

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

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## **COMMUNICATION**

**from**

**THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**transmitting**

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED  
AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 36 U.S.C. 90i AND 44 U.S.C.  
1332



DECEMBER 1, 2014.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and  
ordered to be printed

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

## LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

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November 7, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As business manager of DAV (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 9-12, 2014, 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 U.S.C. 1332 and in fulfillment of 36 U.S.C. 50308.

The National Convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 2013, as described in 36 U.S.C. 10101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Marc Burgess", with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. MARC BURGESS  
National Adjutant  
Chief Executive Officer

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**NATIONAL OFFICERS 2014-15**  
**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**National Commander**

Ron F. Hope, 4182 Clemmons Rd. #372, Clemmons, NC 27012

**Senior Vice Commander**

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

**1st Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**2nd Jr. Vice Commander**

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590

**3rd Jr. Vice Commander**

Dennis L. Krulder, 162 Atlantic Ave, Lynbrook, NY 11563

**4th Jr. Vice Commander**

Brigitte Marker, 13580 Spring Lake Rd., Klamath Falls, OR 97603

**National Judge Advocate**

Michael E. Dobmeier, 404 25th Ave South, Grand Forks, ND 58201

**National Chaplain**

Michael Dover, 13222 Warm Springs Rd, Ellerslie, GA 31807

**Past National Commander**

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

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First District	John V. Hogan, 705 West Street, Walpole, MA 02081
Second District	Robert J. Finnerty, 133-31 115 Street, S. Ozone Park, NY 11420
Third District	Ron Reilly, 24 Beech Road, Dover, NH 03820
Fourth District	Timothy J. Kelly, 116 Longdean Road, Fairfield, CT 06824-6551
Fifth District	Albert Burlikowski, 1411 Harris Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Sixth District	Bennie Harris, Jr, 6540 North Capitol St. N.W., Washington, DC 20012
Seventh District	John E. Markiewicz, 5349 Selton Ave., Jacksonville FL, 32277-1380
Eighth District	Kevin A. Wenthe, 196 Buddy Self Rd., Ancoco, LA 71403
Ninth District	Harmon L. Evans, 8101 Spring Flower Rd., Columbia, SC 29223
Tenth District	Rolly D. Lee, Sr, 465 Weaver Dr., Farwell, MI 48622
Eleventh District	Herman W. Morton, 1596 Napoleon Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45240
Twelfth District	Rodney Helgeson, 22270 Blue Bird Ave., Warren, WI 54666
Thirteenth District	Timothy W. Duke, 280 Madison Rae Blvd, Sheperdsville, KY 40165
Fourteenth District	Joe Parsetich, 1801 1st Street South, Great Falls, MT, 59405
Fifteenth District	David W. Brader, 21055 Wallace Rd., Parsons, KS 67357
Sixteenth District	Daniel Contreras, 4702 Halbrent Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Seventeenth District	Gary Lucas, 1494 Lane 14, Powell, WY 82435
Eighteenth District	Johnny N. Stewart, 5942 E. 17th Street, Tucson, AZ 85711
Nineteenth District	Fay A. Lyon, 7201 W. 7th Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336
Twentieth District	Teresa Johniken, 1013 Duren Street, Lufkin, TX 75904
Twenty-first District	Danny Oliver, 28339 E. 127th Street S., Coweta, OK 74429



**Ron F. Hope**  
National Commander  
2014-15  
Disabled American Veterans





**Joseph W. Johnston**  
National Commander  
2013-14  
Disabled American Veterans

**NATIONAL OFFICERS 2013-14**  
**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

**National Commander**

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

**Senior Vice Commander**

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

**1st Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**2nd Jr. Vice Commander**

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

**3rd Jr. Vice Commander**

Delphine Metcalf-Foster, 187 Nantucket Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590

**4th Jr. Vice Commander**

Dennis L. Krulder, 377 Montgomery Ave., W. Babylon, NY 11704

**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**

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

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First district:	Mr. John V. Hogan, 705 West Street, Walpole, MA 02081
Second district:	Mr. David Wilson, 641 Beaumont Pl., Deerfield, NY 13502
Third district:	Mr. Ron Reilly, 24 Beech Rd., Dover, NH 03820
Fourth district:	Mr. H. Mark Wischmann, 1679 S. State St. #A71, Dover, DE 19901
Fifth district:	Mr. Albert Burlikowski, 1411 Harris Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Sixth district:	Mr. Glynn E. Parker, 1520 Birchwood Dr., Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Seventh district:	Mr. John E. Markiewicz, 5349 Selton Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32277
Eighth district:	Mr. Chad Richmond, 7538 Misty Ln., Pinson, AL 35126
Ninth district:	Mr. Harmon L. Evans, 8101 Spring Flower Rd., Columbia, SC 29223
Tenth district:	Mr. John Lamphere, 220 E. Cass St., Cadillac, MI 49601
Eleventh district:	Mr. Herman W. Morton, 1596 Napoleon Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45240
Twelfth district:	Mr. Dennis W. Thompson, 11840 S. Springfield, Alsip, IL 60803
Thirteenth district:	Mr. James S. Huff, 3658 Highway 54E, Fordsville, KY 42343
Fourteenth district:	Mr. H.G. Krosschell, 4706 Copper Hill Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702
Fifteenth district:	Mr. David W. Brader, 21055 Wallace Rd., Parsons, KS 67357
Sixteenth district:	Mr. Marlowe Benner, 2904 E. Yellowstone, Stockton, CA 95205
Seventeenth district:	Mr. Gary Lucas, 1494 Lane 14, Powell, WY 82435
Eighteenth district:	Mr. Edward Kawamura, 6266 Opaeka'a Rd., Kapaa, HI 96746
Nineteenth district:	Mr. Fay A. Lyon, 7201 W. 7th Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336
Twentieth district:	Mr. Edgar Meiser, 2405 Carleton Dr., Big Spring, TX 79720
Twenty-first district:	Mr. Danny Oliver, 28339 E. 127th Street S., Coweta, OK 74429

## 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:	David M. Brown, Akron, Ohio (deceased 1982)
1950-51:	Boniface R. Maile, Grosse Pointe, Michigan (deceased 2002)
1951-52:	Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas (deceased 1994)
1952-53:	Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975)
1953-54:	Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977)
1954-55:	Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee (deceased 1987)
1955-56:	Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964)
1956-57:	Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970)
1957-58:	Paul E. Frederick, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio
1958-59:	David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts (deceased 1994)
1959-60:	Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas (deceased 1994)
1960-61:	William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1990)
1961-62:	Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977)
1962-63:	Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado (deceased 2013)
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 (deceased 2014)
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 (deceased 1980)
1970-71:	Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas (deceased 2013)
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 (deceased 2013)  
 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  
 2011-12: Donald L. Samuels, Gallatin, Tennessee  
 2012-13: Larry A. Polzin, Sylmar, California  
 2013-14: Joseph W. Johnston, Williamsburg, Ohio

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 93rd NATIONAL CONVENTION  
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**AUGUST 9, 2014**

**Joint Opening Session**

---

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans 93rd National Convention and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 92nd National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday morning, August 9, 2014, and was called to order at 8:33 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Joseph W. Johnston.

COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: Well, good morning, friends. Welcome to Las Vegas, although by now some of you may not think that that's relatively good news. (Laughter) I now call to order the 93rd National Convention of DAV. (Applause) Marc Burgess, our National Adjutant, will make the Call to Convention.

ADJUTANT J. MARC BURGESS: The Constitution and Bylaws of DAV, Disabled American Veterans, state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual National Convention, composed of the National Officers, and representatives of the state Departments and Chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant and Secretary for this event, declare the 93rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Las Vegas, Nevada, at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 9th, 2014. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: If you have a cell phone or portable device, please put those on silent mode or turn them off at this particular point in time. Color Guard Commander, present the Colors.

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

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem.

(Whereupon, the National Anthem was sung.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in rendering the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Two.

(Whereupon, the Department of Arizona Color Guard withdrew.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Sisters and brothers, please join me in rendering honors and congratulatory thanks to our Color Guard from Arizona. (Applause) I would now like to call on our National Chaplain, Ron Ringo, to deliver the invocation.

CHAPLAIN RONALD R. RINGO, JR.: As the Commander just alluded to, we are a family. And a quick note, I want to express great appreciation for the DAV family sharing such love and outpouring for the recent loss of my granddaughter, not only to me but to my daughter, because we are a family.

Let us pray. Eternal Father, we often ponder on why we are here and what we are doing. But today we don't have to wonder. We are here to show appreciation and significance to those who have served their fellow man in our armed forces.

Here in the DAV we are all held together by a common bond of service, our love of life, liberty, right to worship, and our families. Father, please keep us aware of our heritage and a special place in our hearts for those who have given their all and who are no longer with us.

May we always remember and do our part in preserving these freedoms. We are grateful for all our blessings and ask for Your Spirit to be here with us as we embark on this 2014 DAV Annual Convention. We humbly pray in the Name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Friends, please be seated. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Welcome to the 93rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. To get underway I am pleased to present National Convention Chairman Richard Walker, the Department of Nevada Adjutant since 2009.

