District 12, Dennis Thompson; District 14, H.G. Krosschell; District 16, Marlowe Benner; District 18, Edward Kawamaura; and District 20, Edgar Meiser. (Applause)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you. Believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda. Art, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT WILSON: A hearing aid has been found near Mic 2. (Laughter) But I don't suppose you can hear me. (Laughter) I'm only joking. Please, forgive me. (Laughter) The hearing aid is up here at the front table. I'm sorry, Commander. (Laughter)

The Fifth Third Bank grand prize winner of this lovely camera is Rafe Delli-Bovi. (Applause)

As a reminder to all of the National Executive Committee, including those newly-elected, the National Executive Committee will meet immediately following this session, at the adjournment of the Convention, in the Ballroom Silver right out there on the Casino Level. A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. NEC Alternates should also attend the swearing-in ceremony.

This is also important. The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting in the Grand Ballroom Gold, also on the Casino Level. Would those on the Board please be there promptly.

The presentation of the National Officers will begin at six o'clock this evening here in the Event Center followed by a reception.

Beginning at 8:00 o'clock a musical experience for all ages will be provided by Steve Beyer Band, one of Las Vegas' top shows. They play a great range of rocking music of different types and eras so come and enjoy the evening filled with ceremony, food, friends, music and entertainment. That's all I have, Commander.

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Art. Chaplain Edwards, will you please lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EDWARDS: Let us bow. For a successful 91st National Convention we are grateful unto You, our God. And as our officers accept their responsibilities of their respective offices, we ask Your guidance and protection. Our God, we pray that what is accomplished this coming year under their leadership will be fruitful, permanent and good for our organization.

As we come now to the end of this wonderful experience, we ask that You, our God, will refresh and renew and send us on courageously as we fulfill our promises to the men and women who served.

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.

Be with those who are prisoners of war and missing in action. And Your mercy, may we, the members of the DAV, find our peace. Keep us safe now as we journey to our various destinations. In God we trust. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Thank you, Chaplain. Will the Department of Arizona Honor Guard please retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired.)

COMMANDER SAMUELS: Ladies and gentlemen, the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. We will see you next year in Orlando. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 2:34 o'clock, p.m.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
90th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada
August 5, 2012
Opening Business Session
- - -

The Opening Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Bronze 4, Casino Level, of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday morning, August 5, 2012, and was called to order at 9:08 o'clock, a.m., by National Adjutant Judith Hezlep.

ADJUTANT JUDITH C. HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms please present National Commander Patti Rapisand to the platform.

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms escorted Commander Patrice Rapisand to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms please have the National Officers escorted to the platform. Judge Advocate – Susan Henry, Immediate Past National Commander.

(Whereupon, Immediate Past National Commander Susan M. Henry was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Judge Advocate Kathy Wiley.

(Whereupon, National Judge Advocate Kathryn A. Wiley was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Laurie Stopyra.

(Whereupon, National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Laurie A. Stopyra was escorted to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Third Junior Vice Commander Linda Stake.

(Whereupon, National Third Junior Vice Commander Linda S. Stake was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Second Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg.

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn B. Karg was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National First Junior Vice Commander Susan Miller.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Susan K. Miller was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Senior Vice Commander Donna Adams.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Donna M. Adams was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms please have our National Convention Chairman brought forward, Rosie McDuffie.

(Whereupon, Convention Chairman Rosie McDuffie was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have those casting the State Department delegate vote at this National Convention, please bring them forward to sit in the front chairs.

(Whereupon, the delegates were escorted to the front as their names were called.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Alabama, Carolyn Harris; (Applause) Arizona, Diane Stone; (Applause) Arkansas, Estelle Davis; (Applause) California, Julie Steinbaugh; (Applause) Colorado, Marilyn Hogue; (Applause) Delaware, Kathy Picaroni; (Applause) Florida, Marie Bare; (Applause) Georgia, Cheryl Faglier; (Applause) Hawaii, Mindy Alles; (Applause) Idaho, Velma Smith; (Applause) Illinois, Sandra Black; (Applause) Indiana, Karla Schwartz; (Applause) Iowa, Connie Bolton; (Applause) Kansas, Veronica Bergquist; (Applause) Kentucky, Dewanna Rogers; (Applause) Louisiana, Mary K. Dyer; (Applause) Maine, Diana Gehring; (Applause) Maryland, Jean Lawson; (Applause) Massachusetts, Sharon Dufault; (Applause) Michigan, Loraine Connelly; (Applause) Minnesota, Karen Siltanen; (Applause) Mississippi, Cynthia Dodge; (Applause) Missouri, Glenda Cooper; (Applause) Montana, Laurie Grantier; (Applause) Nebraska, Jan McGovern; (Applause) Nevada, Teresa Luna; (Applause) New Hampshire, Wanda Furbish; (Applause) New Mexico, Victoria

Salazar; (Applause) New York, Theresa Grabowski; (Applause) North Carolina, Ginger Bish; (Applause) North Dakota, Faye Litzinger; (Applause) Ohio, Eloise Whitehead; (Applause) okay, Buckeyes; (Cheering) you can take them out of Ohio, but; (Laughter) Oklahoma, Linda Oliver; (Applause) Oregon, Linda Heatley; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Elizabeth Johnson; (Applause) Rhode Island, Donna Folcarelli; (Applause) South Carolina, Shirley Ashmore; (Applause) South Dakota, Karen Bolton; (Applause) Tennessee, Lynda Winkles; (Applause) Texas, Christopher Easley who is also our National Chaplain; (Applause) Utah, Diana Betker; (Applause) Vermont, Camilla Cook; (Applause) Virginia, Grace James; (Applause) Washington, Barbara Reding; (Applause) West Virginia, Ellen Griggs; (Applause) Wisconsin, Lisa Carstensen; (Applause) Wyoming, Margaret Lucas; (Applause) and Puerto Rico, Ana Louis Pagan. (Applause) National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have the host State Colors brought in and posted.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the Department of Nevada were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please present the National Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We will now have the invocation by National Chaplain Chris Easley.

CHAPLAIN CHRISTOPHER J. EASLEY: Let us pray. Heavenly Creator, thank You for allowing us to gather here in celebration of our 90th year of service to our country's disabled veterans and their families.

We thank You for giving us the strength to continue in our loyal, devoted service to our nation, our veterans, their families and You.

We ask that You open our hearts and our minds to the ideas that are shared with us during this convention. We also ask that You be with our friends, our family and our members that are unable to be here. Watch over them and keep them safe until we see them again.

Lord, we ask that You be with our government leaders. Guide them as they lead our country, created in Your name. We ask that You be with our service men and women as they protect this world from evil and give the gift of democracy to those others that want it.

Lord, be with their families. Let them know that their loved ones are not alone while they are in harm's way because You are with them.

Lord, be with our veterans and their families. Give them the strength to continue serving their country and You. God bless the DAVA and God bless America. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please dismiss your Color Bearers.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS RUTH GATES: Color Bearers dismissed.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Thank you. We will now have the Pledge of Allegiance by National Americanism Chairman Linda Stake.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander Linda S. Stake advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LINDA S. STAKE: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Linda S. Stake led the Pledge of Allegiance.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Will Trevon please come forward. He is going to sing our National Anthem. He is a Junior member from Virginia 41.

(Whereupon, Trevon Foreman advanced to the podium and sang the National Anthem.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: How many dry eyes do we have? (Laughter) 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 National Officers and representatives of the State Departments and the Units.

In accordance with these directives I, Judith C. Hezlep, National Auxiliary Adjutant declare that the 90th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Consideration and disposition of business brought 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.

First, I would like to thank all those that participated in our opening. I think with allowing our male members into the organization we had a great representation.

Many of them escorts are male DAV members, our Pages. And I thank you. We might not have had J. R. Martinez today but we sure had a good opening. (Applause)

And at this time as National Adjutant it is my pleasure to present to you our National Commander serving for our 90th National Convention.

This is always a privilege and a highlight of the year. I know it's hard because, as she said, "But this is it, I'm going out", but you never know a person until you live with them or until you work with them.

And I will say that this year has been a real pleasure working with our Yellow Rose of Texas, Patti Rapisand. (Applause)

As we all know, her theme, which has carried out through the year, is "The Same Team and the Same Dream." And, believe me, we have been on the same team this year and we have certainly had the same dream.

We fulfilled some of those. I know there are probably some things that she would like to have done that maybe the time ran out. But it is my pleasure to present to you National Commander from Texas Patti Rapisand. (Applause)

COMMANDER PATRICE RAPISAND: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: How is everybody?

(Response of "Great" and "Wonderful.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Are you ready for some work, some play, some – I don't know, some just garbage? We will get it done today, okay.

I want everybody to remember this is our 90th Anniversary. In honor of our Anniversary I'd like for everybody to sing for we are a jolly good fellow. Here we go.

"For we're a jolly good fellow, for we're a jolly good fellow, for we're a jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny." Happy Anniversary. (Applause)

At this time I'd like to introduce Rosie McDuffie, our National Chairman, Convention Chairman. (Applause)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN ROSIE McDUFFIE: Good

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN McDUFFIE: Commander Rapisand, National Officers, Past National Commanders, members and honored guests of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Las Vegas, Nevada, the entertainment capital of the world.

We hope that you take advantage of the many amenities our city has to offer. Las Vegas has something for everyone. We can take you to Paris to visit the Eiffel Tower and sample the wonderful Parisian cuisine.

We can take you to Italy and ride the gondolas at the Venetian. We can take you back in time to the age of the Pharos of Egypt at the Luxor or the time of Caesar and ancient Rome at Caesar's Place.

We can also take you to mid-evil Europe to watch the knights in shining armor joust at the Excaliber. We have the Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty and the Great Cony Island Rollercoaster at the New York, New York Hotel. And let's not forget the Circus Circus for the child in all of us.

For those of you that are looking for the “wow” factor, you can go to the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas to see the Chandelier which is three stories high and has over two million crystals. All of this delight is right here on the famous Las Vegas Strip.

For those of you who follow Mother Nature’s way, there is cool Mount Charleston or Red Rock Canyon and, of course, Lake Meade just an hour’s drive in any direction.

We hope you enjoy your stay in Las Vegas and for those who try their luck at the gambling tables just remember, gaming revenue go to educate Nevada children. (Laughter) Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Now I’d like to introduce an elite group of people, members in the DAV Auxiliary. I’m going to be one of them soon, maybe? (Laughter) Past National Commander Lucille McCarthy; (Applause) Past National Commander Maria Tedrow; (Applause)

Past National Commander Betty Hall; (Applause) Past National Commander Evelynne Dunn; (Applause) Past National Commander Paula Raymond; (Applause) Past National Commander Carol Gray; (Applause)

Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) Past National Commander Donna Tanner – where are you? (Applause) Past National Commander Linda Trulio; (Applause)

Past National Commander Kathryn Wiley; (Applause) Past National Commander Sandy Dobmeier – right there; (Applause) Past National Commander Kay Egan; (Applause) Past National Commander Susan Henry; (Applause) and the future Past National Commander Patti Rapisand. (Applause)

Judy Steinhouse, would you like to come forward and bring greetings from the Past National Commanders.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDY M. STEINHOUSE:

Good morning, everyone.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: What a beautiful sight. What a beautiful sight. On behalf of Past National Commanders who were just introduced we’d like to wish Patti a very successful Convention. I know she will have one. And I hope that all of the officers and all of you delegates and guests will also have a wonderful Convention.

I think – I hope, I wish, as far as I am concerned everything looks like it started off pretty good so let’s hope it continues. And, Patti, you will be invited to the Past National Commanders lunch at Fall Conference. Now, whether or not we invite you to stay. (Laughter)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: I have friends. (Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I am sure that that will happen. I am sure that that will happen. But on behalf of the Past National Commanders we’d like to present you with this little gift in honor of your year as National Commander. And we hope and pray that your Convention will go well. Congratulations. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Rapisand was presented with a gift from the Past National Commanders.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, how many of you are here for the first time? Please stand up.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Wow, this is great. Welcome. Do we have some ribbons to pass out to these first-time attendees? Are we going to do that now? Sergeant-at-Arms? So remain standing if this is your first Convention. We’re going to take just a minute to give you a little something. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, ribbons were distributed to first-time attendees.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: While we are waiting, Judy just handed me some lost and found stuff. An earring has been found near the Auxiliary Office, Palace 5. It's not mine. A Unit Commander pin found outside the meeting room, this meeting room.

(Whereupon, a delegate came forward to claim the earring.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: We found the earring. (Applause) We found the person that the earring belongs – yes, we found the empty ear. (Laughter)

Yesterday, a room key, a DAV sweater were left in the ballroom. It's a DAVA sweater. (Laughter) Okay, the receipt says Kay Ball so if Kay Ball is in the room and you've lost your new sweater, you get ten minutes to claim it and then it's mine. (Laughter) No, really, if it's yours, it's yours.

We know we have lots of people who give their time and energy to the Auxiliary but I would at this time like to recognize the Past National Commander's Outstanding Member of the Year recipient: Emily Hall would you please stand.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Hall stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you, Emily. You've done great work. We really appreciate it. Okay, here we go. We are going to get down to business.

Anyone making or seconding a motion must go to the mic, state their name, Unit and State Department, or they may not be recognized since our reporter hears this information through his headphones.

So be sure that you do this. It's – he's got a tough job over here and we want to make sure he gets all the information he needs. Okay?

Would the Credentials Chairman please come forward to give the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee, Iris Brzezinski. What? Well, I know that. What did I say? Brzezinski. I can't say it now. Here is Iris. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Iris Brzezinski advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IRIS BRZEZINSKI: You said it right the first time.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: I thought so.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRZEZINSKI: Credentials report. Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, the Credential report is as follows: total Units registered, 181; total Departments registered, 44; National Officers registered, 15; Past National Commanders, 10; total delegates, 385; total alternates, 30; total vote count, 1,241.

Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to accept the Credentials report. Do I hear a second?

MS. DIANE FRANZ: Diane Franz, Central Florida 16, Department of Florida, second.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? The motion carried.

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 adoption of these rules. Do I hear a motion that you want to – have you had time to look them over?

JUDGE ADVOCATE KATHRYN A. WILEY: Madame Commander, point of order, can we go back and vote on the other one? You got a motion and a second but not a vote.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, sit down.

JUDGE ADVOCATE WILEY: Kathryn Wiley, National Judge Advocate.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Sit down. (Laughter)

JUDGE ADVOCATE: I said "point of order." Could we go back and vote on the other one.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: You don't have to – you don't have to say –

JUDGE ADVOCATE: He just nodded at me. I yelled it for him.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, a major mistake, sorry.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: First one. That's all right.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: There will be many, just laugh. (Laughter) All those in favor of – now what motion was it – the preliminary report of the Credentials committee please signify by saying aye; those opposed nay. The motion carries. Thank you, Kathy.

Now, 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 adoption of these rules. Do I hear a motion?

MS. AURA LEE NICODEMUS: Aura Lee Nicodemus, Byron Morris Unit 3, I move for the adoption of the Rules as printed.

MRS. SYLVIA HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Unit 11, Maine, I second it.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? And this is for Kathy – all those in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried. Was that okay?

JUDGE ADVOCATE WILEY: Perfect. Very good.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: At this time may I have a motion to accept the agenda subject to changes, always subject to changes. A motion to accept the schedule as printed.

MRS. ETTER BOWERS: Etter Bowers, Unit 41, I make a motion to accept the changes – I mean the schedule pending changes.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, thank you. Do I hear a second?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Unit 11, State of Maine, second.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried. Donna.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER DONNA M. ADAMS: It is my distinct pleasure to now present to you your National Commander, Patti Rapisand, for the purpose of her report. Commander. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: This year has been a celebration of "The Same Team, Same Dream, Serving Disabled Veterans and Their Families." As my year as DAV Auxiliary National Commander comes to a close, I give you my warmest thanks and appreciation.