Richard retired from the United States Air Force (Cheers) as a Master Sergeant in 1982 after 22 years of service. During his time with DAV he has become a true model of service to veterans and his sisters and brothers.

Among his many volunteer efforts, Richard has served as the Director of the Nevada Veterans' Assistance League and as a DAV Transportation Network Driver. Rightfully so, he has been honored locally and statewide for his extensive work and dedication to our veterans.

We are grateful for the assistance and support he gives us to ensure the quality of this event. Let's get the show on the road by offering a warm welcome to Convention Chairman Richard Walker. (Applause)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RICHARD WALKER: Thank you, Commander, for those kind words. National Commander Johnston, National Adjutant Burgess, distinguished guests, member and fellow DAVers, we all know Las Vegas is an incredibly popular destination, and with good reason.

Whether it's the roller coasters or the thrill rides or the aquariums, all make for a great place to visit and see things here in the city. Some of the truly wonderful things to do would be, first, the High Roller here right behind us, or over there. I'm sorry. Over there. (Laughter) I'm turned around a little bit.

On The Strip you will find some of the finest cuisine in the city or in the country for that matter, and enjoyable places to eat all over the place, enjoyable to find. You can walk. Within four miles just about anything you can find or you would want can be found in that distance.

Everything is ready for you so please have a safe convention, enjoy yourself here in Las Vegas, and welcome, welcome, welcome. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Richard.

MR. DANIEL CLARE: And now your DAV Auxiliary National Officers: Past National Commander Donna Adams of Arizona; (Applause) National Chaplain, Aura-Lee Nicodemus of New Hampshire; (Applause) Judge Advocate Carol Gray of Michigan; (Applause) Fourth Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman of New Mexico; (Applause) Third Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken of Texas; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa of Massachusetts; (Applause) First Senior (sic) Vice Commander Linda Stake from Arkansas; (Applause) Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg of Minnesota; (Applause) and now your Auxiliary National Commander, Susan Miller from Colorado. (Applause)

And now your DAV National Officers: your Past National Commander and Chairman of the Board, from Sylmar California, Larry A. Polzin; (Applause) from Montrose, Colorado, your National Chaplain, a heavenly reception for the Reverend Doctor Ronald R. Ringo Jr.; (Applause) the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, our National Judge Advocate, Mike Dobmeier; (Applause) your Fourth Junior Vice Commander, from Babylon, New York, Dennis Krulder; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice Commander, from Vallejo, California, Delphine Metcalf-Foster; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from Semmes, Alabama, Dave Riley; (Applause) your First Junior Vice Commander, from Georgia, Moses A. McIntosh; (Applause) and last but by no means least, your Senior Vice Commander, from Clemmons, North Carolina, Ron Hope. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER RON F. HOPE: It is my distinct pleasure to present National Commander Joe W. Johnston to the National Convention.

Commander Johnston is a service-connected disabled veteran who served with distinction in the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars. His military career includes service in the enlisted and officer ranks. Through 26 years he defended our nation as an Army Ranger and a paratrooper. He was unanimously elected to lead DAV at last year's National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Commander Johnston is a life member of Chapter 63 in Williamsburg, Ohio, where he has served in nearly all elected and appointed positions, including three years as Chapter Commander.

He was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007.

Commander Johnston brings 18 years of experience in management and finance to DAV. He holds masters' degrees from Central Michigan University and the Army's Command and General Staff College.

During a tumultuous year he has provided leadership and given our cause a voice throughout a government shutdown and VA crisis.

He is an outstanding example of DAV's leadership, compassion and honor. Please give a rousing DAV welcome to your distinguished National Commander, Colonel, Ranger Joe Johnston. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you. Well, you know when I spoke to you last year the way we started that is Vicki was by my side and at this end of this journey it is only appropriate that she join me again on the podium.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Johnston advanced to join Commander Johnston at the podium amid a round of applause.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Hello friends. Thanks so much for that welcome. It's been a busy year for DAV and, as all of you are aware, there are lots of important issues in our great organization that we are tackling, even as we speak.

This year we championed Operation Keep the Promise and rallied our brother and sister veterans right on the footsteps of Capitol Hill. It's absolutely important for all of us to keep precious pressure on Congress to make them do what is right – to enact legislation for advanced appropriations for VA services, programs and infrastructure.

I encourage all of you to get involved. Use the DAV's Commander's Action Network and, with a few clicks of a button, you can let your elected officials know that you stand with DAV.

In the past year (Applause) – in the past year I'm proud to say we've officially activated the DAV Employment Department. (Applause) In the next few years nearly half-a-million of our sisters and brothers will make that all-important and challenging transition, hanging up their uniforms to return to their civilian lives.

Many of these men and women have served their entire military career while our nation has been at war. Now they return home, looking to start fresh. Hiring a veteran is the right thing to do. (Applause) It's the smart thing to do. (Applause) And we need to communicate that message to employers all across this great country.

Veterans bring a lot to the table when it comes to making an organization successful. And we can do no less than help veterans and their families in the search for gainful employment after all that they have sacrificed in the military of the United States. (Applause)

We all saw what happened at the VA earlier this year and the ensuing media storm that followed. In my view, Secretary Shinseki was, and still is, an honorable man. (Applause) He, like us, is also a disabled veteran. But the issues surrounding the VA are bigger than just one person.

The secretary chose to do the honorable thing by accepting responsibility for the mistakes made by his subordinates. But that, alone, does not fix the central issue. Quite frankly, the problem boils down to resources.

For more than a decade DAV and other VSOs have submitted an independent budget to Congress outlining what the VA needs to operate efficiently. In addition to our warnings over the past decade, in May 2003 the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for our Nation's Veterans reported that 236,000 veterans were waiting six months or longer for an appointment.

They also reported there was a mismatch between the demand for VA health care and funding and if this was not addressed – and if there was not full funding of the VA health care – there would be access and, possibly, quality problems in the future. In spite of all these warnings, neither the administration nor Congress did anything to address this mismatch.

We realize that there are some in the VHA who have taken inappropriate actions, or worse. And we call for a thorough, open, and transparent investigation into this matter and, where we find wrongdoing, we demand that those people be held accountable for their actions. (Applause) But that alone will not cure all the ills in the overburdened, under-funded system that we face.

Finally, Congress must fully fund the VA without any political gimmicks or posturing so that we can fix the root of the problem which is access to the quality care our veterans have earned on the battlefields. (Applause)

There are not enough health care professionals nor space to meet the current demand for veteran health care. This is nothing new. And we've told Congress this multiple times before.

They have the power. They have the responsibility to press for proper funding and for adequate resources. And they can and they should push aside nonsensical distractions, including efforts to outsource care. (Applause)

I want to take a moment to explain what is at risk here. When DAV was founded more than 90 years ago, there was no VA. In fact, there was no plan or programs to address the needs of veterans who were returning from war. It was for that very reason that Judge Marx and our founders came together – to ensure that the promises were made to returning veterans, their orphans and widows, were kept.

The establishment of a VA and a centralized system of care for veterans was a landmark victory shared by DAV and our fellow veterans' service organizations. Our efforts to build a veterans health administration to address our unique needs and ensure the availability of the full spectrum of care for veterans is a part of the promise our nation made when it sent our men and women off to war. (Applause)



For decades, administrations and Congress have ignored our pleas to adequately fund VA. Now we stand at a crossroads. Some of the people in Washington who are complaining the loudest are the ones who would not listen or act when we asked for the doctors, nurses, facilities and infrastructure that veterans needed.

Many of these same lawmakers – who are elected to represent us – are using this manufactured scandal to degrade and eventually dismantle the Veterans Health Administration as we know it.

The scandal that we are addressing today should be a surprise to no one. The quote-unquote “solutions” being proposed in a push forward towards privatization could destroy the health care system that our members have fought for the better part of a century to build.

Veterans deserve access to quality care in a timely fashion. They deserve accountability and a Department of Veterans Affairs that operates in a transparent way. They deserve a VA that is staffed and capable to meet their needs. Anything less is a betrayal.

As I said, we need to get veterans the care that they need today. And the only way that we can do that is to get those who were waiting out in town to private physicians. That’s happening now.

But in the long run, we need to look at how we can fix the VA and ensure it has the capacity in the future to provide veterans the full continuum of care that they were promised in a timely manner. We will hear about costs from those who want to destroy our health care system. We will hear about the ballooning federal budget.

When cuts need to be made, Washington needs to remember that the needs of veterans are unique. We need to remind our lawmakers that it was our nation’s veterans and their survivors who bore the burden for the prosperity our nation enjoys today. (Applause)

It was, indeed, our nation’s veterans who wrote that blank check up to and including their very lives for the way of life we enjoy today. And they deserve a health care system that recognizes the causes of their injury and is prepared to care for those who shall have borne the battle, his widow and orphan.

The men and women who answered the call have earned their health care. And those who are charged – changed forever while defending our way of life deserve to participate in the American Dream they have made possible.

The problems and solutions to the woes that face VA are known today: adequate resources. Adequate resources. And adequate resources.