I feel exceptionally blessed and fortunate to have shared this year with so many members and family. I am extremely grateful for the role that everyone has played throughout the year.

This has been a year I will always, always remember. Thank you for being a part of this incredible organization and for supporting and celebrating our accomplishments throughout the year.

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary has proven that teamwork actually works. We choose to see challenges as stepping stones, opportunities that we've encountered along the way, to use so that we can achieve more, develop further and, ultimately, realize our goals.

We have a kaleidoscope of volunteers who are different in so many ways but this kaleidoscope of people who are focused on our vision and accomplished so many objectives, we reached for those dreams that may have seemed impossible.

We have traveled 90 years together – oh, my gosh. As the Auxiliary celebrates 90th Anniversary, look back and see the history of people who have brought passion, expertise and resources needed to create a better life for disabled veterans and their families. Now, look forward and think how much we have learned and how we must keep this momentum going.

My travels as National Commander began in Pittsburgh for the caring and sharing of hospitalized veterans in Pennsylvania. Every – every veteran looked like they were enjoying the outing.

As they left the boat each was given a duffel bag full of accessories to help make their hospital stay more comfortable. The trip to Pittsburgh was amazing and made my heart feel warm. Visiting with veterans was just the beginning.

The Auxiliary Fall Conference was a weekend of learning and fun. At Fall Conference we introduced a new program called DAVA for Kids. We encouraged Junior members to help kids go to camp by collecting change and donating to this program.

The DAVA partnered with Camp Corral, sponsored by Golden Corral, with donations to help the transportation of the kids of active duty veterans and veterans go to camp.

The commitment to the DAVA for Kids is not just by the Junior members but throughout the entire Auxiliary. The staggering number of people who have participated is amazing.

Also at Fall Conference each chairman gave presentations of their programs and many new ideas were shared. Each presentation was informative and interesting. Thank you to all the chairmen, wherever the rest of you are. You did a fantastic job.

Lastly, the Past National Commanders who were present gave a short presentation on their year as commander. You know, this history just can't be lost. We've got to continue.

On Veterans Day I was invited to Birmingham, Alabama. I attended a memorial service followed by the World Peace Luncheon. But I really enjoyed riding in the Veterans Day Parade.

Many people lined the streets of Birmingham honoring the United States' veterans. I was so proud to wave the American flag while driving through the parade route – I didn't drive; I had a driver.

Florida invited me to their state Mid-Winter Conference. Many good things were going on in the State of Florida. I had one problem: I got sick. After going to a doctor in Orlando I was told I had bronchial pneumonia.

I was so well taken care of by the Auxiliary members I could have stayed forever. (Laughter) Thank you, Florida, for your consideration and nurturing.

Commander Samuels asked me to join him as he addressed the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee at Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. What a wonderful opportunity.

I sat with Commander Samuels as he presented the DAV platform to the Committee. I was thrilled to be part of this memorable moment. On that same weekend I had the privilege of placing the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

If you want to know the true meaning of "awesome" you must experience this honor. As I looked out on Arlington Cemetery, seeing all the graves of the fallen soldiers, I knew that whatever I did in my life was a tiny speck in comparison to what these men and women sacrificed. I was truly honored.

I will never forget the Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado. So many veterans with physical disabilities skiing, playing hockey, climbing walls, shooting, kayaking astonished me.

If there was any way – if there was any way they could do it, they did it. Their disabilities just disappeared and the challenge became the goal.

State Conventions began in April. I attended Puerto Rico, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, New York, and Massachusetts. Each Convention had that specific something that made them special. I was met with the best hospitality and I felt welcome wherever I went.

Can you believe the Auxiliary had 35 states make quota? The National Auxiliary made quota. I want to hear a big round of applause. (Applause)

Thank you, all of you. Thank you to all of you for recruiting and making quota a priority. Remember, membership, membership, membership.

Thank you to my husband, David, who traveled with me and was my biggest supporter. He was awarded a small plaque that said, "Driving Miss Patti." (Laughter)

I will always remember my friends in my home State of Texas for their friendship and help and all of you from all over the country for your friendship, hospitality and help.

Working with National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper and all the staff has shown me how a few people can accomplish a lot. Thank you for keeping us organized and reasonably controlled and for the laughs we managed to pull off.

Thank you to the DAV for all their support and guidance that they showed the Auxiliary this year. It's been an incredible year thanks to all of you.

And remember, we are "The Same Team, Same Dream Serving Disabled Veterans and their Families." (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: In Commander Rapisand's report she told you what she did but she didn't tell you how she did it. And she did it with dignity and grace and humor. And I just know that Patti is going to, through the years, go down as one of our most fabulous commanders.

She has kept us all in the loop and kept us together. And it is my pleasure to please ask someone to make a motion to accept the report of Commander Rapisand.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BETTY HALL: Commander, Betty Hall, Past National Commander, I make a motion that we accept the National Commander's report.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Betty. Is there a second?

MRS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City, South Dakota, Number 3, I second.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. There has been a motion made and seconded to accept the report of Commander Rapisand. All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you, Donna, for your kind words. Thank you so much. (Applause) Phew. (Laughter)

I will now call on the Finance Committee Chairman Etter Bowers for the National Finance Committee report and budget review. Etter, can you step – there you go.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairman Etter Bowers advanced to the podium.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ETTER BOWERS: National Commander Patti Rapisand, National Officers, delegates, friends and families, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BOWERS: The National Finance Committee met May 19th, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members of the Committee present were Patti Rapisand, our National Commander; Diane Franz, District 17 NEC; Ellen Tillerman, (sic) District 17, NEC; Sylvia Shurgot, District 20 NEC; and myself, Etter Bowers, District Number 6 NEC.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice Commander Donna Adams and National Adjutant Judy Hezlep. The purpose of the meeting was set up to adopt a budget for the 2013 year.

At this time I would like to thank the Committee for all the hard work that we put in on putting this budget together.

The budget is included or it was included in your registration packages. I hope you have all had the time to review it. At this time I move that the budget be adopted for the 2013 year.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: There is a motion on the floor to accept the budget as written. Do I have a second?

MRS. FRANZ: Diane Franz, Central Florida 16, State Department of Florida, second.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Is there any discussion?

MRS. FRANZ: Madame Commander.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Yes.

MRS. FRANZ: The Diane Franz, District 7, I don't know if that was misread or if it was mistyped.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, we will make the correction.

MRS. FRANZ: Thank you.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Bowers withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman will come forward for the first reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments. This is only a reading.

Please hold all and any questions and comments for the second reading. The first reading of the Constitution and Bylaws, Lucille McCarthy Chairman – oh, secretary. Who is the chairman? Carol Gray, I am so sorry. Where is Carol? I apologize, Carol. I was thinking interim.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and Past National Commander Carol Gray advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Have the copies been given? The copies – okay, right now you will just have to listen carefully and the copies will be ready this afternoon, okay? Can you do that? When we vote. Okay. Listen carefully, no chatter. Listen carefully. Don't I sound like a school teacher?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: I know this is unusual. You will get your copies later and then after they are read you can look – when you get them you can look them over during the second reading because that's when the questions will come up.

National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 90th National Auxiliary Convention, the National Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee met in the Las Vegas Room Number 1 at 1:10 p.m. on August 4th, 2012. Our advisor was Kathryn Wiley. Secretary was Judy Steinhouse.

All of the members were present. And I will ask them to stand now so that when you do caucus this afternoon you will know who from your District will be leading that caucus.

(Whereupon, the members stood as their names were called.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: District 1, Sharon Dufault; District 2, Linda Trulio; District 3 – this is the signature here, Sylvia Heath; District 4, Sarah Kashner; District 5, Amy Buterbaugh; District 6, Grace James; District 7, Lucille McCarthy; District 8, Lynda Winkles; District 9, Margaret Snelling; District 10, Carol Gray; District 11, Joyce Hutchinson; District 12, Sandra Black; District 13, Geneva Walker; District 14, Judy Steinhouse; District 15, Janice Howard; District 16, Tammy Hernandez; District 17 – am I going to get in trouble for what she wrote on this paper? – Althea Jackson. (Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're in trouble.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: She wrote it. She wrote it; she is better known as "Mean Jean"; (Laughter) and I think she may be mean to me after this. District 18, Sharon Linton; District 19, Christina Fairin; District 20, William Johniken – hi, Craig.

MR. WILLIAM "CRAIG" JOHNIKEN: Hi.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: District 21, Noreen Campbell. Thank you. (Applause)

Okay, the proposed Bylaw amendments for 2012. The first one is on Page N-6, Article 1, National Convention, Section 4, Delegates, Paragraph 4, Lines 3 and 4, delete "has received the Membership Initiation". Paragraph 4 will then read:

"A delegate to a National Convention shall not be allowed to vote until properly registered, dues paid for the Convention year, and is not indebted to the Organization.

"A member shall not cast a vote in the National Convention in more than one representative capacity or be registered as a delegate from more than one unit."

Rationale: To eliminate a procedure that is not relevant when delegates register at National Convention.

Number 2. Page N-26, Article VII, Membership. Section 1, Definitions A, Lines 3 and 4, delete "has received the Membership Initiation". A will then read:

"A member in good standing is one whose dues are paid for the current membership year and is not indebted to the Organization."

Rationale: To correct the definition of a member in good standing.

Number 3. Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1, Definitions E, delete the entire paragraph. Rationale: To eliminate information that is no longer relevant.

Number 4. Page N-30, Article VII, Membership, Section 6, Membership Classification, D, Junior Membership, Paragraph 5, delete Paragraph 5 and substitute the following:

"Juniors shall not hold dual memberships. Junior members are eligible for Senior membership at the beginning of the membership year in which their 18th birthday falls and shall have all the privileges as a Senior member upon payment of Senior dues."

Rationale: To provide corrected information regarding Junior membership.

Number 5. Page S-2, Article II, State Convention, Section 3, Delegates, Paragraph 3, Lines 3 and 4, delete "received the Membership Initiation". Paragraph 3 will then read:

"A delegate to a State Convention shall not be allowed to vote until properly registered, dues paid for the Convention year, and not indebted to the Organization."

Rationale: To eliminate a procedure that is not relevant when delegates register at State Convention.

Number 6. Page U-3, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 3, delete Paragraph 3. Rationale: To eliminate information that is covered under General Instructions and Order of Business for Unit meetings.

Number 7. Page U-18, General Instructions for Regular Unit Meetings, Paragraph 3, 4 and 5, delete all paragraphs and substitute the following:

"The Membership Initiation Ceremony shall be given to Auxiliary members within their respective units.

"The Ceremony is to be conducted at any regular or special meeting by a Unit, State or National Auxiliary Commander or any Auxiliary Past Commander. Parenthesis – In the absence of the commander, the presiding officer may conduct the ceremony – end parenthesis."

Rationale: To provide instructions that agree with U-3, Article VI, Section 3.

Number 8. Page N-12, Article 1, National Convention, Section 5, Official Rules of the National Convention, B.1., Credentials Committee, delete and insert as Convention Rule 10. If approved B.2. will then become B.

Rationale: Rule 20 provides for committees that are elected or appointed during the district caucus; the Credentials Committee is not one of them.

Number 9. Page N-9, Article I, National Convention, Section 5, Official Rules of the National Convention, insert new Rule 10. Rule 10 will then read:

"Rule 10. An appointed Credentials Committee shall determine the eligibility of all persons seated and voting in the National Convention and shall specifically notify the Convention and the delegates as to the number of votes to which each delegation shall be entitled.

"Verification by this Committee shall automatically entitle delegates to vote except on challenge supported by vote of already accredited delegates and persons entitled to vote."

If approved, Rule 10 through Rule 20 will be renumbered Rule 11 through Rule 21.

Break time. Oh, I'm just getting a break. Your ears are getting a break.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Gray stopped for a drink of water.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY:

Number 10. Page N-25, Article V, National Convention – National Committees and Chairmen, Section 6, National Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Paragraph 2, delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"All proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments shall be sent to the National Adjutant in triplicate, in printed or typewritten form, and signed by the sponsoring local Unit, State Department, National Executive Committee or National Interim Committee not later than ten days prior to National Convention.

"The National Interim Committee shall review all proposed amendments and advise the National Adjutant of their recommendation.

"In addition, the Committee shall review the National Bylaws, Standard State Department Bylaws, Standard Local Unit Bylaws, and Official Ritual and recommend proposed amendments to update said bylaws."

Rationale: Clarification and continuity of the ten – parenthesis 10 – day requirement as published in the Rules of the Convention.

Number 11. Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6, Membership Classifications, C., Members-at-Large, Paragraph 1, delete and substitute the following:

"National Members-at-Large: Provision is hereby made for membership-at-large. An annual membership card shall be issued upon receipt of a \$15 payment to National Headquarters. Life membership fees shall be as provided in Article VII, Section 6, B.

"At-large membership shall not count in any state or unit. At-large members shall not have a vote at National Convention or hold a National elected or appointed office or chairmanship or be certified as a VAVS Representative or Deputy."

Rationale: Clarification of National Members-at-Large.

Number 12, Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6, Membership Classification, C., Members-at-Large, Paragraph 2, delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"State Members-at-Large: Provision is hereby made for each State Auxiliary-at-Large using the State DAV Chapter-at-Large name and number.

"The amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each Auxiliary State Department. Life membership fees shall be as provided under Article VII, Section 6, Paragraph B.

"At-large membership shall be included in the State Department total; however, At-Large members shall not have a vote at a State Convention nor hold a State elected or appointed office or chairmanship or be recommended as a VAVS Representative or Deputy Representative."

Rationale: Clarification of State Members-at-large.

Number 13, Page S-7, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4, State Treasurer, Paragraph 5, delete Paragraph 5 and substitute the following:

"The State Treasurer shall give an itemized report of receipts and expenditures at each State Executive Committee meeting."

Rationale: Clarification when report of receipts and expenditures is to be given.

Number 14. Page S-7, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4, State Treasurer, add new Paragraph 6 which will read:

"The State Treasurer shall submit all records and a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990, as warranted by amount of income, to the State Audit Committee or submit all records to an Independent or Certified Public Accountant as warranted by income.

"When IRS Form 990-N e-Postcard is filed, a copy of the acknowledgement shall be provided to the State Adjutant."

Rationale: Clarification as to which officer is responsible for filing the e-Postcard.

Number 15. Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6, State Adjutant, Paragraph 3.b., delete b. and substitute the following b. which will then read:

"b. A copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990, as warranted by amount of income."

Rationale: To correct title of IRS information.

Number 16. Page S-10, Article VI, State Committees, delete "State Committees" and substitute "State Committees and Chairmen". Article VI will then read – this is just the title: "Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen."

Rationale: The title of Article VI will then agree with Page N-19, Article V.

Number 17. Page S-15, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 7, State Committee Chairman, delete "Chairman" and substitute "Chairmen". Section 7 will then read: "Section 7, State Committee Chairmen".

Rationale: To agree with Page N-24, Article V, Section 5.

Number 18. Page S-20, Article XI, Jewelry and Caps, Section 1, Paragraph 2, delete "must" and insert "shall". Also delete "Auxiliary National Headquarters" and insert "DAV National Service Foundation". Paragraph 2 will then read:

"All official jewelry shall be purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation."

Rationale: To correct the source when purchasing DAVA items.

Number 19. Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3, Adjutant, add new 12 which will read:

"12. Send a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard to State and National Headquarters."

Rationale: To include a duty of the Unit Adjutant.

Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, delete Paragraph 7 and substitute new paragraph which will then read:

"7. Submit all records and a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990, as warranted by amount of income, to the Audit Committee for annual audit."

Rationale: To clarify that all records are to be submitted for audit.

Number 21. Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, add new Paragraph 8 which will read:

"8. All other reviews and/or audits shall be conducted when requested by a majority vote of Unit members."

Rationale: To provide for other reviews and/or audits.