The advanced appropriations we demanded at our nation’s capital with Operation Keep the Promise wouldn’t cost our fellow taxpayers a dime. But it would make funding for veterans a national priority.

There is room in DAV for all types of political ideologies. But on largely partisan lines this crisis at VA seems to have created a desire by some to politicize our cause and fracture our community. At its core, as a nonpartisan population and organization, this goes against everything DAV is about.

That rhetoric being spewed by those with partisan interests and hidden agendas – often misrepresented as the views of large numbers of veterans – threatens to create divisions that will destroy all that we and other established veterans’ service organizations have built over the course of generations. These misguided efforts are intended to erode our benefits and programs. Make no mistake about it.

If you have the opportunity to speak to a lawmaker, especially as a representative of DAV, it is critical that we speak with one voice. And if there are two things that we could ask, and things that we could fix, not dismantle the VA. And we must demand that veterans’ funding is made a national priority through advanced appropriations.

With the momentum of an election cycle behind us, I sincerely hope they will listen and take those matters to heart. If they don’t, we need to hold them accountable with our voices and our votes. (Applause)

While DAV’s service to veterans and their families and our advocacy before Congress is important, I think it’s also important to remind ourselves from time to time of the very freedoms every person here enjoys – the freedom to peaceably assemble like we are today; the freedom to worship as we please; the freedom to elect our representatives and government; and the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Those have all been won and protected by the men and women who have raised their hands and took an oath. (Applause)

To wear the nation’s uniform is the greatest commitment to our country and your community that anyone can make. Caring for those who made that brave choice is the right thing to do. And by being a part of our organization you help further that mission.

Like all veterans, military service changed me. But the simple fact is anyone who has served in the military is going to be changed by that experience. My homecoming from Vietnam was vastly different than my homecoming from the first Gulf War. I think we’ve come a long way as a country in that regard. (Applause)

Despite your politics, despite your views on whatever direction the government is going, I believe that we have learned that it is absolutely the right thing to do to welcome home the service man or woman and help them transition into civilian life.

That's where we come in. And I'm proud to be a part of an organization that helps veterans with more than 330,000 claims for benefits each year. We know each of those claims represents a sacrifice made in service.

We are also aware that there are many more who need our assistance. Returning veterans may not have known where to turn. But for me this organization is home. And I hope it will be for many more to come.

It has been my absolute privilege to be your national commander and represent you this year. Meeting many of you in my travels was an honor that I will never forget and will cherish always.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Department of Ohio. You have been my steadfast support, my friends and comrades, these many years. (Applause) I could not have accomplished my duties as national commander without you. Please stand and be recognized.

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

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: To my family and dearest friend, Vicki, mere thanks are not enough for your support and love, from packing a suitcase to pictures of the event, to slapping me around when I needed it. (Laughter) I love you all very much. (Applause)

We've done great things but there's much more to be done and I know that we can do it. Now, in the parlance of military tradition, please allow me the honor of offering you my last salute after a fruitful and blessed year of service.

(Whereupon, Commander Johnston saluted the membership, followed by a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You all have my respect, my commitment, and my lifelong friendship. May God bless you all and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HOPE: Commander Johnston, under your inspiring leadership this has truly been a memorable year for DAV. Thank you. I move to accept the National Commander's report. All of those in favor – oops, I need a second. (Laughter) Do I hear a second to my motion?

MR. WILLIAM CAINE: Bill Caine (Indistinguishable), Ohio, seconds the motion to accept the National Commander's report.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER HOPE: I have a motion and a second. All of those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The ayes have it. So ordered. (Applause) Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to recognize a special guest and he doesn't need much of an introduction. In fact, in September 2011 he broke his own existing "Guinness World Record for Most Hours on Camera on U.S. Television," (Laughter) setting a new mark of 16,746.50 hours. (Applause)

Many of you know Regis Philbin from his work on Live with Regis and Kathie Lee and, later, Live with Regis and Kelly. Of course, we all remember Who wants to be a Millionaire and his work on America's Got Talent. He's been a professional broadcaster, radio and television host since 1961 and pioneered the format for most American talk shows that you and I watch today.

But here is something you may not know. Before his start in show business, Regis Philbin proudly served his country in the United States Navy as a supply officer. (Applause) And he has never forgotten where he came from.

When the terrorist attacks of 9/11 occurred, Regis' son was employed at the Pentagon. He remarked while on live TV, because his show was happening as the attacks transpired, that he was worried about his son's safety. Since then, Regis has made several visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and spent lots of personal time with America's ill or injured veterans.

He has been a steadfast booster for DAV, appearing in messages that raise awareness about the issues veterans face and encourage support for our free services. If you haven't seen one of these messages yet, please take a look at this.

(Whereupon, a Regis Philbin DTV video was shown, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Regis Philbin. (Standing Ovation)

REGIS PHILBIN: Thank you.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: As a result of his service to DAV and his fellow veterans I am honored to present an award from your fellow veterans at DAV. Let me read the citation, if I may.

"To all who see this commemoration, DAV is pleased to acknowledge the contributions of Regis Philbin.

"DAV is honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment to your fellow veterans who served and sacrificed on our behalf.

"Your selfless volunteerism on behalf of our nation's heroes as a spokesperson for our organization has significantly raised awareness about their plight and the free services DAV offers that empower them to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

"By lending your celebrity to our cause you have contributed immeasurably to efforts to build a new relationship between the public and the brave few who have defended the American Way of Life.

"You have reminded all that 'freedom is not free' and created a bridge between those who have sacrificed and the patriotic citizens who wish to support them.

"Oh behalf of the 1.2 million of your fellow veterans we thank you for your service, your dedication to helping us fulfill our promises to the men and women who served."

(Whereupon, Regis Philbin was given another standing ovation as an official photograph was taken.)

MR. PHILBIN: That's terrific. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm really very happy to be here. I'm very impressed with what I've seen in the last couple of days. Wonderful speech you just made. We spent a little time yesterday together. And all of you folks coming out here, as you do every year, for a meeting like this, really means a lot to the whole organization, I'm sure.

Yes, I was very offended when some of the hospitals that we read about in the news and heard about on the news just couldn't handle the veterans. These were people who were injured and wounded and who fought for this country and yet had to, were overlooked, neglected. It made me crazy. I thought it was a disgrace. And now just two nights ago I heard that the president is going to put \$16 billion aside to go to the veterans. (Applause) Let's hope that works. (Applause)

Anyway, you know, yes, I was in the U.S. Navy. And, but let me tell you (Cheers) – let me tell you something that happened to me in the service that changed my life.

When I was eight years old, Commander, I don't know about you but I used to listen to the radio. There was no television in those days. (Laughter) You, at least, had television, I think. But, anyway, I heard Bing Crosby singing a song. And it was a half-hour of Crosby. And, I don't know, I – a little boy, I memorized all the words. I loved the sound of his voice. It was written during the tough days, the Depression, and people were losing a lot of hope. And the songwriters were writing songs for them like Pennies from Heaven. Do you know that song?

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I do.

MR. PHILBIN: (Singing) Every time it rains it rains –

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: (Singing) Pennies from heaven. (Laughter)

MR. PHILBIN: Wait until you hear this. (Applause) I'll sing the first, you sing the last. Every time it rains it rains –

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Pennies from heaven.

MR. PHILBIN: Don't you know each cloud contains.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Pennies from heaven.

MR. PHILBIN: All right, that's enough. That's enough. (Applause) You know, you get these guys up here and they won't leave. (Laughter) So, anyway, I fell in love with Bing Crosby and that's who I wanted to be. I wanted to be Bing Crosby. And my mother – my father was Irish. My mother was Italian.

And my mother was so worried about what was going to happen, "What do you want to be?"

"Why don't you be a doctor?" "Why don't you be a lawyer?" How could I tell her I wanted to be Bing Crosby? (Laughter) It was ridiculous.

So, anyway, the years go by and Bing is still singing and my father who was a Marine in the Marine Reserves (Hoo-rah) before the war and couldn't wait to get into the war and then remained in the Marine Reserve after the war was a wonderful guy.

And over in the Pacific, the Islands, he met Moose Krause who played for Knute Rockne and then was an assistant coach to Frank Leahy and then ran the whole ship at Notre Dame and that's how I got into Notre Dame. (Laughter) And so, I loved it.

And my mother, of course, was terrified what I was going to do. And my father said, "Look, there is going to be another war after this. Why don't you join the NROTC that's out there at Notre Dame?" Which I did. And the war did break out while I was there. And that was the Korean War. And, sure, (Cheer) when I graduated – did that guy say "Hurry up?" (Laughter) Or does he want to hear you sing again? (Laughter) We can do that, too, you know.

Anyway, so, I went into the service and it was terrific. I was in LSM squadrons and we were in and out. And, sure enough, the war ended I guess a year-and-a-half after I was in. But here is what I wanted to get to. When we were ashore at the amphibious base I would stay at a BOQ and there were two Marine majors in there.

Now these guys when they, in their teens, during the Depression, couldn't get into college. There was no jobs. There was no money for them. They joined the Marine Corps. During the World War II, on the islands, one of them, especially, on Guadalcanal, the lieutenant handling the platoon was shot dead.

He received a battlefield commission. He was a sergeant at that time. His name was Keigel Flake. He was a very, very tough guy but a great guy. The other guy was Bill Rankin who then became the leader of the first Marine supersonic jet squadron. He was not a pilot then but he became a pilot after the war. So they had been through two wars and I loved them. We had great times together.

So, now my mother wants to know what I'm going to do. I said, "Mom, when I graduate from Notre Dame I will tell you." Graduation day. They come. We walk across the campus. I've got a piano player in there. And I'm going to sing, (Singing) "Every time it rains it rains pennies from" – to my mother, because that's the only thing I can think of. I still want to be Bing Crosby but I can't tell her that.

So in the second verse that I did my mother began to cry and my father, who was also a boxer, began flexing his fists. (Laughter) So I took the hint and said, "What the hell? Am I crazy? Forget about Bing Crosby. I can't ever do it." Anyway, look, that's the way it was.

I went into the service. I had a wonderful time. Then came out and got involved in television. And every time I came down to Washington my son Danny would be there. I'm very proud of this young man. He graduated from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and then spent 12 years working in various places.

Nine-eleven I called down to Washington to see how he was doing and he was at the Pentagon and the Pentagon had just had a blast. Nobody knows who did that. But he's done an awful lot of work and I'm very, very proud of him. And I thank you very much for coming today, Dan. I appreciate it. (Applause)

So, now I'm getting out of the Navy. It's over. And I'm packing my bag and I still don't know what I'm going to do. No faith in what I could do on television or anything. So they came in, Rankin came in and spent a little time with me and he went out and he told Flake that, you know, Regis is thinking about TV but he doesn't think he can do it.

So Flake came in. And he said to me, "What are you going to do for the rest of your life?" And I said, "You know, Major, I don't know. I see television now but I have nothing to offer them." And he said something to me that you should all remember and I've remembered ever since. And when I get down in the dumps I think about it.

"Don't you know you can do anything you want in this life, you've only got to want it bad enough? Now do you want it?" And I said, "But, Major, you don't understand. I have no talent. I have no experience. I didn't go in for any of this." He put his face right up to mine and he said, "I said, do you want it?" (Laughter) And for the first time in my life I clicked my heels, gave him the salute and said, "Yes, sir, I want it." And that's how it all started. (Applause)

So, if it wasn't for him, if it wasn't for being in the service and meeting people like that I don't know where I would be right now. But the funny part is that 15 years later I was working with Joey Bishop on a late night show opposite Johnny Carson and every day we would take a walk up Vine Street and Hollywood to relax Joey and I would do all the talking. He would never talk.

And one day I ran out of something to say so I said, "Joey, let me ask you something. What did you want to be when you were a kid?" And he said, "When I was ten years old I would stand on the street corners in Philadelphia and I would tell jokes and people would fall down laughing. I wanted to be a comedian." And he became a comedian good enough to hang around with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin and Sammy Davis and all those guys and have this show.

And he said, "What did you want to be?" And I said, "Well, you know, it's funny but when I was eight years old (Laughter) I wanted to be Bing Crosby. I heard all of his songs. I loved the way he sounded. He made me feel better. And I wanted to be him."

Two months later Bing Crosby is a guest on the show. He is sitting right between Joey and me and I was thrilled. They wanted Bing to sing but they didn't know how to ask him because it's a talk show so Joey said, "Bing, you see this kid. He's a big fan. Why don't you sing a song to him?" And Bing Crosby just looked at me and very easily sang "Tura Lura Lura" from the old Going my Way. It was beautiful.

And I said, "What a thrill to have Bing Crosby. If I could only tell him what he means to me." You know? But it's a big thrill in my life. And then Bishop hadn't had enough so he said, "Regis, you know all of Bing Crosby's songs. (Laughter) Why don't you sing a song to Bing?" And Crosby doesn't know what is going on. He turns and looks at me. (Laughter) This is what I sang. (Singing) Every time it rains it rains

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: (Singing) Pennies from heaven.

MR. PHILBIN: (Singing) Don't you know each cloud contains.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: (Singing) Pennies from heaven.

MR. PHILBIN: That's enough. That's enough. (Applause) Here is the funny part of that. So, anyway, that was a thrill and Crosby hummed through it with me and he was just fabulous. The next day I get a telegram from Mercury Records, 35 Whacker Drive, Chicago, "Would you like to do an album of Bing Crosby songs?" (Laughter) Now they tell me. You know?

So I take it to Joey Bishop and he got a little jealous, I think, and he read the telegram and he said, "Somebody is playing a joke on you." (Laughter) And he ripped up the telegram. The next day the guy called me and said, "Well, what is it, yes or no?" I said, "Yes, I'll try it. I'll do it." And so that's how that phase of my life began and – just singing that song with Bing.

So, I tell you, it's been a great life. And one other thing happened on the Bishop show and that is during the late '60s there was a lot of friction and chaos in different cities in America, people unhappy with everything. And so one night Bishop told everybody about he is tired of hearing about it but he wants to know what the young people of America are going to do about it.

"Regis, go down into the audience and find somebody and ask them 'What are your plans?' 'What are you going to do for this country?' 'What are you going to do for yourself?'" I took the microphone, went down into the audience. There was a young, young kid there, about 17 years old. He stood up.

I said, "Well, you heard what Joey said. He wants to know what you wanted to be when you, you know, grow up or how you are going to help our country, what you want to do." And this kid just stared at me. He couldn't answer me. And I said to myself, "My god, I see myself because I couldn't answer anybody. I couldn't tell anybody what I wanted. It would be ridiculous."

So I said, "Look, just relax for a minute and think. What is it that you are going to be doing like five-ten years from now?" He wanted to. He couldn't do it. He sat down. I moved on. I felt sorry for him.

Thirty years later I went to see a preview of a movie in New York. Somebody came up to me and said, "Somebody wants to talk to you on stage." I went up on stage. There was a big crowd. I waited and then I said, "Oh, well, another time, maybe." And I started to walk away and this voice said, "Regis, wait a minute, I want to tell you something."

So this man came over and he said, you know, 16 years or he said "Thirty years ago I went to see the Joey Bishop Show and you came down to the audience and you asked me what I wanted to do for myself and for my country. And I couldn't tell you."

I said, "Wait a minute. Wait a minute. I don't remember a lot of things but that night I remembered because I was thinking of myself as I was asking you. We couldn't – we couldn't make the statement to anybody." He said, "Right." He said, "And every time now that I see you I just pinch myself in my heart for not telling you what I wanted to do." And I said, "The same thing happened to me." Anyway, "Good luck. Goodbye." And that guy's name was Steven Spielberg (Gasps) so you see what happens. (Applause)

So, what you should ask yourself when you are feeling a little, you know, like the world is against you, what Keigel Flake said to me and tell yourself "Yes, you can do it and you will do it." Thank you all very much. I'm very impressed seeing all of you here.

Believe me DAV, just a great organization. I don't know what this country would do without it. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation) Thank you, you did great. Good singing, too. They want to hear more. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: It gives me great pleasure, great pleasure, to introduce our Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Secretary Robert A. McDonald is a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. (Applause) He is an alumnus of the University of Utah where he earned an MBA.

An Army veteran, both Airborne and Ranger, (Applause) he served with the 82nd Airborne Division. (Applause) Upon leaving service Captain McDonald was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

In 1980, Mr. McDonald joined Proctor and Gamble, a Fortune 50 Company, and he rose through the ranks to become Chief Executive Officer and President. He retired in June of 2013.

Nominated by President Obama as the eighth Secretary of Veterans Affairs on June 30th, he was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 29, 2014. (Applause) As a Cincinnati native myself and Airborne Ranger, it is my special honor to welcome the eighth Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. McDONALD: Thank you. Thank you. I want to thank Joe Johnston for that kind introduction. And to all of you here in Las Vegas, thank you for that warm welcome.

This is an important conference at an important moment in time in VA's history. And it's an honor and a privilege to give my very first address as Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Disabled American Veterans. (Applause)

I first met Commander Joe along with Randy Reese and Ed Hartman about four weeks ago at a benefit in Cincinnati, not far from where Judge Robert Marx founded DAV. Joe, Randy, Ed, and more were there supporting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and me.

Joe, it was a real pleasure to talk with you that evening and I'm really glad to see you here again today. Congratulations on your tremendous work for the veterans this past year as DAV's National Commander. And with your great leadership, most recently through some difficult and turbulent times, DAV has kept its focus squarely on veterans and what is best for them, just as it has since 1920.