Number 22, Page U-16, Article XVII, Supplies, Section 1, delete the entire paragraph and substitute the following:

"Section 1. All emblems, badges, standards, membership applications, and all other supplies shall be ordered and/or purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation.

"All jewelry displaying the official emblem of our organization shall also be purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation."

Rationale: To correct the source when purchasing DAVA supplies or jewelry – and/or jewelry.

That completes the first reading. As we stated earlier, you will receive a copy and we will read them again. And we will caucus after the second reading, before discussion. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Gray withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you, Carol. You made me thirsty. (Laughter) We will now go into our Awards program. Monetary awards are given in each category of the respective programs to the first-place winning Units.

And the checks will be put in the mail by National Headquarters following the Convention, the close of the Convention, sometime following the close of the Convention. Okay?

At this time would LeeAnn Karg come forward for the Legislative Committee.

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn B. Karg advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LeeANN B. KARG: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: I am the Legislative Chairman and based on that I would like to call Aura Lee Nicodemus to come to the podium for the report.

(Whereupon, Convention Legislative Chairman Aura Lee Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN AURA LEE NICODEMUS: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the 90th National Auxiliary Convention, the National Legislative Convention met in the Pacific Ballroom at 13:24 on August 4th, 2012.

That was after an extensive search. It was our "treasure hunt" first to find our advisor. (Laughter) Our advisor was LeeAnn Karg. I was selected as chairman. And Linda Oliver was our secretary.

The following Units were judged to be best in the category of National Legislative Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Scott Vetterling Unit 33. (Applause)

Just a minute, I am looking for the other piece of paper here. Scott Vetterling is Number – is Greenfield, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN NICODEMUS: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Saint Mary's Unit 26, Maryland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN NICODEMUS: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John T. Hensley, Number 96, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN NICODEMUS: Group 4, Elkhart Number 19, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN NICODEMUS: And congratulations to everyone for every one of the reports were truly winners. We were very amazed at the very great effort on behalf of all of our Auxiliary and DAV members that everyone put into Legislation.

I'd like to just take a moment and mention all of those who participated. I was participating from District 3, Aura Lee Nicodemus; District 6, Shelly Cannady; District 7, Kristie Robbins;

District 8, Betty Carter; District 9, Donna Anderson; District 10, Pamela Post; District 11, Jeanette Scott; District 12, Evelyn Couture; District 15, Ellen Price; District 16, Delores Wingett;

District 17, Margaret Lucas; District 18, Lorna Kakesako; District 19, Velma Smith; District 20, Ursula Cunningham; and District 21, Lynda Oliver. (Applause)

The Committee did have – thank you to all of them. The Committee did make the following recommendations. Please write clearly. These are fill-able online. It's much easier for those people who fill them out online for them to be read.

Please use one bill per line. Several of them had several bills on one line which made it very difficult. Attach extra pages if needed.

Every Unit and State is strongly encouraged to submit the forms to allow the Units, even if the States do not, they can be submitted directly to National with a copy to your State. Many Units were very concerned that they had not been allowed to do that.

I thank you for the privilege to serve and, again, congratulations to everyone who – not only the winners but everyone was a winner. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Americanism Chairman Linda Stake, would you present your Committee Chairman.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander Stake advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Thank you, Commander. It was a really pleasure, a real pleasure working with Americanism this year. And when we met we chose the, or our Committee chose the chairman of Judith Uetterling. Judith, would you come forward, please. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Americanism Chairman Judith Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: And Judy will give all the stats.

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN JUDITH UETTERLING: Okay, we met yesterday when we finally found our room. There was a lot of confusion yesterday. The Committee, District 2 – since we were all such good friends we're doing first names –

District 2, Monique; District 3, Dina; District 5, Anna Lisa; District 6, Amy; District 7 – can't read her writing – what is that? District 7, stand up. (Laughter) Yes, all of you stand up that I've called your name so everyone can see you.

(Whereupon, the members stood as their names were called.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: District 8; and District 9, Geraldine; District 10, Carol; myself; District 12, Sandra; District 13, Mildred; District 14, Faye;

District 15, Connie; District 16, Josephine; and District 17, I can't read it; District 18, Robin; and District 19, Melanie; and District 20, Darlene. (Applause)

And the winners, Group 1, 10 to 50 members, is Harry Morrill Dickinson, Tennessee, Number 28. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: District 2, 51 to 100 members, Louis County Unit 51, Weston, West Virginia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: District 3, 101 to 200 members, Grandstand Unit 30, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: District 4, 201 members or over Francis J. Beaton, Unit 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: And the Special Americanism Awards: Group 1 – yes, Group 1, 10 to 200 members, Grandstand Unit 1, South Carolina, Unit 30. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: And Group 2, 201 members and over Francis J. Beaton, Unit 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: The recommendations that the group had was –

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Re-do the special one.

CONVENTION AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: The special awards Group 10 to 200 members, 30, South Carolina.

The recommendations were we would like to have a better explanation of the grading system on the special program. Should a unit get credit for a city-sponsored program? For example, the city is having a parade and the mayor came, does the Unit get credit for this?

And we were unclear if the special program would – award should be judged on the overall winners or every report submitted. Monique Hensley, secretary. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: And now we will have Community Service with Laurie Stopyra Chairman – well, National Chairman, advisor.

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander Laurie A. Stopyra advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER LAURIE A. STOPYRA: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STOPYRA: I have Community service and my chairman was Micki Kroft from Washington, if you would come up.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STOPYRA: Everyone that did a report this year, I read every one of them and it was wonderful.

All the commitment that everyone put in throughout the whole United States was great. And everybody, you have to give yourself a hand for that. (Applause) Is Micki Kroft here? Kraft?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She is not here.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STOPYRA: Okay. How about my secretary, Lisa Carstensen? She is going to step in as the chairman. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Community Service Secretary Lisa Carstensen advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STOPYRA: She will do good.

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE SECRETARY LISA CARSTENSEN: Good morning. They told me I wouldn't have to talk if I took notes. (Laughter) They lied. (Laughter) My name is Lisa Carstensen. I am from the State of Wisconsin.

We met yesterday at 1:05 in the Las Vegas Level in Room 5. I want to thank all the members that were there to help judge the reports. It was very difficult. All the Units did a lot of Community Service.

But the winners, for Group 1, 10 to 50 members, is Harry Morrill Unit 28 from Tennessee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE SECRETARY CARSTENSEN: Group 2, 51 to 100, Vancouver, Unit Number 4, in the State of Washington. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE SECRETARY CARSTENSEN: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Radcliff Unit 156 in Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE SECRETARY CARSTENSEN: And Group 4, 201 members or over, Frances Beaton Unit Number 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE SECRETARY CARSTENSEN: And then everyone who served on this Committee, could you please stand. I know. I will try to –

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

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE SECRETARY CARSTENSEN: And then the recommendations that we came up with is if you make a mistake, please use a small amount of White Out or start with a new form.

The forms should be – try to either use the computerized forms, type it, or print it in ink.

And the last one was make sure that your itemized figures on the reverse side match the front.

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STOPYRA: Thank you, everyone. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: And now our Membership Chairman/Advisor, whatever you are, Susan Miller. (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Susan Miller advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: This was my easiest year because there is not a committee. Judy tried to tell me that, yes, I had to pick up a folder and I had to figure it all out myself but I knew she wasn't telling me the truth. (Laughter)

But this was an amazing year for membership. We didn't make the 5.2 million yet, as Patti wanted to make, but National did make quota for the first time in I don't know how many years so it's great. (Applause)

The Membership Awards are Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Wise Number 56, Virginia, with a 25 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: So by next year they will be up to the next category after another 25.

(Whereupon, a cell phone rang.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Cell phone. Where is it at? Fess up. It's five bucks – oh, 25 at National? Oh, you're really getting some money, aren't you, Marilyn. It wasn't your phone. (Laughter)

Group Number 2, 51 to 100, Northern Hills Number 115, Ohio, a 33 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: And now we're getting down to some big numbers. We will meet that 5.2 here soon. Group Number 3, 101 to 200, Smart and Ricker Number 10, Maine, a 105 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Group Number 4 – they're lucky there is not a membership category because they, phew – Emilien Hamann Number 11, Maine, 316 member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: I don't know what Maine is doing but we all need to figure that out so if you see somebody from Maine, ask them what they're doing.

Group Number 5, new Unit with the most new members goes to Barren County Number 52 in Wisconsin with 20 new Senior members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Group Number 6, Department with the largest percentage increase over quota, State Department of Maine with a 210.76 percent increase over quota. (Applause) That's just amazing.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Wait until you hear this number. Department with the largest numerical increase over quota, State Department of Maine with a 710 membership increase over quota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Department of Maine came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: And now this is the woman to talk to, the top membership recruiter, Ellen Drogo, Maine, Number 29 – oh, Massachusetts, excuse me – I'm reading the wrong – Massachusetts, 138 new members. (Applause) So speak to her or Maine because they got a lot as a group.

(Whereupon, Ellen Drogo came forward to accept her award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: And now this year just because so many Departments made quota and we went way over and made National quota I made an individual certificate for each Department that made quota, just from me.

(Whereupon, as the Department names were called out a representative of each Department advanced to accept the certificate.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: To Department of Puerto Rico (Applause) I'm going backwards. Department of Washington; (Applause) Department of Virginia; (Applause)

Department of Vermont; (Applause) Department of Texas; (Applause) Department of South Carolina; (Applause) Stay in order so she doesn't have to – Department of Rhode Island. (Applause) Department of Pennsylvania – (Applause) Did I call Department of Oregon? Department of Oregon; (Applause) Department of Oklahoma; (Applause) Department of North Carolina; (Applause)

Department of New Mexico; (Applause) Department of New Hampshire; (Applause) Department of Nevada; (Applause) Department of Nebraska; (Applause) Department of Missouri; (Applause)

Department of Michigan; (Applause) Department of Massachusetts; (Applause) Department of Maryland; (Applause) Department of Maine – (Applause) I'll slow down until she catches up. Just stay in line so she doesn't –

Department of Louisiana; (Applause) Department of Kentucky; (Applause) Department of Kansas; (Applause) Department of Iowa; (Applause) Department of Indiana; (Applause)

Department of Idaho; (Applause) Department of Georgia; (Applause) Department of Florida; (Applause) Department of Delaware; (Applause) Department of Colorado; (Applause)

Department of Arkansas; (Applause) Department of Arizona; (Applause) and Department of Alabama. (Applause) Thank you to all of you who recruited new members. It was great. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Susan, thank you for those individual certificates. I think every state who won, who got quota is very happy to have a certificate. Thank you. (Applause)

Okay, I have to say it one more time. Susan Miller was the Membership, Membership, Membership Chairman. (Applause) We will now have the Hospital Awards, Patty Hicks.

(Whereupon, National Hospital Committee Chairman Patricia A. Hicks advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PATRICIA A. HICKS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HICKS: I am very pleased and delighted to have served as National Hospital Chairman this year for our Commander. And I have to say I was very impressed with all the work that you do as, under our Hospital non-VA.

The reports were very good overall. And yesterday we had a great team looking at your reports. Our advisor, Linda Bailey, will tell you about them.

(Whereupon, Convention Hospital Committee Secretary Linda Bailey advanced to the microphone.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY LINDA BAILEY: Let's see if I can be graceful and not fall. National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, guests of this 90th National Auxiliary Convention, the National Hospital Convention Committee met in the Skyview, 26th floor, one p.m., August the 4th. Our advisor was Pat Hicks and I am the secretary.

The Units were judged in the best of the categories for National Hospital Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50, is John Blake, Vermont 15. Stand. (Applause) (Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY BAILEY: Group 2 was 51 to 100 members, William J. Bonney Memorial 72, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY BAILEY: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John T. Hensley, 96, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY BAILEY: Group 4, 201 members and over, Francis J. Beaton 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY BAILEY: The Committee submitted the following recommendations. Please write clearly on your applications. It's actually better if you do it online where that we can read everything that is submitted in.

Make sure when you have to itemize you turn it over and itemize on the back. Then if you have a blank where it says the amount of Senior members we can't put it in any kind of category so it can't be judged.

And can I have the following Districts to stand – let me get this other because I can see it better. (Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY BAILEY: Sandra Fincel, Massachusetts 40; Josephine Menard, New York 88; Roberta Bugbee, Vermont Number 3; Joan Loeser, Florida Unit 11; myself;

Pat Hicks was from Alabama; Alycia Hill from North Carolina Unit 1; Sandi Mudgett, Michigan 14; Karla Schwartz, Indiana 19; Lauri Grantier, Montana 3 – did I really butcher that one; Ardith Dillard, Kansas 4; Doris – I'll say from California, Unit 11; Victoria Salazar, New Mexico Unit 1; Ellen (sic) Moreland, Texas 17; and Estelle Davis, Unit 1, Arkansas. I'd like to thank the members. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN HICKS: Thank you, Linda and thank you to all of you who served on the Committee yesterday. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: This is just so exciting. Our Junior Activities National Chairman Ann Glende. I think I got that right. I didn't have to stutter over what she was.

(Whereupon, National Junior Activities Chairman Ann M. Glende advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ANN M. GLENDE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN GLENDE: How are we doing?

(Response of "Great" and "Good.")

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN GLENDE: Amber.

(Whereupon, Convention Junior Activities Chairman Amber Linton advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN GLENDE: While Amber is coming up I was not in my Committee meeting yesterday so I would like to thank Kim Stake (Applause) wherever she is.

I was actually in the DAV meeting. My mom won the George H. Seal Award so I was there instead. (Applause) So Amber is our chairman. She is going to read stuff and then I have a couple of things to say when she is done.

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN AMBER LINTON: Hi.

(Response of "Hi.")

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the 90th National Auxiliary Convention, my name is Amber Linton and I am from District 18.

Before I go into the awards and all the other information I would like to introduce all of my Committee members. As I call your name can you please stand up so everybody can see you?

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: From District 2, Patricia (sic) Levine; and if I butcher your last name, please forgive me; from District 3, Emily Van Alst – are none of you guys here? What is this?

District 6, Ana Pagan-Delgado; District 7, Betty Hess; District 8, Cynthia Dodge; yea, we got one. (Laughter) District 9, Felicia Wells – Walls, I'm sorry. There you are.

District 10, Vada Kraai – did I get that right? District 11, Sherry Bilinovich – Bilinovich; I killed that one, didn't I? District 12, Carla Reynolds; District 13, Dewanna Rogers; District 15, Robin Ballhagen; District 16, Susan Linder; District 17, Geniva Wenthold; District 19, Heather Havens

which is also my secretary and I thank her for everything that she did for me yesterday; and District 20, Charlene Parker. I want to thank all of you guys for yesterday. (Applause) They did fabulous.

The National Junior Activities Convention Committee met in Las Vegas Room 7 at one p.m. on August 4th, 2012. I can't remember the date. Our advisor was Kim Stake and our secretary was Heather Havens.

Now on to our awards, Group 1, 10 through 25 members, was awarded to Harry Morrill Unit 28 (sic) from Tennessee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: Group 2, 26 through 50 members, was Pikeville Unit 134 from Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: Group 3, 51 through 100 members, was awarded to Titusville Unit 109 from Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: Unit 4 was – 101 and over, was Genesee Unit 3 from Michigan. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: Our Junior Activities Book, we had two. Our winner was Cradock Unit 41 from Portsmouth, Virginia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: Our National Awards Junior winner for 15 through 17, Todrick D. McPhill from Maryland. He was our winner. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: Our winner for our National Junior Award for 11 through 14 was Brandon Kingsley from Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: The National Junior Award for Ages 7 through 10 was Carly Aherst from Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN LINTON: The Committee submitted the following recommendations. More detailed instructions for filling out the forms, more specific information while filling out the sections and form changes.

We had some issues when trying to figure out what they meant by hours. We had a lot of – we had a high number of hours for certain sections but they didn't put detailed information for how they got that number of hours.