DAV's contributions to VA reform discussions on Capitol Hill and across the nation have been of great help, without ever compromising the strong support and confidence that you have given to VA for so long. Moving forward, that sort of counsel is going to remain invaluable to me and I look forward to hearing it. Thank you. (Applause)

Please let me also recognize a few other DAV leaders National Adjutant Marc Burgess; Art Wilson, past National Adjutant and 47 years with the DAV and now heading DAV's National Service Foundation. Thank you for that long and continuing example of service. My friend Garry Augustine, Barry Jesinoski, Susan Miller, Judy Hezlep, good morning to all of you. It's a real privilege for me to be here. (Applause)

Just yesterday I was in Phoenix at the VA medical center, my first stop as the new secretary. Over these next several months I am going to keep traveling, extensively, to hear directly from employees, from veterans, and from other stakeholders.

Here is what I learned in Phoenix. I talked to Bob. Bob is a peer counselor. This is what Bob told me. "This place saved my life. It gave me counseling when I needed it. It gave me a hip replacement. And now I am an employee."

I talked to Dave, who is a combat psychologist. He chose VA to work in over a civilian clinic. He said that here in Phoenix he knew that they did 13 psychological evaluations a day and 3 patient walk-ins who didn't have appointments. He said he had never seen that in the private sector when he worked as a psychologist there. And he told me, "I am proud to work at VA."

The bottom line is there are good people there. They care about serving veterans and they are working hard to fix that system so that they provide superior service to all veterans. And I have learned over the years that it is the technicians and the specialists – those closest to the customer, the veteran – who provide the most innovative solutions. We're on their team and they have our support.

Now, VA Phoenix has become an unfortunate nickname – quote "the epicenter." It's a term associated with disaster. That's a bad reputation to have and it's going to take time and action to change it. But Phoenix is not really the epicenter. And Joe talked about this.

The problems we've discovered in Phoenix were systemic, extending well beyond one location and one moment in time. And the Phoenix story is about more than just a crisis in veteran access. To be sure, it's a story of failed leadership. But it's also a story of some dedicated people who have had the moral courage to stand up and help serve us veterans better. (Applause) And so I was there yesterday to thank them for that.

Listen, coming face-to-face with reality, as some of the issues that some veterans have endured, isn't a disaster. I want to hear your stories. I want to hear when we're not serving you well. This, for me, is not a disaster; it's an opportunity.

Testifying to Congress, our Deputy Secretary and my West Point classmate, a great leader and a great friend, Sloan Gibson, put it like this. I quote. "We can turn these challenges into the greatest opportunity for improvement in the history of the Veterans Affairs Department." (Applause)

And the former president of the Institute of Medicine, Dr. Harvey Fineberg, took that notion one step further. Dr. Fineberg said that because of this crisis, "VA can now accomplish things now it could never have accomplished before."

And so that's what we're going to do. With the continued support of President Obama, the Congress, great employees at the VA and especially, especially with the always strong support of the Disabled American Veterans and other veterans' service organizations we're going to do what could never have been done before. (Applause) It's a great opportunity but it's also a rare opportunity. And it's an opportunity we can't miss, nor underestimate.

Before my confirmation hearing I spoke with Garry Augustine and other leaders of veterans' service organizations. And I visited many members of Congress and again and again people asked me, "Why do you want to be the Secretary of Veterans Affairs?"

Here is what I told them, and I believe this very, very strongly. To me there is no higher calling and this is an opportunity for me to make a difference in the lives of the veterans I care so deeply about. (Applause) My wife, Diane and I both come from military families.

(Whereupon, a gentleman came forward and handed Secretary McDonald an envelope.)

SECRETARY McDONALD: Thank you, sir. I will be happy to read that later. My father served in the Army Air Corps after World War II. Diane's father was a tail gunner in a B-25 during World War II. He was shot down over Europe, and he survived harsh treatment as a prisoner of war.

Diane's uncle was a 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagle in Vietnam. (Cheers) He was sprayed with Agent Orange repeatedly and he still receives care from VA. And right now – right now as we sit here – my nephew is a pilot in the Air Force and he is serving and flying missions today in the Middle East. (Applause)

So, veterans are very special people to me. It's just not about me. It's about my family.

I graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1975, as I said, with our Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson, who is a great leader and has done a super job leading the VA in his short period of time here. And he and Margaret are great friends of Diane and mine.

My time at West Point and that as an Airborne Ranger in the 82nd Airborne Division instilled in me a lifelong sense of purpose, a sense of duty, a duty to country, and strong values.

The words of the West Point Cadet Prayer still resonate with me, still guide me, for decades later. It encourages us "to choose the harder right" rather than "the easier wrong." I am proud of my 33 years of experience at Proctor and Gamble where I learned the important lessons of effective management and strong leadership and of being responsive, importantly, to the needs of our 5 billion customers who use at least one Proctor and Gamble product a day.

At P&G we worked hard and we worked successfully to improve the lives of the world's consumers. Many of those lessons will help us change VA to better serve veterans. (Applause)

At VA we are going to judge the success of our individual and collective efforts against a single metric and that single metric is customer outcomes, veteran outcomes, what is good for the veteran. (Applause)

Now, VA's own Strategic Plan makes this very clear. The Strategic Plan says, "VA is a customer-service organization. We serve veterans." If we fail at serving veterans, we fail. We have got a lot of work to do.

So those values and leadership experiences are what inform will inform my actions and decisions as Secretary of the VA – just as I promised President Obama and just as I promised members of Congress, and just as I am promising all of you this morning. (Applause)

Lessons from the Army and Proctor and Gamble translate, whether you are an entry-level employee or a head of an organization. And here are a few of them.

Have a clear purpose. I have to live by a clear purpose. Living by a clear purpose makes your life meaningful. Meandering through life without a purpose makes your life less valuable. At VA we have the best purpose in the world and that's to serve veterans. (Applause)

President Lincoln charged us 150 years ago to care for those "who shall have borne the battle" and for their families. To me that means providing veterans effective and efficient, high-quality care and benefits that they have earned.

What I have told to the people in Phoenix yesterday is you have already earned them. This is unconditional. There is nothing more for you to do. It's up to us to serve you. (Applause)

Another lesson I learned is people want to succeed. Nobody I have met in life goes to work every single day trying to fail. There are over 340,000 employees at VA, many are veterans themselves. I am confident that the vast, vast majority of our employees understand our non-negotiable commitments and to put outcomes for veterans at the center of everything that we do. And they want to succeed in that commitment. It's my job to make sure they have that opportunity to succeed.

The third lesson: ineffective strategies, ineffective systems, and an ineffective culture are the biggest barriers to success in any organization. VA has a good strategic plan. I believe in it. We just have to make sure that every day we are working together to execute that strategic plan and accomplish our goals.

VA has strong institutional values: integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence. Taken together that's an acronym – I CARE. And that's why I wear this button. If we live by those values, if we live by this mission, if we perform every single day consistent with this I CARE button, we can't go wrong.

My first day as Secretary I asked all VA employees to join me in reaffirming our commitment to these core values. Most recently I directed all of our undersecretaries to take the same step and to reaffirm our mission and our values with their people.

So the framework for success is there, the most inspiring mission in the world, the right values, an effective strategy; but there have been systemic failures. Somewhere along the way some in the organization lost track of the mission and those core values.

Here is how those systemic failures manifested themselves – you're pretty familiar with these.

Veterans are waiting too long for getting care.

Our scheduling system is antiquated – 1985 – and cumbersome.

Our performance metrics became an end to themselves rather than a way for measuring outcomes for veterans. There were widespread attempts to game the system. This, of course, only hid the problem, making veterans wait even longer for care.

Employees who were looking out for veterans and identified systemic problems or poor leadership were sometimes punished for doing so.

We didn't hold managers accountable who hid poor performance or who retaliated against whistleblowers.

We failed to adequately assess or quantify the resources needed to provide care that we are obligated – obligated – to provide.

Now, you can put your arms around the failures by describing them in three ways: business problems, leadership problems, and resourcing problems.

Leadership problems like our misuse of metrics and our failure to hold people accountable for negligence and misconduct.

Business process problems like improper scheduling practices, our antiquated scheduling systems

And resource problems, our persistent lack of sufficient clinicians, patient-support staff, space, information technology resources, and purchased-care funding to meet the current demand for timely, high-quality health care.

Let's talk about the way ahead. We know that we cannot tackle all these issues long-term without critical cultural change and accountability. I think there are already seeds of that happening and perhaps in some unprecedented ways.

Just consider for this moment from President Obama's nomination of a new Secretary to VA to confirmation and swearing-in, it took only 30 days. And the floor vote in the Senate for that confirmation was 97 to 0. That's not a commentary on me. Please don't misunderstand my comments. It's clear, it's very clear to me that it's a sign of the nation's extraordinary commitment to our veterans. (Applause)

Thursday, President Obama signed the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 into law, another significant showing of strong support for veterans. That law allocates \$15 billion to VA over the next three years. That's \$5 billion to hire physicians, other medical staff, improve VA's infrastructure, and \$10 billion to fund additional purchased care while we build the internal capability to meet the current demand.

The legislation also – (Applause) The legislation also authorizes VA to enter into 27 new major medical facility leases in 18 different states and Puerto Rico and to give VA more space for clinicians to treat patients.

And it grants VA new authority to remove or transfer senior executives based on poor performance or misconduct. (Applause) It's all about accountability.