We want to thank all of our Juniors for all their hard work that they did over the last year. They are very helpful to this organization. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GLENDE: If you all can look in the back of the room at the number of Junior stars we have here, it is absolutely amazing, (Applause) and back here also. They're all over.

It is absolutely amazing the things they do. Being a Junior once myself it is amazing to be up here in this capacity and I hope some day they all are also.

As a reminder, we have the pizza party today from one to three in Palace Room 5 which is Headquarters office. At three o'clock they are going to be done so if parents, guardians, family members, can be available for them so they are not just wandering. (Laughter) I don't want to lose anyone so. (Laughter) And then also if Patti can come up we have something special for Patti.

(Whereupon, Commander Rapisand joined National Junior Activities Committee Chairman Glende at the podium.)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GLENDE: Patti was our star leader this year so on behalf of the Junior members we would like to present you with a star keychain.

(Whereupon, Commander Rapisand was presented with a gift by Chairman Glende.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, it is beautiful. Thank you so much. It's a keychain and it – it's a keychain with stars, of course. And it says, "DAVA Juniors 2011-2012." Thank you so much. (Applause) I will treasure this. Thank you.

Okay, we're not taking a break. We're going to just stand up for a minute and stretch, just for a minute. You don't have to but if you want to.

(Whereupon, the members stood and stretched.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Look at you. Okay, sit down. You've had enough time. Here we go. It's time to start some more awards. This is exciting. All of you have just been so hard at work.

Oh, my gosh. Okay, here we go. Our Mae Holmes National Commander Donna Adams – let me make this clear. I'm the National Commander and she is the Senior Vice. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Adams advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DONNA M. ADAMS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Is everybody all stretched out. (Cheers) The Mae Holmes Committee met yesterday someplace over there.

And we elected as the chairman of that Committee Ellen Timmerman from the great State of New Mexico. (Applause) Ellen, would you please come up for the report.

(Whereupon, Convention Mae Holmes Committee Chairman Ellen Timmerman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ELLEN TIMMERMAN: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: We met in the Skyview Office. She didn't know where she was. It took her a while to get there so.

National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 90th National Auxiliary Convention, the National Mae Holmes Convention Committee met in the Skyview Office at one p.m. 8-4-2012.

Our advisor was Donna Adams and I, Ellen Timmerman, was elected as the chairman. This – I would like to first call on our Committee and I'd like to do the same thing and just do the first names because I hate to butcher anybody's name. District 1 was Nancy – would you please stand as I call your name.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: District 2 was Diane; District 3 was Wanda; District 6 was Ellen; District 7 was Delphia; District 8 was Sandy;

District 9 was Cheryl; District 10 was Donna; District 11 was Eloise; District 12 was Bernice; District 13 was Ivolene; District 14 was Patricia; District 15 was Velma;

District 16 was Alma; District 17 was myself; District 18 was Rosemary; District 19 was Crystal; and District 20 was Belinda. Thank you everybody. (Applause)

I've got to tell you, these reports are getting harder and harder to judge. You guys are doing an outstanding job. And when they come in, it's amazing. We get to see all of the numbers of everything you've done so I want to let you know.

And you guys – you guys deserve an applaud for yourself. Please do so. (Applause) Okay, here are the awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Frank L. Bradford Unit 18, Guntersville, Alabama. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Hutchinson Area Unit 37, Hutchinson, Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Harold Fay Tomlin Unit 6, Los Animas, Colorado. (Applause) We knew that was coming. (Applause) Where is the whistle?

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Group Number 4, 201 members and over, Francis T. (sic) Beaton Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: Okay, we only had two suggestions and this really was only on a couple of the reports because they were outstanding. It says be sure to itemize if the value is over \$1,000 and be sure to sign your reports. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: State History Book Chairman Joyce Humes.

(Whereupon, National State Department History Book Committee Chairman Joyce Humes advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOYCE HUMES: Good afternoon or good morning. I guess I should say good morning first and then afternoon. (Laughter) Would our chairman Ginger Bish please come forward.

(Whereupon, Convention State Department History Book Committee Secretary Ginger L. Bish advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HUMES: It was a pleasure working with these ladies yesterday. They had lots of questions and they looked over the books very, very, very thoroughly. And I will let her tell you the rest.

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE SECRETARY GINGER L. BISH: Good morning or good afternoon, as the case may be. I'm not really sure.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE SECRETARY BISH: Well, that's wonderful. That's good news.

National Commander Patti Rapisand, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests, the National State Department History Book Convention Committee met in the Skyview 4 at one p.m. on 4 August 2012. Our advisor was the lovely Joyce Humes.

Ginger L. Bish was the secretary and the following State Department was selected to receive the National State Department History Book Award: the State Department of Alabama. (Applause) (Whereupon, a representative advanced to accept the award.)

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE SECRETARY BISH: The State History Book Chairman for Alabama is Nancy Brennan. (Applause) I had a wonderful time working with these ladies and now I would like to recognize those who participated.

Camilla Cook from District 3; Carol Simmons from District 6; Greta Kalk from District 8; and I represented District 9; Loraine Connelly from District 10; Anita Marcum from District 11;

Patricia Dempsey from District 12; she volunteered me for what I had to do (Laughter) but I think what goes around comes around; there will be some point in the future. (Laughter)

Amanda Roberts from District 13; Karen Bolton from District 14; Debra or D.J. Sarber from District 15; Josephine Majorana from District 16; Mary Alderete from District 17; Debra Parker from District 18; Vicki Partridge from District 19; Kathleen Critz from District 20; and Julia Rollerson from District 7. Thank you, ladies, for your work yesterday. (Applause)

The Committee submitted the following recommendation. We would like more distinct directions for utilizing the point adjudication in the criteria for the judging committee.

We had difficulty in determining how many points should be deducted if there was missing information or to how sufficiently to judge that with the point system. And we need more specific direction on that. Other than that, thank you very much. (Applause)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HUMES: Thank you, Ginger for your help. Thank all the ladies for their help. And I thoroughly enjoyed this whole year. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Fran Costa, VAVS Chairman.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She had to leave early.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: She is gone?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, no. Oh, Ellen, thank you. Ellen Drogo, the Deputy VAVS.

(Whereupon, VAVS Deputy Representative Ellen Drogo advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL VAVS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE ELLEN DROGO: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL VAVS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE DROGO: I am sorry to say but Fran, the VAVS Representative had, has had a personal health problem and her husband was taken to the hospital this morning. I'd like Mary Dyer to come up, please, the chairman.

(Whereupon, Convention VAVS Committee Chairman Mary Dyer advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL VAVS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE DROGO: Mary. Oh, you snuck up.

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARY DYER: My name is Mary K. Dyer. I was elected chairman of our, to run the meeting of our Committee.

National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the Auxiliary 90th Convention, the VAVS meeting met in Las Vegas Number 3 at 1:05 p.m. We took a roll call. We had 17 representatives.

Number 1, Ellen Drogo who served as secretary; Number 2 – oh, please, ladies, stand – Matilda Brooks;

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARY DYER: District 3, Donna Folcarelli – if I do that properly; Number 4, Lelia White; Number 6, Jean Lawson; Number 7, Edith Jackman; Number 8 was myself, Mary K. Dyer;

Number 9 is Pearl Lee; Number 11, Judy Davis; Number 12, Jane Stoel; Number 15, Bonita Mitchell; Number 16, Julie Steinberg; Number 17, Ramona Ganong; Number 18, Diane Stone; Number 19, Florence Riley; and Number 20, Margaret Noonan. (Applause)

Okay. Thank you. And now we go to the reports for – here we go. The winning reports were in Category 1, 10 through 50, was Unit Number 3 from Fayetteville, Arkansas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DYER: In Category 2, 51 through 100, was Jackson County Number 69, Illinois. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DYER: In Category 3, 101 through 200, E.A. – oh, I can't read the writing – Livonia. It is Number 40, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DYER: And, for Category 4, 201 and over it was Jacksonville Number 1, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DYER: We did have suggestions. Again, they were to urge Units to be cautious when filling out reports and the itemization on back.

One Unit was disqualified because no number of Senior members listed; therefore, we could not place it properly in a category.

If the Unit – excuse me – if the Unit volunteers in more than one VA medical center, the names all should be combined on one report. Totals for both facilities should be broken down on the back of the forms and not two separate forms for the same Unit.

It was difficult to understand why some states submitted reports that were blank as winners from their states.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans and their families. And remember that – well, now, again, my glasses are failing me.

Oh, nursing home hours and donations can be placed on VAVS reports only if they have a Memo of Understanding with the VA.

So, in other words, your State Nursing Homes if they are VA-approved and affiliated, those hours can go on the VAVS report rather than the non-VA hospital. So that pretty much concludes the, our reports for this year. Thank you so much.

And I thank the lady that was our National Committee Chairwoman who couldn't be here today because she – Fran Costa gave me a lot of good guidance to do this for the first time so thank you. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: We had one person that was absent during the Membership Award and this is the lady you talk to. If you don't talk to Maine, talk to Ellen Drogo, our top recruiter and get ideas. (Applause) Get a good look.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Are there any more awards to be given? Hearing none, I'm going to let Judy talk for a few minutes.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Does everyone in here have a door prize ticket?

(Response of "No.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Sergeant-at-Arms, Ruth – Ruth, many of them do not have a door prize ticket. Could you see that they receive them?

(Whereupon, door prize tickets began to be handed out to those not receiving one earlier.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And, let me tell you, you will use the same door prize ticket this afternoon. You will not be receiving new tickets so if you don't win this morning hold on to it because it will be the same ticket this afternoon.

While they are passing those out I would just like to thank all those who served on the Committees for judging the awards. It just – I know, also, I'd like to apologize for some of the room mix-up.

A few of them were our mistake but many of them – and the hotel came to me and apologized, especially for the Nominating Committee. There was no table, no chairs, nothing in there when they went in for their meeting.

We provide them with a sheet that shows how each room is to be set up and there was just a glitch in their system, also.

But I do apologize to those of you who were inconvenienced. And, like good Auxiliary members, you rolled with the punches and I thank you for that very much. (Applause) That's how we learn.

And this afternoon we will start our afternoon session at two o'clock. When the Bylaws are read you will have copies to follow along with. We will caucus after they are read, before they are voted on. How did all you miss these tickets?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Just the way they entered.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The way they entered.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Yes.

MRS. ELOISE KRUPP: I'm Eloise Krupp from Unit 36, Ohio. And I'd like to know why nobody salutes the flag when they go up there. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Flag protocol says that you do not have to salute the flag but one time. And so when the flag is brought in we all salute the flag and that's – you only need to salute the flag one time.

Now, if you feel like you want to salute it, you go ahead and salute it. That's fine. But protocol is that you only have to salute it one time.

Okay, at this time I'm going to recess the first business session. We will meet promptly at two o'clock this afternoon. We are going to start on time so please be in your seats by, oh, a few minutes before two.

And then we will have the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws. Door prizes will be coming up right now.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:36 o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, August 5, 2012.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
90th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada
August 5, 2012
Second Business Session

- - -

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Bronze 4, Casino Level, of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday afternoon, August 5, 2012, and was called to order at 2:05 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Patrice Rapisand.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Let's come to order, please. Everybody sitting down? No? Come on, hurry up. Hurry up. Hurry up. It's two o'clock. Move it. Move it. Move it. (Laughter)

Okay, here we go. Would the Credentials Chairman please come forward to give an updated report on the Credentials Committee, Iris?

(Whereupon, Commander Rapisand was informed that Mrs. Brzezinski was not available at this time.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay, can we go on to something else? You will have to wait five minutes for that so at this time Susan Henry, Past National Commander and Chairman of the Educational Scholarship Fund, could you please come forward.

(Whereupon, National Education Scholarship Fund Chairman and Past National Commander Susan M. Henry advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN M. HENRY: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: As most of you know, the Educational Loan Fund was changed –

(Whereupon, a delegate called out "We can't hear you.")

NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Is this better?

(Response of "Yes.")

NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Okay. As most of you know, the Educational Loan Fund was changed in 2010 to a scholarship program.

At the time of the change there was approximately \$600,000 in the fund and about 20 to 30 students per year using the fund.

The fund was basically self-sustaining at that point because within seven years after the people graduated or stopped going to school they had to pay back their loan. We changed it to a scholarship. It is no longer a self-sustaining fund.

When we changed it to a scholarship the number of applications went from being about 20 to 30, something like that, varying each year, to last year was 58. And of those we actually granted all of them, ended up spending about \$73,000 I think it was.

And this year the number of applications went up again. There were 79 applications this year; 66 of them met the minimum requirements and went to the Committee for selection.

In order to keep this fund going more than eight years we were looking to reduce the amount of monies we expended and so we granted a total of 40. We granted three different amounts and that is up to the Scholarship Committee to have that right to do that.

We granted four at the part-time level and we granted ten at \$1,000 rather than the maximum \$1,500 which is allowed. And we granted 26 at the \$1,500 level. And that's approximately \$52,000.

Even cutting that down to \$52,000 a year we're still looking to this fund to be extinct in approximately ten years, eight-to-ten years if we don't start getting some donations.

Basically last year the fund brought in \$1,400 in direct donations. That's not even one scholarship. So we're going to need to do a little bit better on bringing in donations if we want to continue to have the scholarship for more than the next few years.

So that's basically what I wanted to remind you of. We did have 26 applicants who did not receive the scholarship. Let me tell you a little bit about the scholarship.

Again, it's, the amount is up to \$1,500 per year. You are eligible for it even if you have received the Education Loan Fund. This changed. It changed to a scholarship so if you, even if you had previously received the loan you are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

You must be a Life member, same as with the scholarship program. Eligibility increased from four years to five years. The GPA went up. And we also added "unique" students who are students who may not meet full-time requirements due to disabilities or other issues and so they are also eligible.

And criteria, judging criteria was put in place. There are three parts to the judging criteria that have been used in the past two years.

And approximately a third of the points goes to volunteer activities and participating with the DAV Auxiliary and doing volunteer and/or doing volunteer with veterans.

And that's approximately a third of the scoring. And so a lot of people who had really great GPAs didn't meet our top cutoff because even though they are members they don't participate so that has been an issue.

The second point or the second third is your other volunteer activities and participation in clubs and outside extra curricular activities. And then the third portion is need.

We had some questions and issues. When this changed to a scholarship, again, we can no longer necessarily afford to grant every scholarship and we are using a ranking criteria.

So, please, if you are using this as a membership benefit, make sure they understand that this is a possibility and not guaranteed. We did have some questions and issues related to that.

The second thing is make sure they understand that just because they sign up they still need, we still need them to participate and that's a large portion of the point system at the moment.

The other thing is the committee actually chooses what questions are on the application and so they may change and the point system may change.

Hopefully we will do a better job of presenting what the criteria will be with each year if we change those so that there are no questions and people don't get upset because, "Hey, I paid my \$250 Life member and I didn't get \$1,500 back immediately."

So we just want to make sure people don't get upset because they think this is a guarantee. It is not guaranteed. It is a scholarship application.

Actually, I think that's really it. I have imposed upon you that donations are necessary to keep this fund going because we really don't want this fund – the Ed Loan Fund was in existence about 15 – yes, since the '30s.

And we would hate for this fund to suddenly dry up and die within ten years of changing it to a scholarship so any donations? Actually, if you have any donations for any of the programs Commander Patti will be happy to start accepting them now.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Don't be shy. And I do want to tell you that Dolly Mercer from Golden Corral will be here tomorrow to talk about DAVA for Kids, Camp Corral.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam Commander, on behalf of the Department of Vermont I have a donation for the National Service Support Fund and a donation for the Education Loan Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the State of Arkansas, Camp Corral. National Service Support Fund, State of Arkansas \$200.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: National Education Scholarship Fund from the State of Arkansas. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you very, very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the State of Pennsylvania we have a National DAV for Kids for Camps for \$125. I, as Commander of Pennsylvania, decided to donate \$50 more.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: A hundred dollars for the Winter Sports, \$100 for National Service Fund and \$100 for National Education Fund.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Ohio has a check for \$300 for the Service Support Fund; Scholarship Fund we give \$275. Our Juniors collected \$1,100 that we turned in for the Kids for Camp. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the State Department of Missouri there is \$100 for the Education Scholarship Fund; \$100 for the Winter Sports Clinic and \$100 for the Service Support Program. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: This is Unit 2, Kansas City, Missouri, \$100 for the Educational Fund.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MRS. VICTORIA SALAZAR: Hi. Victoria Salazar, Department of New Mexico, \$476 for Camp Corral. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you.

MRS. SALAZAR: You're welcome.

MRS. CHERYL FAGLIER: Cheryl Faglier, Commander of the Department of Georgia, National Education Scholarship, \$100; Hospitalized Veterans Riding Program, \$100; National Department Service Fund, \$100; and the National Fall Conference gifts, \$50.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Appreciate it very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: State Department of Iowa, \$50 Veterans Riding Project; Freedom Foundation, \$25; Scholarship, \$25; Auxiliary Service Project, \$50; and my Commander's project, \$310 for the Education Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Department of Massachusetts, \$167 for the National Service Fund and \$100 for the National Education Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The Department of Illinois has donated \$200 for DAV for Kids, \$200 for the Scholarship Fund and \$200 for the Service Support Fund. Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: (Undistinguishable) Puerto Rico, (undistinguishable, spoken in Spanish.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. (Applause) She's giving, the State of Puerto Rico has given \$100 for the Educational Loan or Education Scholarship. (Applause)

MRS. ELLEN GRIGGS: Patti, I'm Ellen Griggs from the little State of West Virginia and my small Unit, about 61 members, I'm donating that in my name and for my Wood County 32 Unit, \$100 for the Scholarship Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, thank you. That's very generous. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: State of Florida Department DAVA is donating \$1,000 to the Service Support Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, thank you. Thank you.

MRS. DEWANNA ROGERS: Dewanna Rogers, Department of Kentucky, National Scholarship Fund and also National Service Fund.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you so much.

MRS. ROGERS: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From Nebraska I have several checks. These are all for Camp Corral. From the Department of Nebraska a check for \$89.60; for Pawnee Unit 20, Columbus, Nebraska, a check for \$79.52; from Samuel L. Kellogg Unit 35, Nebraska City, a check for \$27.18; from Unit 14, Kearney, Nebraska, a check for \$100; and from Unit 9, Hastings, Nebraska, a check for \$150.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. (Applause) Thank you.

NATIONAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: You called on me before I was ready with my, the rest of my program. I was going to start it off with a personal donation as a former recipient of the loan fund of \$100.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Oh, thank you. That's a good thing. (Applause) Thank you.

MRS. THERESA GRABOWSKI: Terri Grabowski, State of New York, I have \$150 for the National Service Support and \$150 for the Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MRS. VELMA SMITH: Velma Smith, State of Idaho, we have \$100 for the Educational program and \$100 for the Service Support program.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. TREVON FOREMAN: Trevon Foreman from the Juniors (undistinguishable) in the State of Virginia, Education Scholarship Fund, \$25; Kids for Kids, \$50; and National Service Support Fund, \$25. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you so much. Before you leave, I need to hear a huge applause for this young man who sang the National Anthem. (Applause) Thank you so much.

MRS. RAMONA GANONG: Ramona Ganong, Unit 38, New Mexico, a personal check of \$50 for the Education Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. JOYCE HUMES: Joyce Humes from San Antonio, Texas, (undistinguishable) 14, a check for \$100 to the Loan Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Thank you all for your generosity. You know that these are all wonderful programs and they will go towards helping our DAVA members. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

Donna has told me that you will also have the opportunity to make donations at the Fall Conference but I want to tell you, you can make donations any time you want, any day, any day of the year, 44 cent stamp. Is it 44?

(Response of "45.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Forty-five. Forty-five cents. Oh, my gosh. (Laughter) Okay, Sandy Dobmeier is the chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. Would you come forward, please?

And I want to tell you all I'm kind of a hug-y, kiss-y kind of a person and if you don't want me to hug you, just let me know. But I hug everybody. (Laughter) I just can't help myself. It's like a little kid who wants to bite you. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Strategic Planning Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Sandra Dobmeier advanced to the podium.)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
SANDRA DOBMEIER: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL
COMMANDER DOBMEIER: First of all I'd like to thank all of you for approving to create a
strategic plan for our organization so we could help move this organization forward for the
future.

Also, thank you so much for all of your ideas and suggestions that were given and continue to
be given so that the plan has, that we had things to work with for the plan and we have more ideas
for the future as well.

You've been receiving updates. This has been a long process, as all of you are familiar with.
But you've been receiving updates throughout the whole strategic planning process.

And you should all have the brochure like this that you were given when you walked in. It's
taken a lot of work to complete this and I'll tell you a little bit about it as well.

The Strategic Planning Committee is made up of a core committee that was appointed by
the National Commander. We also have had three subcommittees that have worked the entire
process as well; and those committees were membership, standard operating and policies and
communications and technology.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the core committee members and all of the
subcommittee members who have helped serve on this Committee throughout the years so that we
could get it accomplished.

They have all given endless time and hours of their own to help create this plan and to work to
achieve the goals that have been set each year for the plan.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Judy Hezlep and Pat Kemper for all of their work, the
great deal of work that they put into this, helping with the committees, so committee meetings and
stuff were ready and information for them as well as all of their work and input for the planning,
itself, as well. And it was very much appreciated.

Also, we owe a big thanks to the DAV for all of their support and their guidance and their help
as we work through this plan to achieve the goal. And they helped all the way through the whole
process with us.

You've all received a copy of this brochure so I'm not going to read it all to you. You've received
the latest update that I wrote for my report in your packets as what went on this past year so I will
not go through all that.

But this is a tool for all of you to use in your States and your Units and it includes our mission,
goals, strategic plans for that and everything for our organization to help us move forward.

And it is going to be sent out as well as it will be posted online in the near future here because
we weren't doing any until after this meeting when everybody had received it.

So it has good information in there for you. Use it when you need to explain to people what our
organization is about, what we're doing, what we're trying to do, what we want to accomplish. It's
all right here for you in a brochure that can help you explain those things to them.

There is a major plan that is much, much thicker than this brochure that is at Headquarters and
it will continue to be used.

Although you have gotten this brochure and the Strategic Planning Committee has now been
dismissed, please remember the Strategic Plan is a living document. It is not – it is not something
that has been put away forever now.

It is an ongoing document that will continue to be used. And so please continue to send in
suggestions and ideas to National so that there will always be more information that is already
gathered when it comes to renew the plan again.

The document does get reviewed again in the future and new committees and stuff will be appointed at that time to review the goals and the strategies to make sure that we're still on course and what changes and adjustments need to be used so that we can continue to keep growing and moving forward into the future.

So with that I will close and thank you all very much for your support through this whole process and all the people, especially, that worked on it and gave endless time and hours to get this done. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. I just want to tell you that Sandy stayed the course on the Committee as the chairman for three years but we are very proud of this document.

Don't put it in a drawer and forget about it. Keep it out. Show it to everyone because this is our organization. These are our goals and these are the things we are meant to do. Okay? Promise?

(Response of "Promise.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: At this time we will have the districts caucus for ten minutes before the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaw changes. Go.

(Whereupon, the delegation broke into Districts to caucus on the proposed Constitution and Bylaw changes.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Take your seats. Okay? Everybody ready? You're arguing? Okay, let's wrap it up. Thank you all for taking this very seriously. I do appreciate it. Also, we have been told that there is a lot of chatter going on amongst everybody.

If you would please be courteous and not do that so that members can hear what is going on. If you don't want to listen, you can go out into the hallway and chat. Would you do that? Do you mind? (Applause)

Would the Credentials Committeewoman Iris Brzezinski – now, I'll never say it again – please come up to give the Credentials report.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Iris Brzezinski advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRZEZINSKI: Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, the Credentials report is as follows: total Units registered, 181; total Departments registered, 44; National Officers registered, 5; Past National Commanders, 10; total delegates, 388; total alternates, 30; total vote count 1,241. Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made. Is there a second?

MRS. SUSAN LINDER: Susan Linder, California, Unit 157, I second that motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried. Thank you, Iris.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Brzezinski withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: At this time we will have the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws, Committee Chairman Carol Gray.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Gray advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Here is Carol.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: If you want to, you can take out your – I know everybody received a Bylaw book in your registration packet so if you'd like to get it out you can follow along and read up on it as well.

I will go slow to give you plenty of time. Not only that, it will allow me time to turn to the page where, we are on.

Page N-6 – the first one, Page N-6, Article 1, National Convention, Section 4, Delegates, Paragraph 4, Lines 3 and 4, delete "has received the Membership Initiation". Paragraph 4 will then read:

"A delegate to a National Convention shall not be allowed to vote until properly registered, dues paid for the Convention year, and is not indebted to the Organization.

"A member shall not cast a vote in the National Convention in more than one representative capacity or be registered as a delegate from more than one Unit."
I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Unit 11, Maine, I second it.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor; opposed. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The second item is on Page N-26, Article VII, Membership. Section 1, Definitions A, Lines 3 and 4, delete "has received the Membership Initiation". A will then read:

"A member in good standing is one whose dues are paid for the current membership year and is not indebted to the Organization."

Rationale: To correct the definition of a member in good standing. I move the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Judy Steinhouse, Past National Commander, North Dakota Auxiliary Number 24, I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor say aye; opposed, nay. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The third one. Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1, Definitions E, delete the entire paragraph. Rationale: To eliminate information that is no longer relevant. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MRS. LESLIE SANDOWAL: Leslie Sandowal, Saint Isabelle Chapter 2, Pueblo, Colorado.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: You second?

MRS. SANDOWAL: I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The fourth amendment. Page N-30, Article VII, Membership, Section 6, Membership Classification, D, Junior Membership, Paragraph 5, delete Paragraph 5 and substitute the following:

"Juniors shall not hold dual memberships. Junior members are eligible for Senior membership at the beginning of the membership year in which their 18th birthday falls and shall have all the privileges as a Senior member upon payment of Senior dues."

Rationale: To provide corrected information regarding Junior membership. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

MRS. MARGARET SNELLING: Margaret Snelling, Unit 9, North Carolina, I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The fifth one is on Page S-2, Article II, State Convention, Section 3,

Delegates, Paragraph 3, Lines 3 and 4, delete "received the Membership Initiation". Paragraph 3 will then read:

"A delegate to a State Convention shall not be allowed to vote until properly registered, dues paid for the Convention year, and not indebted to the Organization."

Rationale: To eliminate a procedure that is not relevant when delegates register at State Convention. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. ANNELIESE RAUBER: Anneliese Rauber, Unit 38, District 17, accept.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: You second the motion?

MS. RAUBER: Second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; those opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Item Number 6 is at the top of Page 2. Page U-3, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 3, delete Paragraph 3. Rationale: To eliminate information that is covered under General Instructions and Order of Business for Unit meetings. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Unit 11, Maine, I second.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Number 7 is on Page U-18, General Instructions for Regular Unit Meetings, Paragraph 3, 4 and 5, delete all paragraphs and substitute the following:

"The Membership Initiation Ceremony shall be given to Auxiliary members within their respective Units.

"The Ceremony is to be conducted at any regular or special meeting by a Unit, State or National Auxiliary Commander or any Auxiliary Past Commander. Parenthesis – In the absence of the commander, the presiding officer may conduct the ceremony – end parenthesis."

Rationale: To provide instructions that agree with U-3, Article VI, Section 3. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. GRACE JAMES: Grace James, Virginia, I second.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Could you state your name again, please.

MS. JAMES: Grace James, Virginia.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay. Is there any discussion?

MS. JAMIE PARNELL: Jamie Parnell, Unit 88, Department of Oklahoma, District 21. District 21 caucus feels that if it's going to be taken out at the National level and the State level, then we shouldn't be made to do it at the Unit level and the "shall" indicates that it should.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Okay, what is taken out at the National and State level is at a National Convention or your State Convention only.

Members are not, do not receive the membership initiation there, never have. So that is – this is, it's still in the general instructions that a Unit may do it.

And that's where they shall do it in the line up but it is never done at a State or National Convention. And there is no way to track all of the people that are here or at a State Convention as to whether how many ever years ago they've been a member that they ever did receive it.

MS. PARNELL: Correct.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: And it has never been an issue at a State Convention or a National Convention. The only place it was ever relevant was in a Unit meeting.

MS. PARNELL: And I understand that and, but now we're changing that "a member in good standing" no longer has the criteria for meeting the initiation ceremony so on the Unit level they should still have their voice even if they don't receive this.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Yes.

MS. PARNELL: But with these instructions saying that we shall be giving it within the respective Units it kind of contradicts that is all our District is saying. Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Yes.

MS. LINDA WINKLES: Linda Winkles, District 8. Our caucus has a question about what meeting it can, the initiation can be done. It can't be done at the installation.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Yes. As it reads, as this reads on the second paragraph there – I will read it again.

"The ceremony is to be conducted at any regular or special meeting by a Unit, State of National Auxiliary Commander or any Auxiliary Past National Commander. Parenthesis – in the absence of the commander the presiding officer may conduct the ceremony – end parenthesis."

I will read the way it used to, we used to have it in there, that it said – it's on Page U-18 –

MS. WINKLES: Yes.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: – Item Number 2. It says:

"Conducted at any regular or special meeting with the exception of a meeting held for the election of officers."

It can now be done – with this adoption it can be done at a meeting for a Unit when the Unit is having its election.

Years ago they used to say – and the ceremony changed over the years from what it was when I became a Senior member and even then it was stated that it had to, they couldn't do it at a regular meeting or a meeting where you were holding your election.

However, people were going out, maybe into the bathroom and giving someone the membership initiation that had never attended a meeting and saying – seriously. That's totally serious, Sharon – that they did it then so therefore no one is, there is no way you can know who all in your Unit may have never received the membership initiation ceremony and, as it states, it is a ceremony.

It is not – it is not anything to make you a valid member because we've taken that out as making a member in good standing. So even if they do or do not receive the membership initiation they are still a member in good standing.

MS. WINKLES: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Okay?

MS. WINKLES: So why have the initiation anyway?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: If the Unit wants to do it, they can. It's in the lineup. It's in the regular

meeting Order of Business on Page U-22. And it says “introduction of new members” followed by “initiation if applicable”.

MS. WINKLES: Okay.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Lucille.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER McCARTHY: Lucille McCarthy, Unit 70, Florida. I think the – to answer the lady from Oklahoma, I believe that she is thinking that membership ceremony was given at a State/National Convention.

What this is, is taking it out. When you registered at a National or a State Convention they did not ask you, “Have you received the membership ceremony” and this is what we are taking.

In other words, any time that you’ve gone to a National Convention you are not asked, “Did you receive the membership ceremony.” And I am sure there are no State Departments that have ever asked that.

So this is the reason it was taken out, so that when you register it is just the fact that your dues is paid, your registration for Convention and so forth.

MS. PARNELL: Jamie Parnell, Unit 88, Oklahoma. We’re aware that it’s not been asked at National or State.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER McCARTHY: Right.

MS. PARNELL: It’s just like as she said, if it’s just a ceremony, then the wording shouldn’t indicate that the Unit “shall” do it. So either it should be taken out as a ceremony that’s just listed in the book but not something that it says the Unit “shall” do. That was our purpose.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: But it’s in the Order of Business for a regular Unit meeting. That has not been removed that it would not be done there.

MS. PARNELL: Correct. And that’s why if it’s going to stay in there at the Unit level, that’s why it was at the State and the National level as well.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: No. The wording was in the National and State but it wasn’t verifiable so, therefore, it needed to be removed and that’s why we did remove it. We’re not removing it from your Unit having to do it.