My very first day at West Point as a plebe – I was told at that time the lowest form of life on earth (Laughter) – I was told I had four answers to anything that ever happened: "Yes, sir." "No, sir." "Sir, I do not understand." And the most important answer of all, "No excuse, sir."

As I said earlier, the vast majority of VA employees are deadly dedicated, deeply dedicated – sorry, to the mission and VA's core values. But where that is not the case, where there has been a violation of trust of the nation or of veterans, there will be accountability. (Applause) This is about restoring the trust of veterans, of our elected representatives, and of all Americans.

Now, you should know I really appreciate the work of Chairman Sanders and Chairman Miller and the many other members of Congress who came together to pass this important legislation. And I appreciate, as well, the role DAV played in candidly informing Congress of how it saw things as Congress started determining what was needed in legislation to help VA. It couldn't have been done without DAV. (Applause)

As Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson has been doing some great, great work. He has grabbed hold of these problems like a pit bull and he is not letting go. Sloan has us heading in the right direction and I fully support all of the efforts he has put in place already. And here are a few of those first steps that we're already executing.

We have suspended all VHA senior executive performance awards for fiscal year 2014. (Applause)

The 14-day access measure which has been removed from all individual employee performance plans to eliminate any motive for inappropriate scheduling practices or behaviors. (Applause)

We have frozen VHA Central Office and VISN Office headquarters' hiring.



We are making good progress in getting veterans off wait lists and fixing scheduling problems. We have reached out to over 240,000 veterans to get them off wait lists and into clinics sooner.

In just the last two months we have made over 791,000 referrals for veterans to receive their care in the private sector. That's up more than – (Applause) that's up more than 164,000 over the same time last year. Each one of these referrals, on average, results in seven visits or appointments. So we're talking about 1.1 million additional appointments in the private sector just from increased referrals over the last two months. (Applause)

Facilities are adding more clinic hours.

We're aggressively recruiting to fill physician vacancies. But here is where I need your help. We have a lot of people to hire. Just yesterday when I was in Phoenix we have to hire over 1,000 people. We have the ability to do it but I need your help.

I was on a flight flying into Phoenix. I met a gentleman who was working for Lockheed Martin. He asked me what I did. I told him what I was going to do. He said that he had a daughter who was a lieutenant in the Air Force going to medical school. Being a veteran he talked to her about joining the VA.

She said to him, "Dad, haven't you been reading the media? With what is going on in the media, with all the negative talk in the government, I don't want to join VA." I said, "Give me her phone number." I have her phone number in my pocket. (Applause) I called her yesterday. I am calling her again today. (Applause)

But I need your help. Help me – please help me recruit the very best doctors, the very best nurses, the very best clerks for the very best health care system in the country. This is a health care system (Applause) This is a health care system that three Nobel Prize winning doctors, this is a health care system that by any measure has the best electronic medical record in the nation. And it's open system so we're allowing private doctors and clinics to use it. I need your help.

Now, we are also deploying mobile medical units and using temporary staffing resources to provide care to more veterans as quickly as possible in all of our health care facilities. The way we got the backlog down in Phoenix was we brought in mobile units from three other locations.

And we're posting regular data updates showing the progress on efforts to accelerate access to quality health care for veterans who have been waiting for appointments. If you want to know how we are doing, simply go online. All the data is there.

We are updating the antiquated appointment scheduling system beginning with near-term enhancements to the existing system, leading to an acquisition of a comprehensive, state-of-the-art, commercial, "off-the-shelf" scheduling system.

I believe the Department will need to continue to expand the use of digital technology because I want to free up resources that can be reapplied back to where the care of the veteran occurs.

We are contracting with outside organizations to conduct a comprehensive, independent audit of scheduling practices across the entire VHA system beginning early next fiscal year. We have directed every medical center and every VISN director to conduct regular monthly, in-person inspections of all their clinics – to include interacting with the scheduling staff.

I sat down yesterday at the computer to see the scheduling system myself. We want to assess the scheduling practices, identify any related obstacles to timely care for veterans. To date over 2,200 of these visits have been conducted.

We are building a more robust, continuous system for measuring patient satisfaction to provide real-time, site-specific information on patient satisfaction.

We will augment our existing survey with expanded capabilities in the coming year, to capture more veteran experience data using telephone, social media, and online means.

We will also learn what other leading health care systems are doing to track patient access experiences.

VHA has dispatched teams to provide direct assistance to facilities requiring the most improvement. We are including a large multi-disciplinary team on the ground right now in Phoenix.

In addition, we have taken action on all of the recommendations made in the IG's May Interim Report on Phoenix.

VA is expanding our use of private-sector or non-VA health care to improve access to health care for veterans who are experiencing excessive wait times, until we get our capability built.

VHA is also improving its monitoring of the effectiveness of non-VA care to ensure veterans receive identical care, good care, great care, in the private sector just like they receive in the VA.

We're determining which processes need to be reorganized or streamlined and where we need to reorganize to more efficiently and more effectively use resources to best serve veterans in accessing high-quality health care and high-quality benefits.

To help with that process I'm establishing a board of physicians that is going to advise me on best-practices for delivering timely and quality health care. We're going to improve our forecasting for resources. Then we can develop an effective strategy – that way we can develop an effective strategy for meeting increased demands.

Finally, we are improving communication between the field and the central office, between employees and leadership, with the DAV, with other veterans' service organizations, and with all stakeholders. We know we can't do this alone. We need your help. Collaborating closely with VSOs – (Applause) Collaborating closely with VSOs is a top priority if we are going to make the right changes we need to make in the days ahead.

And it's not enough to simply listen to your concerns, you thoughts or your ideas. We have to strengthen our collaboration in changing the VA department so VA leadership at the Central Office and in the field is going to work with DAV at all levels, improve the communication, gather your ideas, and make them happen.

Right now veterans are in need. We have much work to do to transform VA into the provider of choice for veterans' health care. But we can't do it without you.

Let me close by saying how grateful I am to President Obama and the Congress for entrusting me with this opportunity to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. I have a lot to learn about VA and I want to learn as much as possible about the organization and as quickly as possible.

But I know this already – the fastest, most up-to-date technology and systems are no substitute for looking at ourselves through the eyes of the veteran. No computer system substitutes for that face-to-face contact and that touch that we have as human beings.

When we do that, our direction and requirements become crystal clear. Every time we talk about looking at every issue from the lens of the veteran it becomes perfectly clear what we have to do. DAV has been doing that going on 94 years – promoting the veterans' perspective.

I want to thank you for being a friend of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Thank you for your work, your commitment, and your enduring devotion to veterans. And thank you for sharing your valuable time with me this morning. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: And now permit me to introduce the governing body of this fine organization, your DAV National Executive Committee. Ladies and gentlemen, please stand and be recognized.

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

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: And the Auxiliary should also stand but they already were so thank you for recognizing them as well. (Laughter)

Every organization needs partners that it can count on, especially when it comes to fulfilling our promises to America's veterans and meeting the needs of their families. And the DAV Auxiliary surely is that partner.

Auxiliary Commander, National Commander Susan Miller, has been a steadfast and devoted advocate for our nation's veterans and their families. Susan was elected National Commander of the Auxiliary at the organization's 91st National Convention in Orlando.

She has been active in the Auxiliary since 1971 and is a charter member of Las Animas, Colorado, Auxiliary Unit Number 6, which is named for her late father, Harold Fay Tomlin.

She credits her parents for instilling a deep passion for this organization and a tenacious commitment to our nation's injured heroes and their families. That commitment has prevailed in everything she has done, to include dedicating her professional life to ensuring the quality of care that veterans enjoy.

Until her retirement in 2011, she served three decades as a nurse with the Department of Veterans Affairs at Fort Lyon in Pueblo, Colorado.

Susan brings extensive leadership experience to the Auxiliary. In her Unit she has served in all elected positions, including commander and adjutant, and is currently serving her 15th term as treasurer.

She is a past commander of the Auxiliary Department of Colorado and is currently serving her 12th term as state adjutant.

Where DAV goes, our Auxiliary goes with us. They help us carry our colors high. Please welcome Auxiliary National Commander, my friend, Susan Miller. (Standing Ovation)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER SUSAN MILLER: Commander Johnston, Adjutants Burgess and Hezlep, National Officers, Past National Commander, delegates and guests, thank you, everyone, it has been an honor and a pleasure to be here.

Now, before I share some of my thoughts with you, I thought some cosmic coincidences might be in order. Yes, stars do align. Now, the first DAV National Headquarters was in Ohio. Commander Johnston is from Ohio. The first DAV (sic) National Headquarters was in Colorado. I am from Colorado. (Laughter)

I learned at Joe's testimonial that he was the seventh national commander from Ohio. I happen to be the seventh national commander from Colorado. (Laughter) Since we are here in Vegas, I wonder what the odds-makers might make of this. (Laughter)

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a real honor and privilege to serve as your DAV Auxiliary National Commander this year. I traveled from Maine to do hardship duty in Hawaii – hey, being the Commander is tough – from California to Florida with many stops in the middle.