MS. PARNELL: But you just said it’s an option that the Unit can or cannot do.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Right. So you can – you can do that but there is no way that you can know that if everybody in your Unit has at some time in the past received that membership initiation.

MS. PARNELL: Correct. So then why not just take it out?

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: So it is still in the lineup. It is still in the Order of Business. It is still in the General Instructions what needs to be said.

MS. PARNELL: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: And what was taken out – basically what was taken out, what we’re taking out there is they could – you could now do this ceremony at a meeting where there is an election. That’s the main change in this.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Ginger.

MS. BISH: Ginger Bish, North Carolina Commander. In the wording that you have here, “shall”, if you check Black’s Law Dictionary, “shall” means “will.” It is not an option, it is a mandate. That means they would have no choice but to do it.

And I’m just – you know. I don’t have any position on it. I’m just saying if you put the word “shall” in there that makes it a mandate because the definition is “will.”

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Right. And a good number of Units these days have in the last few years where things have been done more electronically there are connections that have been done, you may have someone that lives 100 miles away from meeting. Ask Kathy Wiley how far she lives from hers.

But, if she can't be there, she could hook up and join the meeting. And they do that. So if you – if you're dependent on having every single member, you're going to have to go through and have every single member on your roster take the membership initiation; otherwise, you're not going to know for sure who has done it.

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Unit 11, Maine. I call the vote.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Could I say something first?

COMMANDER RAPISAND: If you are worried about this word "shall" you know you can always make an amendment to say "may" so if – anybody would like to – Loraine.

MS. LORAIN CONNELLY: Loraine Connelly, State Commander, Department of Michigan. Wouldn't it just be easier for the sake of people who don't come to this and hear all this discussion to just put in there "not necessary but for, you know, ceremony you may do this"?

I mean that is just so easy to understand. A lot of people aren't going to be in on this conversation, they're just going to read that and think they still have to do it or be confused. Isn't it – wouldn't it be good to just put "not necessary"?

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Well, that's why I suggested "may".

MS. CONNELLY: Even that, you know, people will still question it. If it just says "not necessary" people understand "not necessary."

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay. Ginger.

MS. BISH: Ginger Bish, Commander, North Carolina. I'm going to refer, again, to Black's Law Dictionary. If you would like the appropriate word to put in there, it is "should." It means "ought to but not necessarily will" which means they would have the option but it still leaves the inference that it should be done.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Do you want to amend this proposal, this proposed amendment?

MS. BISH: Yes, Commander. I move that we amend it, remove the word "shall" and replace with the word "should".

(Response of "No.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Well, she has given us the legal word and she has made the motion. Do I hear a second? Is there a second? I don't have a second, what do I do, Judge? (Laughter) Okay. The amendment has died.

MS. LYNN PROSSER: Yes, Lynn Prosser, South Carolina, Grand Strand Unit 30. I believe anybody joining this organization should know why they're joining the organization and what their purpose is.

I think taking the initiation gives these new members a direction and I think at the Unit level they should take the initiation. And I think that should stay exactly the way it is.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay.

MS. PROSSER: I think why people is getting confused, you cannot be a delegate unless you belong to a Unit. If you at State-at-Large or National-at-Large, you cannot be a delegate.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay.

MS. PROSSER: So, therefore, if you are a delegate you are a Unit member so it's going to be took care of on the Unit on the base so it doesn't necessarily mean anything at the State/National levels because you took care of it at your base level which is your Unit.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay. Now, they called for the vote.

MS. PROSSER: I also call for the vote.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Okay. Linda Stake. This is the last discussion.

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Linda Stake, Third Junior Vice Commander, I think this – I want to give you an example before we vote on this.

We have a member of Unit 57, Arkansas, here this weekend from California, Joy Mitchell. Would you stand, please?

(Whereupon, Joy Mitchell stood.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Joy has never attended a meeting in Arkansas and she probably never will. But, to sign up members we need to go state-wide or nation-wide if we need people.

So whether or not she has an initiation at the Unit should not matter if she has a book that she could read and I think that should be a consideration.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: At this time –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Commander, do we not have the call for a vote?

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Well, yes. I'm going to do that right now. The motion has been made and seconded to adopt this amendment. Is there any – no, all in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Okay, let's move on to Page 3. We're moving on to the top of Page 3. Discussion over for now, please listen so others can hear. Top of Page 3.

Page N-12, Article 1, National Convention, Section 5, Official Rules of the National Convention, B.1., Credentials Committee, delete and insert as Convention Rule Number 10. If approved B.2. will then become B. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

MS. EMILY HALL: Emily Hall –

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The rationale, I'm sorry. Our rationale: Rule 20 provides for committees that are elected or appointed during the District caucus. The Credentials Committee is not one of them. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

MS. HALL: Emily Hall, Unit 3, District 6, I second it.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made and seconded to adopt this amendment. Are there any discussions? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The second one down – I've numbered mine Number 9. Page N-9, Article I, National Convention, Section 5, Official Rules of the National Convention, insert new Rule 10. Rule 10 will then read:

"Rule 10. An appointed Credentials Committee shall determine the eligibility of all persons seated and voting in the National Convention and shall specifically notify the Convention and the delegates as to the number of votes to which each delegation shall be entitled.

"Verification by this Committee shall automatically entitle delegates to vote except on challenge supported by vote of already accredited delegates and persons entitled to vote."

If approved, Rule 10 through Rule 20 will be renumbered Rule 11 through Rule 21. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. SANDOVAL: I second the motion, Leslie Sandoval, District 17, Saint Isabelle Chapter.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The next one will be Item 10. Page N-25, Article V, National Committees

and Chairmen, Section 6, National Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Paragraph 2, delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"All proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments shall be sent to the National Adjutant in triplicate, in printed or typewritten form, and signed by the sponsoring local Unit, State Department, National Executive Committee or National Interim Committee not later than ten days – ten in parenthesis as well – prior to National Convention.

"The National Interim Committee shall review all proposed amendments and advise the National Adjutant of their recommendation.

"In addition, the Committee shall review the National Bylaws, Standard State Department Bylaws, Standard Local Unit Bylaws, and Official Ritual and recommend proposed amendments to update said bylaws."

Rationale: Clarification and continuity of the ten-day requirement as published in the Rules of the Convention. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. PATRICIA RESLER: Pat Resler, Unit Number 1, North Dakota, I second it.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Next item. On Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6, Membership Classification, C., Members-at-Large, Paragraph 1, delete and substitute the following:

"National Members-at-Large: Provision is hereby made for membership-at-large. An annual membership card shall be issued upon receipt of a \$15 payment to National Headquarters.

"Life membership fees shall be as provided in Article VII, Section 6, B. At-large membership shall not count in any state or unit.

"At-large members shall not have a vote at National Convention or hold a National elected or appointed office or chairmanship or be certified as a VAVS Representative or Deputy."

Rationale: Clarification of National Members-at-Large. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I have a second?

MS. SANDOVAL: I second that motion, Leslie Sandoval, District 17, Colorado.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The top of Page 4. Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6, Membership Classification, C, Members-at-Large, Paragraph 2, delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"State Members-at-Large: Provision is hereby made for each State Auxiliary-at-Large using the State DAV Chapter-at-Large name and number.

"The amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each Auxiliary State Department. Life membership fees shall be as provided under Article VII, Section 6, Paragraph B.

"At-large membership shall be included in the State Department total; however, At-Large members shall not have a vote at a State Convention nor hold a State elected or appointed office or chairmanship or be recommended as a VAVS Representative or Deputy Representative."

Rationale: Clarification of State Members-at-large. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. LINDER: Susan Linder, District 16, I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed; nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The next item is Page S-7, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4, State Treasurer, Paragraph 5, delete Paragraph 5 and substitute the following:

"The State Treasurer shall give an itemized report of receipts and expenditures at each State Executive Committee meeting."

Rationale: Clarification when report of receipts and expenditures is to be given. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

MS. HALL: I second it. Emily Hall, Unit 3, District 6.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made and seconded to adopt this amendment. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Next item is on Page S-7, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4, State Treasurer, add new Paragraph 6 which will read:

"The State Treasurer shall submit all records and a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990, as warranted by amount of income, to the State Audit Committee or submit all records to an Independent or Certified Public Accountant as warranted by income.

"When IRS Form 990-N e-Postcard is filed, a copy of the acknowledgement shall be provided to the State Adjutant."

Rationale: Clarification as to which State officer is responsible for filing the e-Postcard. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. SANDOVAL: I second the motion. Leslie Sandoval, Saint Isabelle Chapter 2, District 17, Colorado.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The Next item is Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6, State Adjutant, Paragraph 3.b., delete b. and substitute the following; b. will then read:

"b. A copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990, as warranted by amount of income."

Rationale: To correct title of IRS information. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Judy Steinhouse, Valley City Number 24, North Dakota, I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made and seconded to adopt this amendment. Do I hear any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Next item, the bottom of Page 4. Page S-10, Article VI, State committees, delete "State Committees" and substitute "State Committees and Chairmen". Article VI will then read, "Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen."

Rationale: The title of Article VI will then agree with Page N-19, Article V. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MS. HALL: Emily Hall, Unit 3, District 6, Maryland.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Page 5 of your booklet here, top of Page 5. Page S-15, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 7, State Committee Chairman, delete "Chairman" – singular – and substitute "Chairmen" – plural. Section 7 will then read: "Section 7, State Committee Chairmen".

Rationale: To agree with Page N-24, Article V, Section 5. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: I second the motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: I'm sorry, she has already.

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Linda Stake, Third Junior Vice Commander, I second that motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Next Item. Page S-20, Article XI, Jewelry and Caps, Section 1, Paragraph 2, delete "must" and insert "shall". Also delete "Auxiliary National Headquarters" and insert "DAV National Service Foundation". Paragraph 2 will then read:

"All official jewelry shall be purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation."

Rationale: To correct the source when purchasing DAVA items. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. ELLEN GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs –

COMMANDER RAPISAND: You have to go to the mic, please.

MS. GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, District 6, West Virginia, I second that motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: What is your Unit number?

MS. GRIGGS: Unit – Wood County 32.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The next item is Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3, Adjutant, add new 12 which will read:

"12. Send a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard to State and National Headquarters."

Rationale: To include a duty of the Unit Adjutant. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. LINDER: Susan Linder, California, Unit 157, I second the amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The next item is on Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, delete Paragraph 7 and substitute new paragraph which will then read:

"7. Submit all records and a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990, as warranted by amount of income, to the Audit Committee for annual audit."

Rationale: To clarify that all records are to be submitted for audit. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Do I have a second?

MS. ROBYN KENNEY: Robyn Kenney, Hutchinson Unit 37, Minnesota, I second it.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The next item is Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, add new Paragraph 8 which will read:

"8. All other reviews and/or audits shall be conducted when requested by a majority vote of Unit members."

Rationale: To provide for other reviews and/or audits. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

MS. GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, District 6, West Virginia, Unit 32, Wood County, I second that motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The final item is Page U-16, Article XVII, Supplies, Section 1, delete the entire paragraph and substitute the following:

"Section 1. All emblems, badges, standards, membership applications, and all other supplies shall be ordered and/or purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation.

"All jewelry displaying the official emblem of our organization shall be purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation."

Rationale: To correct the source when purchasing DAVA supplies, jewelry. I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to accept this amendment. Do I hear a second?

MS. HALL: I second it. Emily Hall, Unit 3, District 6, Maryland.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you, Carol.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Thank you for – excuse me. Thank you for your attentiveness, your participation. As we have stated in the past, Bylaws, your State Standing Rules, are all a work in progress.

If there is something that you see that you feel needs to be changed, have your Unit or your State Department submit a resolution, mail it to, the copies as requested to the National Adjutant who will forward them to the National Interim Committee.

And if they are deemed reasonable, logical, they will be submitted for insertion into the Bylaws at some time that next year. So, if you have any questions, don't be afraid to ask them. And thank you for your attentiveness. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you, Carol. Judy, do you have any announcements for us? She's chattering, Just a minute.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: I've just got a couple of announcements. Kay Egan, would you stand, please.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Kay Egan stood.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: There are still tickets for the Southern Caucus Breakfast. If anyone would like to have a ticket Kay is in the back and she will be there after the meeting to sell the tickets.

We will have the donation totals for you on Tuesday morning. You can also pick up your History Books, those that submitted them, in Palace 5.

We have some Forget-me-Not tickets, Forget-me-Not Luncheon tickets which is tomorrow and the tickets are still available. If anyone would like to buy one, they are still out there. Please get them on your way out so we can get a definite count.

In the back of the room, of course, as we have said, we are celebrating our 90th Anniversary for the Auxiliary. And this year we had a poster or a banner made.

So the hotel hung it – I think there is tables there, we might have to move them – so that you can stand, take a picture, and show that you were at the DAV Auxiliary 90th National Convention.

That's why it is back there. So take advantage of it. Take your own pictures and have fun just don't tear it down when you leave.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Can we all sign it?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Yes, and don't park in front of it, please. Somebody asked a question. I didn't hear it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Can we all sign it?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: They said don't mess it up before they take the pictures.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Maybe at the end.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: But I think that is a very good idea.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Yes.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: I really do – on Tuesday. Very good idea, except we probably can't read your writing. (Laughter) We could tell when they tried to read the names.

Tomorrow at nine o'clock Dolly Mercer will be here to update us on Camp Corral. I don't know – I think she is planning on having a slide presentation. And last year they had the one camp in North Carolina.

I think this year they have eight around the country. Next year their goal is to have 13 or 15 in different states so that they, the children don't have so far to go, to go to a camp.

When Dolly came to Jackson, Ohio, to open the camp there this year, and I went up with three of the DAV members who were involved with the Golden Corral, not so much the camp, but we had a good time.

It was hotter than blue blazes. And they said, "There is air conditioning." Well, I don't know where the air conditioning was because Ohio has had some very, very hot weather and it was close to 100 degrees that day.

But, let me tell you, these kids were absolutely thrilled to be at a camp. And we had a couple families – I've just got to tell you real quick. The one family came in, they had three kids that were going to camp at this camp.

They had a two-week-old baby. It was a "whoops" baby. (Laughter) And they were thrilled to be able to drop their three kids off at this camp and go home and bond with the new baby.

He had been – he had several tours of duty and so they were kind of just getting back in the family groove. And the three kids just could not wait to go to their little cabins – yes, right. They considered it their vacation.

We had a couple that came. Their husbands were deployed. And they said, "We would never, ever, be able to send our kids to camp. You just don't know how much this means." And, of course, Golden Corral pays for – they call it a scholarship for these children to attend camp.

And out of our money for the transportation they're giving each family, depending on the mileage, I think there were 13 states represented at this one camp in Ohio but they give them gas cards.

They can only be used for gas but that helps get the kids back and forth to the camps. And so this is why we've been excited to be on the ground floor of opening this and helping.

Plus, Golden Corral gave each family that came a \$25 gift card so that they could go to Golden Corral and eat either before they came to camp or after they came. And I know not all states have Golden Corrals but it was just – it was a hot day but it was a fun day.

Anytime you can see kids that are so excited to go to camp, many of them had never been to camp, had never had the opportunity. And so many of the parents thanked us for being there for them and letting their kids be a kid for one week out of their lives because they could not have afforded to do it.

And thanks to all of you who have taken part in getting this off the ground and furnishing the money for the transportation for them to attend.

I am sure that Dolly Mercer tomorrow will update us on some of the camps. She tries to go to as many as she possibly can to open them. And I've – she's like line of the kids.

She – if I went week after week I don't think I'd be as excited as she is. But she just absolutely loves it. And they are thrilled with what the DAV Auxiliary has done.

So she will be here at nine o'clock tomorrow. We don't have an official session but she will be on the agenda at nine a.m.

At 9:30 Joe Chennelly from the DAV Communications Department will be doing a media seminar. At 10:15 or approximately we will have a PTSD seminar. So you are all welcome to come.

You don't have to be in white. It's not an official meeting. It's just a seminar. But please try and attend and show them the support we've asked. These are things that we're doing that you have asked for, for seminars. So please try and come tomorrow. I think that's all for now.

PAST NATIONAL COMMADNER CAROL GRAY: Madame Commander, Carol Gray, Unit 11, Michigan, a question was just posed to me as to the amendments that were just adopted as to when they go into effect.

They do go into effect immediately because this Convention is the ruling body of the organization so they will be in effect and inserted into the Bylaw book that you next receive – buy, purchase.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. If anybody has lost a phone, we have a cell phone up here. It has not rung yet but. (Laughter) I wonder if I could call home and find out whose it is. The battery – is that yours Etter? Come get it.

(Whereupon, a delegate advanced to pick up her cell phone.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: We still have the sweater, lost. It's going to be mine, I just know it – (Laughter) and a Unit commander pin. I want to tell you that all year long I, you know, I can't tell a joke.

I'm pitiful at telling jokes. I want you to laugh so hard I get to the punch line before you hear the rest of the joke. But, I practiced all year long to tell a joke. (Laughter)

Unfortunately, I can't tell a joke. I apologize to all of you. Betty Hall, would you substitute for me? Do you have a good joke – that we can tell and it can go down in history? (Laughter) Go to the mic. State your name, your Unit number and your District.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Identify yourself. (Laughter)

MS. BETTY HALL: My name is Maria. (Laughter) Maria McCarthy. (Laughter) No, Betty Hall, Unit 9, and this is just a little thing.

The heart surgeon goes in to the repair shop to see if his car is ready. And the repairman says, "You know, you get the big bucks and I'm doing the same thing that you're doing to this car." And the heart surgeon says, "Yes, but I do it with the motor running." (Laughter)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Thank you. (Applause) National Chaplain, Chris Easley, would you come forward for the closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN EASLEY: Let us pray. Lord, we ask that You be with us as we depart this meeting. We ask that You be with our members and their families that have had to leave this Convention for medical emergencies.

Lord, watch over them and return them to us healthy and with many years of service to our veterans and their families.

Let us have a restful and peaceful night. Please be with our soldiers, our veterans, our friends and our family. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: At this time the Convention stands in recess until tomorrow, Monday, August 6th, 2012, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. And we now will have door prizes. I knew that.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 3:40 o'clock, p.m., on Sunday, August 5, 2012.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
90th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino Las Vegas, Nevada
August 5, 2012
Final Business Session

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Bronze 4, Casino Level, of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday morning August 7, 2012, and was called to order at 9:08 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Patrice Rapisand.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: It's good to see you all this morning. This is our last session. I just want to tell you I know I did not expect to be so emotional yesterday but I was.

And I thank you all for a wonderful Forget-me-Not Luncheon. But I should have brought this. (Whereupon, Commander Rapisand held up a towel.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: My friend Chris Easley gave this to me just before the Convention started. It's my "crying towel." (Laughter)

And I got through the whole Forget-me-Not Luncheon with one Kleenex that Judy gave me. I should have had this with me. (Laughter) Thanks, Chris.

At this time we will have the prayer by Chaplain Chris Easley.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Christopher Easley advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN EASLEY: Let us pray. Great, merciful Creator, thank You for allowing us to hold this Convention in celebration of all the hard work of our many members.

As we bring this year to an end please give the leaders of this organization the strength and the knowledge to lead us into another 90 years.

Lord, I ask that You watch over all of us as we begin our travels home. We thank You for watching our friends, our families, our members that were not here, keeping them safe and healthy awaiting our return home.

Lord, we ask that You be with us as we remember those that have gone on to join your holy ranks. We know that they are with us, watching over us, and, like You, their spirit is alive in each and every one of us.

We thank You – we are thankful for the strength and the spirit, Lord, to continue serving our nation's disabled veterans, their families, our communities and you.

We ask that You be with our members of the armed forces as they are protecting the world from tyranny and oppression. Be with their families. Let the know that their loved ones are not alone for You are always with them.

Lord, we ask that if a service member pays the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom you give the family the strength and the knowledge that they did not go alone for You are with them, guiding them into the Kingdom of Heaven.

We ask that You be with our veterans for many have the physical scars of war but many more carry the war in their minds and their souls. Give them and their families the strength to carry on.

God bless the Disabled American Veterans. God bless the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. God bless the U.S.A. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Linda Stake will give us, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander Linda S. Stake advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Linda S. Stake led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: And with great pride I present to you Trevon Foreman from Virginia Number 41 to sing the National Anthem.

(Whereupon, Trevon Foreman advanced to the podium and sang our National Anthem, after which he withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you so much. You may be seated. Before we get going with the business of today I'd like to acknowledge some important people to the Auxiliary this year – not that you're not all important, you are, everyone of you are but I'd like to just give recognition to the National Officers and the Chairmen.

As I read your name please stand and stay standing so that everybody can see you, so I can just brag about you. And they're not "my" officers. They are the Auxiliary officers. Okay, here we go.

(Whereupon, the officers stood as their names were called.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Senior Vice and Mae Holmes Committee Chairman Donna Adams; (Applause) First Junior Vice/Membership Chairman Susan Miller; (Applause) Second Junior Vice/Americanism Chairman Linda Stake; (Applause)

Third Junior Vice/Legislative Chairman LeeAnn Karg; (Applause) National Judge Advocate Kathy Wiley; (Applause) Chaplain Chris Easley; (Applause) oh, I'm sorry, Laurie; it's written here; I didn't forget you; Fourth Junior Vice Laurie Stopyra, (Applause) Community Service Chairman;

Immediate Past State (sic) Commander Susan Henry and also she is the Scholarship Fund Chairman; (Applause) History Chairman Joyce Humes; (Applause) Hospital Chairman Patricia Hicks; (Applause)

Junior Activities, Ann Glende; (Applause) VAVS, Fran Costa; (Applause) Deputy, Ellen Drogo; (Applause) and Deputy, Melody Whitaker; I don't think she is here, is she? (Applause) And two very special people – Judy Hezlep and Pat Kemper. (Applause) You may sit down.

We worked as a team this year, not just the officers but all of you, and it really showed because we accomplished a great deal in the Auxiliary this year.

We've had a, just a successful, successful year. And I appreciate all of your hard work, your caring, and the teamwork. We always found somebody who could do it.

We have a lot of talent within our organization and we need to utilize that so I'd like for you all to stand up and thank you. (Applause) Okay, that didn't mean chatter. It just meant stand up. (Laughter)

Okay, on with the business of today. Judy Hezlep, National Adjutant, will now call the role of the newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates. As your name is called please come forward for the purpose of installation.

(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, Matilda Brooks, Lucita Christian; (Applause) District 4, Dorothy Kashner, Sarah Kashner, Alternate; District 6, Ellen Griggs, Alternate Ana Pagan-Delgado; (Applause) District 8, Edwina Daugereaux, Alternate Gertie – oh, dear, Duplechain; I'm glad you know who you are. (Applause) District 9 Alternate Cindy Hansen; (Applause)

District 10, Donna Henshaw, Alternate Carol Lee; (Applause) District 12, Paula Raymond, Alternate Carla Reynolds; (Applause) District 14, Robyn Kenney, Alternate Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) District 16, Dori Bogan, Alternate Susan Linder; (Applause) District 18, Lorna Kakesako, Alternate Laura Tindall; (Applause) District 20, Angelyn Scott, Alternate Mary Bergeron. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: 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 RAPISAND: Please place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the oath of your office.

"I, Patti Rapisand, 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 the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. Members, you may be seated. Delegates, members and guests, I now present to you the National Executive Committee members and alternates of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. You all want to turn around and face the audience. (Applause)

I trust you will aid them in their performance of their duties. And with your help their term of office will be highly successful. You may return to your seats. (Applause)

Would the Credentials Committee Chairman, Iris Brzezinski, please come forward to give the final Credentials report.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Iris Brzezinski advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRZEZINSKI: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRZEZINSKI: Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, this will be the final reading of the Credentials report.

Total Units registered, 181; total Departments registered, 44; National Officers registered, 5; Past National Commanders, 11; total Delegates, 392; total alternates, 30; total vote count, 1,242. Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials' report.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: The motion has been made to accept the credentials report. Do I hear a second? Go to the microphone, please.

MS. RUTH WILCOXEN: Ruth Wilcoxen, District 6, I second that motion.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: What Unit are you from, Ruth?

MS. WINCOXEN: Sorry. Unit 26 in Maryland.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Maryland, okay. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The motion carries.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Brzezinski withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Would the Chairman of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give the Committee report? Maria Tedrow, are you in the room? Yes.

(Whereupon, the Past National Commander, Past National Adjutant and Nominating Committee Chairman Maria Tedrow advanced to the podium to give her report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARIA TEDROW: Good morning, Madame Commander, National Officers, and all the members out there.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW:

This is what we've been waiting for because this means that we're going to have new officers for next year, your elected officers for next year, and you can go home tomorrow.

And, Patti, one thing to look forward to as a Past National Commander, you'll always have your vote. You will always come to a Convention with your personal vote. Other than that, I'm not sure. (Laughter)

The Nominating Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary held their first meeting on Saturday, August 4th, 2012. We are pleased to submit the following slate for your consideration to serve as the 2012-2013 officers.

And at this time I would like to remind you that a motion to accept the slate is out of order. Each office will be opened to the floor. For Commander – and if they would please stand up when I give their name –

(Whereupon, the officers nominated for the 2012-2013 year by the Nominating Committee stood as their names were read.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: Commander, Donna Adams; (Applause) Senior Vice Commander, Susan Miller; (Applause) First Junior Vice Commander, LeeAnn Karg; (Applause)

Second Junior Vice Commander, Linda Stake; (Applause) Third Junior Vice Commander, Fran Costa; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Craig Johniken; (Applause) and the Judge, Kathy Wiley. (Applause)

I'd like to say something. We had only one Nominating Committee meeting. That's all we needed because we got down to business and did our job. But it was fun to walk in – and it's not Judy's fault or anybody else's.

It was fun to walk into a room with only chairs. We waited for better than an hour for tables. So I think we got – we did our job in good time.

Now, I'd like to introduce the Committee who really, really worked hard.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their names were called.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: District 1, Donna Tanner; (Applause) District 2, Lucita Christian; (Applause)

District 3, Ann Schatz; (Applause) District 4, Dorothy Kashner; (Applause) District 5, Elizabeth Johnston; (Applause) and District 6, I think it's Ruth Wilcoxen – is that correct?

(Response of "Wilcoxen.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: Wilcoxen. (Applause) Okay, Ruth, sorry about that, hon. District 7, Kay Egan; (Applause) District 8, Carolyn Harris; (Applause) District 9, Shirley – what is it? Ashmore – I'm sorry, I just can't read some of this writing – Shirley Ashmore; (Applause)

Gloria Boozer, District 10; (Applause) District 11, me, Maria Tedrow; (Applause) District 12, Paula Raymond; (Applause) District 13, Deb Hackman – is it Hackman?

(Response of "Hohman.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: Sorry?

(Response of "Hohman.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW:

Deb, I've either got to get a pair of glasses or you've got to write plainer. (Laughter) Deb Hohman, stand up. I want everybody to see you. (Applause)

Robyn Kenney, District 14; (Applause) District 15, Alexandria – no, it's not Alexandria; it's Veronica Bergquist, Veronica; (Applause) small but mighty; District 18, Evelynne Dunn; (Applause)

District 19, Barbara Reding; (Applause) District 20 – who is that scribbling? – Betty Hall; (Applause) and District 21, Marylou Roden. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: You skipped 16 –

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: Did I miss 16?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Sixteen and 17.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: How about 17?

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW:

I just wiped you both off the map. (Laughter) I am sorry. District 16 is Mary Rowe – is that correct? (Applause) And District 17 is Earnestine Bassett. Is that correct? Bennett. (Applause) There was a time. Not all of them, there are some new ones, now.

Anyway, the advisor for this Committee was Susan Henry. Susan. (Applause) And at this time we offer this slate for your consideration. Commander.

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you very much. Before you leave, before you leave, Maria. Maria had a special way of saying Minnesota that I absolutely loved. Would you please say Minnesota for me?

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TEDROW: Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Past National Commander, Past National Adjutant and Nominating Committee Chairman Maria Tedrow withdrew from the podium.)

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 RAPISAND: I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their efforts and time. I would like at this time to discharge the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees. Thank you for all your hard work.

All right, here we go. 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 podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. Donna Adams has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander. Go ahead.

MS. KATHY PRICE: Madame Commander, Kathy Price, District 18, Unit 20, Glendale, Arizona, may I approach the podium –

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Yes.

MS. PRICE: – for the purpose of nomination, second nomination?

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Yes.

(Whereupon, Kathy Price advanced to the podium for the purpose of a seconding speech.)

MS. PRICE: Good morning.

(Response of “Good morning.”)

MS. PRICE: National Commander Patti, National Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests, Donna Adams has been an active member of the Disabled American Veterans since – Auxiliary since 1964.

Her eligibility is derived through her deceased, combat-disabled father George Egel. Donna was born on Long Island, New York, and moved to Arizona during her preteen years.

Her parents, George and Patricia Egel, were dedicated DAV, DAVA members who volunteered thousands of hours helping our veterans and their families.

Influenced by her parents, Donna followed in their footsteps with the same fervor and passion to assist disabled American veterans and their families.

Donna’s husband, Stu, is a 100 percent disabled Air Force veteran. She has two sons, Shawn and Chad, both who are veterans of the United States Navy and DAV members.

Donna currently has two grandchildren and a grandson due as we speak – unless she delivered overnight, and I don’t know about that.

Donna’s past service to her community includes serving on the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities, the Fiesta Bowl Committee, and founder of the Glendale Veteran’s Day Parade.

She is also the coordinator for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. She is the DAVA representative to the Unified Arizona Veterans and Event Coordinator for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Donna also served on the Board of Directors for Project “We Remember” and “Voices Take Flight.” She is the recipient of Governor Jan Brewer’s Golden Rule Award for her efforts in behalf of our veterans.

Donna attended Glendale Community College and Arizona State University. In 1988 she began her employment with the Maricopa County Flood Control District as Administrator/Coordinator for Operations and Maintenance and then as Contract Administrator for Architectural and Engineering Contracts.

In 1997 she assumed the position of Volunteer Coordinator for the Arizona State Veterans' Home. In 2010 she retired as the Community Relations and Resources Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

Even with her busy schedule Donna continues to serve her Unit with fund-raising efforts for our veterans, mentoring new members, and provides reassurance to the officers of the Unit.

She was the first Junior Auxiliary Commander for Glendale Unit 20 and has held multiple offices at the Unit, State and National levels and has served as both a Unit and State Commander in Arizona.

In 2006 she was appointed National VAVS Representative and was elected National Fourth Junior Vice Commander in 2007. She has had the opportunity to attend 39 Arizona State Conventions – that's older than me – (Laughter) 21 out-of-state Conventions, 13 Fall Conferences, and 15 National Conventions, providing her with a wealth of knowledge that she passes on to the members.

Donna currently serves as National Senior Vice Commander and the Mae Holmes Chairman. She has previously served as chairman for National VAVS, Community Service, Americanism, Legislation and Membership Committees.

It is my distinct privilege and honor to second the nomination of Donna M. Adams for the position of Disabled American Veterans (sic) National Commander. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Commander.

All those in favor of Donna Adams for the office of National Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it. Donna Adams has been elected as our National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

Susan Miller has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Senior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Senior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Susan Miller for the office of National Senior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Susan Miller has been elected to the office of National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

LeeAnn Karg has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of LeeAnn Karg for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it. LeeAnn Karg has been elected to the office of National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Linda Stake 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. All those in favor of Linda Stake for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it. Linda Stake has been elected to the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Fran Costa has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. All those in favor of Fran Costa for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed.