Everywhere I traveled I was met with wonderful hospitality and made many new friends. I saw "United in Service" in action while attending the Sharing and Caring boat ride in Pennsylvania, what a wonderful day for the veterans and their families. Many different organizations unite together to make this even work. I am sure that many veterans look forward to this even every year.

If there's ever a doubt in your heart about America's support for our men and women in uniform and their families, I invite you to head to Birmingham, Alabama. Riding in the Veterans Day parade and seeing so many people waving flags and thanking the veterans as each car or float passed was amazing. Hundreds of people of all ages were there waving and showing their support.

In spite of the fun we have conducting our important business we should never forget those who have sacrificed. I had the honor of laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, with three national Auxiliary officers assisting me. It gives me chills to see all the lines of headstones, knowing the sacrifices they made to protect our freedoms.

I accompanied Commander Johnston as he gave his address on Capitol Hill and attended the Operation Keep the Promise Rally that was held prior to his testimony. Commander Johnston, Garry Augustine, Joe Violante and the entire team in Washington did an excellent job.

As DAV marked the 100th Anniversary of World War I, I had the pleasure of touring the World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. It is a beautiful facility with a lot of history in it. The curator we had did an excellent job on our tour. It was very somber to see the museum dedicated to what was once called "The Great War," which planted the seeds of the DAV and the Auxiliary.

I saw many of you at different conventions and conferences and experienced first-hand the great job that the DAV Auxiliary members do in the VA hospitals and clinics, the local hospitals and nursing homes, as well as in your own communities.

It is amazing to hear all the reports and hear the hours, miles and monetary donations. You are all truly amazing.

I believe the DAV Auxiliary is heading in the right direction. Membership goals were met this year. But I challenge you to attract the families and children of the new generation of veterans who are now transitioning from service.

Many of them are not aware of the vast network of support the DAV and Auxiliary have available to them and their families. We must grow in order to remain a viable, productive organization. And we need to take care of all who need our support. And I think, with your help and based on what I experienced this year, we will certainly accomplish that.

I want to thank you very much. God bless each and every one of you. And God bless America. (Standing Ovation) Thank you.

At this time I would like to recognize my friend – oh, let's keep going. Let's keep going. (Laughter) I want to invite Auxiliary Past National Commander Linda Trulio from the great State – she is not from Arizona, is she? – the great State of Arizona, to step up to the microphone for a special presentation. (Applause)

PAST DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER LINDA TRULIO: Good morning, everyone.  
(Response of "Good morning.")

PAST DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER TRULIO: National Commanders, National Adjutants, National Officers, distinguished guests and my brothers and sisters from this organization, I represent today the Past National Commanders and present our award to a distinguished Auxiliary member who, during the last four decades of her life, has dedicated herself to service of disabled veterans, their families, and veterans all over the United States.

She has spear-headed an assisted living project whereas she took transitional homeless veterans and sought housing for them and for their families. She is now on the board of directors of this organization. She stopped a motel from closing because there were some homeless veterans that needed a place to stay. She stopped a thrift shop from closing because these veterans and their families needed clothing.

She was honored by the governor of Arizona for her distinguished help in helping families and veterans with substance abuse. She is now presently on a board with her religious organization assisting more veterans.

She is one of the few people who graduated from the academy in Colorado whereby she assisted veterans with their claims and when this particular phase dwindled and she went on in her hospital to become a Hospital Service Coordinator and just continued on and on with her service.

We always say "whatever happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, Baby," but I would hope that all the information and the knowledge that you have gained here at this convention you take forward to your states, to your chapters, to your Auxiliaries and follow in the footsteps of this great Auxiliary member.

And I would like you now all to join me in thanking her and presenting our award this year to Mrs. Shirley Kosisky of Mesa, Arizona. (Standing Ovation)

Shirley, this is long overdue and I am proud to be the person to be able to give this to you. Thank you for everything you have done. Thank you. (Applause)

MRS. SHIRLEY ANN KOSISKY: Thank you. Good morning. Good morning. Thank you, all. Thank you, Past National Commanders. It is such a humbling award. It makes me at a loss for words, which is very seldom. (Laughter)

But I would just like to say when I first came into this organization my mentor was a past National Commander, Sally Wilton, who we miss dearly. And of course my first state convention was Donna Adams, the speaker. And I often thought if I could someday have the knowledge this woman has. And from all of you past National Commanders I thank you.

I guess my veteran was told he would never be able to work again. He turned to me and he said, "We are going to spend the rest of our lives helping other veterans." This is what we did. (Applause)

I thank – the National Service Officers are so great and I have learned so much from them. And I appreciate being Hospital Service Coordinator for 17 years at the Phoenix VA and learning, making me aware so much of what the veterans' needs are. And the community, it's never ending. Every day – every day is a mission. We are never done.

I would like to say I appreciate everything. DAV, I appreciate you making the veteran feel like they are needed. That's what you gave to my husband. And that's what you give to other veterans every day. I see the hope they have because of the DAV.

Thank you. And I would like to say my mission is like a journey. It is never-ending. Every day is new. There is something to do and somewhere to go. And I hope I am able to continue that for a long time. Thank you very much. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Shirley. And thank you Commanders Miller and Trulio.

For me, involvement in DAV and the Auxiliary has always been a family activity. And it is for that reason that we were particularly pleased when our partners at Golden Corral helped launch Camp Corral.

As we all know, DAV Chapters and Departments have benefited extensively through our exclusive partnership with Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday program which provides a free meal for veterans the Monday following Veterans' Day every year.

Last year through this program DAV was able to reach out to more than 433,000 veterans who received free meals. We were also able to raise more than \$1.4 million to support state and local service initiatives.

To assist with Camp Corral, DAV established the Just B Kids program to provide scholarships to get more kids to attend these invaluable camps.

The Just B Kids program empowers Chapters and Departments to raise funds through DAV. Under this umbrella, and with the support of the Charitable Service Trust, DAVA Just for Kids Program and our members, DAV is proud to make a special presentation to Camp Corral.

I would ask a very few special guests to join us for a special presentation. Please welcome to the podium Camp Corral Executive Director Betsey Fortlouis, Auxiliary Commander Susan Miller, and Charitable Service Trust President Dick Marbes. (Applause)

On behalf of DAV's Just B Kids program, please accept this donation of \$118,800. (Applause) These funds are the result of support from DAV through the DAV Charitable Service Trust, matched contributions that were collected or donated by DAV Chapters and Departments through the Just B Kids and, of course, the support of the DAV Auxiliary. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken as a ceremonial check was presented to Executive Director Fortlouis.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER MILLER: On behalf of the DAV Auxiliary, we have an additional \$10,000. (Applause)

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken as the check was presented to Executive Director Fortlouis.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BETSEY FORTLOUIS: It is such an honor and a privilege to be on this stage again this year and I am so truly humbled by the continued compassion, dedication and generosity that has helped us send over 3,200 kids to camp this summer. That is more than a thousand that we sent last year. (Applause)

And you guys are so awesome and we really couldn't do it without you. I really say from the bottom of my heart on behalf of everybody at Camp Corral and everyone at Golden Corral, thank you so much for your continued friendship. And we are going to send even more kids to camp next year. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thanks, Betsey, for all you do. Camp Corral recognizes that the sacrifices of our veterans are shared by the ones that they love. We can never forget the family members of veterans because a sacrifice in service is usually shared. Let's once again put our hands together for Camp Corral and our friends and partners at Golden Corral. (Applause)

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

Since 1987, the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, National Service Foundation and Columbia Trust have purchased 2,714 vans at a cost of more than \$61 million.

Throughout our history DAV has received unprecedented support from many sources. But there is only one committed ally who has been with us since the beginning and continues to support our mission and that is the Ford Motor Company. (Applause) That relationship began in 1922 when Henry Ford donated Model T's to transport veterans to our second national convention.

Ford is an amazing company with amazing and patriotic employees. In addition to their historic support of our cause, the corporate culture at Ford embraces veterans. From within, Ford hosts a veterans' network of employees who ensure their fellow veterans receive the support that they need to excel. DAV looks forward to supporting these efforts and more.

Joining us today is a special guest with more news about the longstanding Ford/DAV partnership. Jim Vella is president of the Ford Motor Company Fund. In this role, he leads the philanthropic and community service-related activities, including coordination of volunteer efforts by Ford employees and all activities of the Ford Motor Company Fund, a separate philanthropic organization funded largely by Ford Motor Company profits.

The Fund's primary focus is education but it also supports organizations and innovative programs that promote automotive safety education and assist communities in a variety of needs. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Jim Vella. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the song Ford Truck Man was played as Mr. Vella advanced to the podium.)

MR. JIM VELLA: Well, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. VELLA: Thank you for bringing me, allowing me to share some time with you this morning. Thanks for playing my favorite song. (Laughter) It's not Pennies from Heaven and I'm not going to sing so you can relax. (Laughter)

So thank you, National Commander Johnston, for giving us this opportunity today. I can't tell you how honored I am to be here with you, the men and women of DAV. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our country and for veterans all across the nation.

As it was just said, Ford has been supporting DAV since 1922. We have missed one year. DAV is our longest-standing community partner. And we really value that partnership. In fact, we have been working with many of you to make our relationship even stronger this year by connecting DAV with our very own veterans' network employee group and working with DAV on the Recruit Military All-Veteran Career Fairs.

But one thing that remains constant is that at Ford we continue to understand our responsibility to support veterans on many fronts. We understand veterans, especially our youngest veterans, are facing high levels of unemployment. And we are working to connect with those seeking work and offering job training or, where it makes sense, jobs at our very own company. As the Commander said earlier, it is not only the right thing to do it's the smart thing to do.

We presently employ over 5,000 veterans who have served in all branches of the armed forces. We believe that having even one of our heroes who served on the street alone is too many. And we are supporting programs to house and feed veterans in need.

We know how important it is to honor all veterans have done. And we support Honor Flights to take World War II veterans to the memorial commemorating them in Washington. And just this summer – (Applause) And just this summer we brought veterans and their families to a special event held in conjunction with the Ford Fireworks on the Detroit River.

We are offering scholarships to family members and helping support the foundation of their families through education. These initiatives complement outstanding DAV programs that get veterans to hospitals and ensure veterans receive the benefits they earned in service.

And you may remember that last year we created the Operation Grateful Nation mural, which is made of thousands of individual letters and drawings of thanks to our active military. The mural is now on display at the Pentagon and it will eventually be donated to the Boulder Crest Retreat which is located in Bluemont, Virginia.

This support of veterans reflects our ongoing and strong commitment to our communities and is just an example of how Ford goes beyond making great cars and trucks to drive a brighter future for all of us.

And a big thanks to all of you for supporting Ford as well. According to a Polk vehicle registration study, when American military families buy a new vehicle, they prefer Ford trucks, utilities and cars over any other brand. That is no surprise – (Applause) that is no surprise to us because since 2001 DAV members and their families have purchased more than 20,000 vehicles from Ford through the Ford Partnership Recognition Program or X Plan.

Those numbers put DAV members among the top three of the 3,000 companies that utilize this program to purchase vehicles. I can't thank you enough for your loyalty to Ford.

While you are here be sure to visit my colleagues at the Ford booth in the back. They can help with any questions you have about the X Plan vehicle purchase program or our after-market adaptive equipment program, Mobility Motoring.

And each person who comes and completes a short survey when they stop by will receive a 50th Anniversary Ford Mustang pin – not a car, a pin (Laughter). I got nailed on that one a couple of years ago – and a poker chip that you can play on our Plinko Board for a chance to win one of many prizes, including a camera, a small die-cast Mustang signed by Bill Ford, or a gift card.

Everyone is a winner so please stop by. I noticed there was a long line already this morning so. It's the only place in Vegas where you can guarantee you are going to win something. (Laughter)

You will also have an opportunity to create your own message for a member of the active military for this year's Operation Grateful Nation mural, which will be based on the song This Land is Your Land. So please stop by the Ford table, create an image, say hi, and become a part of this project.

So, now the fun part. If I may, at this time I'd like to ask National Commander Johnston and National Adjutant Burgess to join me here at the podium for a presentation.

(Whereupon, Commander Johnston and Adjutant Burgess joined Mr. Vella at the podium.)

MR. VELLA: As I said, 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 two brand-new Transit Vans and five Flex Vehicles. And we have our new Transit that we are going to show you right here in just a second.

(Whereupon, the Transit Vans were revealed, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. VELLA: I think the only thing that makes a Ford look better than it already does is having a DAV logo on the side of it. (Applause)

So for those of you that don't know, this is our brand-new Transit vehicle. We just began building these right here in the U.S. in Kansas City in late June and we are very happy to be able to present these new vehicles to all of you.

We are happy to be able to provide the vehicles to show our appreciation for all the sacrifices that you have made helping to serve and protect our freedom. And if you look at the screen you will see this year's map which shows the vehicle donation locations.

This year's recipients are VA medical centers in Prescott Arizona; Gainesville, Florida; Louisville, Kentucky; Saint Louis, Missouri; Northport, New York; Fargo, North Dakota; and El Paso, Texas. (Applause) So, now on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee I would like to present these gentlemen with a ceremonial check which represents the value of the vehicle donation.

(Whereupon, Mr. Vella presented a ceremonial check to Commander Johnston and Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken, and there was a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you.

MR. VELLA: This gift means that Ford has donated a total of 178 vehicles to DAV, representing a value of more than five – or \$3.7 million. We will get to the five at some point here.

We are also proud to support the families of DAV members through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program. It is my pleasure to present this ceremonial check to National Commander Johnston in the amount of \$45,000 to support this outstanding academic program. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Vella presented a ceremonial check to Commander Johnston and Adjutant Burgess, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. VELLA: Thank you. National Commander Johnston, would you please stay here with me and I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Miller to please join us on the stage, on the podium, sorry.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Miller joined Mr. Vella and Commander Johnston.)

MR. VELLA: 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 each of you with a gift from Ford Motor Company.

(Whereupon, Mr. Vella presented gifts to DAV Commander Johnston and DAV Auxiliary Commander Miller.)

MR. VELLA: Thank you. Thanks for all you do. (Applause) You know, whether it is at Ford or in organizations like DAV it really starts with the leadership at the top and the hard work of everybody in the organization. You have made a difference in the lives of many veterans over this past year.

And just in closing, on behalf of the more than 183,000 hard-working men and women of Ford Motor Company, it truly is an honor for us to be here and to be of service to you, the men and women of DAV. That is what it is about for us.

Thank you for your bravery. Thank you for your loyalty. Thank you for helping to preserve our freedom. Please enjoy the rest of the Convention and may God bless each and every one of you and our great country. Thanks, again. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: 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 continues more than 90 years of cooperation between our two great American institutions. And I am pleased to note that since 1996 Ford has donated a total of 178 vehicles to get veterans to and from their hospital appointments.

On behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the DAV and its Auxiliary, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your patriotic leadership and for making the needs of disabled veterans a priority.

Let me also recognize Ford's ongoing support of the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program. Since 2000, the Ford Motor Company Fund has supported the scholarship program. And this year they have donated, again, another \$45,000 to encourage young people nationwide to thank our nation's heroes.

They are also generous, longtime supporters of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, which DAV puts on with the Veterans Affairs. This year they donated another \$33,000 to support Miracles on a Mountaintop as a national-level sponsor. Thank you, Jim, and all the dedicated folks on your team who support DAV's services and programs.

There are many exciting things going on at Ford these days. And in spite of all the global opportunities and initiatives that the Fund is taking on, you continue your tradition of supporting our nation's heroes through DAV and through your efforts to hire and retain veterans as a part of your work force. We are truly grateful and will continue to use your investment in DAV to make a difference in the lives of those who have served.

The legacy of the modern DAV is tied directly to the leadership and vision of Past National Adjutant Art Wilson. In addition to all Art and his wife, Mary, have contributed to DAV, their name is remembered as we address one of the most important issues facing veterans.

Beyond receiving earned benefits, employment can be a roadblock separating veterans from the American Dream that they fought to defend. DAV has recently added an entire department dedicated to veterans' employment to knock down those barriers facing the men and women who served.

The Arthur H. and Mary E. Wilson Award for Top Venture Impacting Veterans is awarded to the veteran who wins the business plan competition in the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Program or EBV.

The EBV offers cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with disabilities resulting from their service to our country.

The program is designed to open the door to business ownership for our veterans by helping them develop skills in the many steps and activities associated with launching and growing a small business and by helping them leverage programs and services for veterans and people with disabilities in a way that furthers their entrepreneurial dreams.

The EBV program's business plan competition mirrors DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. So it's only natural we lend our support to this competition by offering a financial award for a special category of "Top Venture Impacting Veterans,"

which is made possible by a contribution and ongoing commitment from one of DAV's true friends, Rick Fenstermacher, Chief Executive Officer of the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation.

This award recognizes a disabled veteran who has taken on the challenge of starting his or her own business and has set an example to others. This year's recipient had a unique vision when he started his own venture.

Ben Simmons was a military working dog handler in the Air Force. Upon leaving the service, he knew he could offer something to the veterans' community with his training and passion for dogs. Ben's path led him to the EBV program through Florida State University's College of Business.

After graduating he established "On Command K9" where he uses his expertise to enhance communications between owners and their dogs. Additionally, he is developing what he calls the "Heel 2 Heal" program where he pairs local rescue dogs with veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

His program will train each dog and pair it with a veteran in need of a service animal. Then, On Command K9 will train the dog and the veteran as a team. In just a few short weeks the dog and its veteran will start a new and rewarding chapter in both their lives.

The transition from uniform to civilian life is very challenging, as everyone in this room can attest. DAV's continuing mission is to fulfill promises to the men and women who served, but we can't do it without help from good people like Ben.

While Ben couldn't be here today, we congratulate him on his accomplishments and thank him for his continued service to his fellow veterans. We wish Ben and On Command K9 much success in the future and have no doubts his zeal and compassion for the men and women who served will lead