The ayes have it. Fran Costa has been elected to the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Craig Johniken has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Craig Johniken for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it. Craig Johniken has been elected to the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

Kathryn Wiley has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of National Judge Advocate.

All those in favor of Kathryn Wiley for the office of National Judge Advocate signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it. (Applause) Kathryn Wiley has been elected to the office of National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

If you would stand, come forward and stand as I call your name: National Commander Donna Adams; (Applause) just stand there. Turn around and let everybody see you. Senior Vice Commander, Susan Miller; (Applause)

First Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Commander Linda Stake; (Applause) Third Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa; (Applause)

Fourth Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken; (Applause) Judge Advocate Kathryn Wiley; (Applause) Past National Commander Patti Rapisand. (Applause) Aren't they beautiful and handsome? (Applause)

While they are completing their pictures, this election has been completed. I now ask for Sergeant-at-Arms to come forward to the podium for the purpose of introducing the National Executive Committee members and those members who have served as Pages.

And I would also like to thank the National Color Bearers and the State Color Bearers. Thank you very, very much. (Applause) If you would all like to come and take your station. Oh, and we have the totals for the donations.

You will all be happy to hear this: Camp Corral, \$1,571.75; (Applause) Scholarship, \$2,335.00; (Applause) Winter Sports Clinic, \$200.00; (Applause) Hospitalized Veterans Riding Program, \$150.00; (Applause)

Freedom's Foundation, \$25.00; (Applause) Service Support, \$2,592.00. (Applause) We had a total donation of \$6,073.75. (Applause) Thank you for your generosity.

As our National Sergeant-at-Arms comes forward, I would like to thank Ruth Gates for doing a fabulous job. The Convention ran very smoothly. She had everybody – she had everybody knowing what they were doing. Thank you Ruth, you did a great, great job. (Applause)

I will tell you that many years ago, many years ago when my children were small I was approached and asked to run for National Commander and I wouldn't do it because I couldn't leave my children. I just couldn't leave them any time, not even to go out with my husband. It was pitiful.

But she said, "Okay, when it happens, you remember me. I want to be your Sergeant-at-Arms." And so, Ruth, you got your wish. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Gates and Pages advanced to the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS GATES: Thank you. Thank you, Commander Patti. This has been a goal of mine for many, many years, to be the National Sergeant-of-Arms. I started paging when I was 16 for PNC Betty Hall.

So sitting back all these years and watching all the ladies it's just been a goal of mine. And thank you Commander Patti for remembering me and being my friend.

I'd like to introduce to you today all the Pages for the officers, your NECs, and the Junior Pages. I must tell you, this group of ladies and gentlemen have been tremendously helpful and they are just being a great asset to this organization.

I would ask that you hold your applause until after I have called their names. First is going to be District 1, Nancy Mooney – excuse me; District 2, Diane Wisnesky; District 3, Ann Schatz; District 4, Leila White; District 5, Suzanne Seyboldt; District 6, Etter Bowers; District 7, Diane Franz; District 8, Patricia Hicks; District 9, Dorothy Reese; District 10, Loraine M. Connelly; District 11, Dorothy Clark; District 12, Ann Glende; District 13, Tana Penland; District 14, Sandy Dobmeier; District 15, Rebecca Bowman; District 16, Josephine Benner; District 17, Ellen Timmerman; District 18, Yvonne Pitts; District 19, Christiana Fairin; District 20, Sylvia Shurgot; District 21, Kim Stake.

Now the Pages for the Officers are as follows: National Commander Pages were Angelyn Scott – please stand – and Abbie Gates; Donna Adams was Carol Rundell; Susan Miller's Page is Earnestine Bennett;

Linda Stake's Page is Brenda Beach; Laurie Stopyra's Page is Amy Buterbaugh; Kathryn Wiley's Page is Amber Linton; Chris Easley's Page is Abbie Gates – also did double duty for him.

These are your Junior Pages and I must tell you this is a fine group of ladies and gentlemen and we would be well served if we can keep them in this organization because they have followed every direction and been very helpful:

Madison Barber; Megan Barber; Jenicia Cannady; Dominik Cunningham; Trevon Foreman; Jazmine Goodman; Kiara Goodman; Khyre Hernandez; Jonathan Brader; Dannica Jefferson;

Steele Guevara, and Sky Guevara helped out from the State of Texas in a pinch when we were short-handed and I thank them; Niyah Hernandez; Josiette Higgenbotham; Vincent Oliver;

Kameron Richards; Randall Richards; Brandon Van Curen; Devin Van Curen; Victoria Wheeland; Katie Herzing; Olivia Kashner-Forwood; Jontrell Pierce; and Senior members that were assisting Emily Van Alst and Mrs. Van Curen in the back.

Let's give these ladies and gentlemen a round of applause. (Applause) Oh, I missed one. My apologies: Robyn Kenney is LeeAnn Karg's Page. (Applause) All right, and District 10 was Carol Lee.

So thank you, ladies and gentlemen. You all have been great to work with. It's been a very fun time. Thank you, Commander. We are going to leave your podium now.

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms and Pages withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you all. (Applause) Great job everybody. All Pages are now dismissed. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Wasn't it exciting to see so many Juniors? Wow. (Applause) See, we are growing. Our future is coming forward. It's awesome.

Is there any further business to come before this Convention? Yes, you may.

(Whereupon, National Commander-Elect Donna Adams advanced to a microphone.)

NATIONAL COMMANDER-ELECT DONNA ADAMS: National Commander, National Adjutant Judy, National Assistant Adjutant Pat, Officers, delegates, guests and our wonderful Past National Commanders, yesterday we had our Forget-me-Not Luncheon in –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Can't hear you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER-ELECT ADAMS: Yesterday we had our Forget-me-Not Luncheon and our Commander was just a little bit sentimental.

And I know there were things that she wanted to say and just at the time could not find the words. But I can find the words today to tell you that she sure is going to be a hard act to follow.

She has led us so well and I hope you will join me in a standing ovation one last time for National Commander Patti Rapisand. Thank you, Patti. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER RAPISAND: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you all very much. Thank you, that was very nice. I may cry again but – no, I'm not going to cry any more. (Laughter) What?

CHAPLAIN EASLEY: Do you have your crying towel?

COMMANDER RAPISAND: I do have my crying towel. In case I haven't said it enough, Judy and Pat, one more time, thank you, thank you. David, I love you.

Is there any further business to come before this committee, this Convention? Hearing none, I now declare the 90th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned. (Applause)

We will immediately go into the Installation of the National Officers followed by the National Executive Committee meeting. So all I can do is wish you a safe trip home and we'll see you along the way. Love you all. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.)

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Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2011, and
Independent Auditors' Report



Deloitte & Touche LLP
250 E. 5th Street
Suite 1900
Cincinnati, OH 45202-5109
USA
Tel: +1 513 784 7100
Fax: +1 513 784 7204
www.deloitte.com

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, 2011, 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, 2011, 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.

March 30, 2012

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2011

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
GENERAL ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash	\$ 488,489	Accounts payable	\$ 826,968
Investments	7,228,234	Contributions distributable to state departments	394,056
Accrued interest receivable	9,653	Deferred membership fees	256,408
Materials and supplies	11,380	Other liabilities	68,435
Prepaid expenses	2,138		
Other assets	4,854	Total liabilities	1,545,867
SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS:		LIFE MEMBERSHIP — Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	
Cash	18,203		5,700,925
Investments	306,904		
Receivable from General Fund	40,954		
DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS — Cash		NET ASSETS:	
	3,868	Unrestricted	6,198,881
EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM		Temporarily restricted:	
Cash	72,366	Service Program	366,061
Investments	631,977	Disaster Relief Program	3,868
Notes receivable (less allowance of \$39,363)	309,429	Education Loan/Scholarship Program	1,351,096
Receivable from General Fund	337,324	Total net assets	7,919,906
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:			
Investments	5,275,042		
Accrued interest receivable	8,508		
Receivable from General Fund	417,375		
TOTAL	\$15,166,698	TOTAL	\$15,166,698

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted		Total
		Service Program	Disaster Relief Program	Education Loan/ Scholarship Program
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:				
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 128,049	\$ 5,327	\$ -	\$ 5,166
Life membership dues	441,020			
Contributions	335,507	8,390	700	6,686
Contributed facilities	36,100			
Conference and meetings	18,345			
National convention	34,058			
Interest and dividends	289,881	1,515		3,638
Realized investment gains	99,055			
Net assets released from restrictions	30,143	(20,143)	(10,000)	
Other	37,544			
Total support and revenue	<u>1,449,702</u>	<u>(4,911)</u>	<u>(9,300)</u>	<u>15,490</u>
EXPENSES:				
Program services	795,537	102		78,238
Fundraising costs	284,425			
General and administrative	205,941			
Total expenses	<u>1,285,903</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,238</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	163,799	(5,013)	(9,300)	(62,748)
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED DEPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>(137,181)</u>			
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	26,618	(5,013)	(9,300)	(62,748)
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>6,172,263</u>	<u>371,074</u>	<u>13,168</u>	<u>1,413,844</u>
NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 6,198,881</u>	<u>\$ 366,061</u>	<u>\$ 3,868</u>	<u>\$ 1,351,096</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Salaries and wages	\$ 223,382	\$ 14,333	\$ 68,708	\$ 306,423
Employee benefits	110,468	5,089	30,256	145,813
Distributions to state departments	108,797			108,797
Fundraising expenses		226,710		226,710
Payroll taxes	18,164	1,152	5,501	24,817
Conferences and meetings	90,464			90,464
Expenses of national convention	99,363			99,363
Cost of membership items sold	10,038			10,038
Printing, stationery and office supplies	29,164	4,445	1,875	35,484
Expenses of national commander and officers	50,357			50,357
Contributed facilities	20,476	10,989	4,635	36,100
Postage	70	15,390	8,579	24,039
Travel	4,306		3,136	7,442
Professional fees		5,535	42,668	48,203
Service program benefits	20,143			20,143
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, memberships, and other awards	5,968			5,968
Other	82,717	782	40,583	124,082
Total	<u>\$ 873,877</u>	<u>\$ 284,425</u>	<u>\$ 205,941</u>	<u>\$ 1,364,243</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Change in net assets	\$ (50,443)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Change in unrealized depreciation in investments	297,007
Realized investment gains	(99,055)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	34,730
Materials and supplies	8,624
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(2,375)
Receivable from General Fund	19,636
Accounts payable	(27,737)
Contributions distributable to state departments	84,971
Deferred membership fees	(3,753)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	(103,827)
Other liabilities	21,203
	<hr/>
Net cash provided by operating activities	178,981
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchases of investments	(4,854,065)
Proceeds from sale of investments	4,487,653
Collections from repayment of education loans	38,828
	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities	(327,584)
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(148,603)
CASH:	
Beginning of year	<hr/> 731,529
End of year	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 582,926

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

1. ORGANIZATION

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 Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 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.

New Accounting Standards — In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. DAV Auxiliary has not yet adopted the ASU and does not expect the ASU to have a material impact on DAV Auxiliary’s financial position, cash flows, or results of operations.

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

Education Loan Notes Receivable — Students who receive education loans are required to begin repayment six months after completion of their studies. DAV Auxiliary maintains a reserve for uncollectible loans. The amount of the reserve is equal to 100% of all loans that are eligible for repayment but for which no payment has been received in the previous two years and 50% of loans for which no payment has been received for the previous year.

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.

Deferred Membership Fees — 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.

4. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of DAV Auxiliary's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. 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. DAV Auxiliary's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents, which includes money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and fair value of investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2011, are summarized below:

2011	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
General fund:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 131,884	\$ 131,884	\$ -
Mutual funds — domestic equity	2,706,977	2,812,506	105,529
Mutual funds — international equity	139,170	147,857	8,687
Mutual funds — domestic fixed income	3,597,829	3,574,308	(23,521)
Mutual funds — international fixed income	<u>634,742</u>	<u>561,679</u>	<u>(73,063)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,210,602</u>	<u>\$ 7,228,234</u>	<u>\$ 17,632</u>
Service Program — certificates of deposit	<u>\$ 306,904</u>	<u>\$ 306,904</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Education Loan Program — certificates of deposit	<u>\$ 631,977</u>	<u>\$ 631,977</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Life membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 127,672	\$ 127,672	\$ -
Mutual funds — domestic equity	1,771,094	1,831,680	60,586
Mutual funds — international equity	137,445	137,821	376
Mutual funds — domestic fixed income	2,802,400	2,777,701	(24,699)
Mutual funds — international fixed income	<u>452,539</u>	<u>400,168</u>	<u>(52,371)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,291,150</u>	<u>\$ 5,275,042</u>	<u>\$ (16,108)</u>

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with fair value measurements and disclosures, DAV Auxiliary categorized its financial assets, based on:

- Quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (Level 1)
- Quoted prices in the 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)

At no time during 2011 did DAV Auxiliary 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 for debt and equity securities are determined on the basis of the nature and risks of the investments. There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2011, are as follows:

Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
General fund — cash equivalents	\$ 131,884	\$ -	\$ 131,884
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	2,812,506		2,812,506
International stock funds	147,857		147,857
Domestic fixed income funds	3,574,308		3,574,308
International fixed income funds	561,679		561,679
Total mutual funds	7,096,350	-	7,096,350
Total	\$ 7,228,234	\$ -	\$ 7,228,234
Service Program — certificates of deposit		\$ 306,904	\$ 306,904
Education Loan Program — certificates of deposit		\$ 631,977	\$ 631,977
Life membership — cash equivalents	\$ 127,672	\$ -	\$ 127,672
Mutual funds:			
Domestic stock funds	1,831,680		1,831,680
International stock funds	137,821		137,821
Domestic fixed income funds	2,777,701		2,777,701
International fixed-income funds	400,168		400,168
Total mutual funds	5,147,370	-	5,147,370
Total	\$ 5,275,042	\$ -	\$ 5,275,042

6. FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

DAV Auxiliary has designated \$4,701 of unrestricted funds for the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

7. DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Education Loan/Scholarship Program — Effective in 2011, the Education Loan Program was discontinued and replaced with a scholarship program. Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for scholarships are recorded as temporarily restricted assets from which scholarships are awarded to students in accordance with the by-laws of DAV Auxiliary. In 2011, there were 48 scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each issued to selected Auxiliary member applicants. The existing education loans are still required to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the original loan agreements.

Disaster Relief Program — Donations from units and individuals for disaster relief are recorded as temporarily restricted net assets, which are used for members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary who are in need of temporary financial assistance due to natural disaster, such as flood, earthquake, etc. Donations from this fund are made to DAV and benefits are paid by DAV 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 DAV Auxiliary who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the bylaws of 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.

8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

All employees of DAV Auxiliary are covered by the 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 2011, DAV charged DAV Auxiliary \$145,813 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 DAV Auxiliary may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for DAV Auxiliary. In 2011, DAV did not charge DAV Auxiliary for these benefits.

9. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

DAV Auxiliary occupies space in the DAV National Headquarters' building and also uses certain office equipment owned by DAV. No fees are charged for such usage. The value of these contributed facilities is estimated to be \$36,100 in 2011 and is included as revenue and expense on the accompanying statement of activities.

Certain costs are paid by DAV National Headquarters on behalf of DAV Auxiliary. Such costs are reimbursed by DAV Auxiliary. In addition, DAV receives contributions on behalf of DAV Auxiliary and subsequently remits them to DAV Auxiliary. As of December 31, 2011, DAV Auxiliary owed approximately \$68,402 for such costs, net of the contributions receivable of \$25,413, which is included in accounts payable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

In 2011, DAV Auxiliary made contributions to DAV in the amount of \$2,500 for the Winter Sports Clinic and \$10,000 for Disaster Relief.

DAV Auxiliary was awarded a grant of \$4,200 in 2011 from DAV National Service Foundation.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2011, but before March 30, 2012, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *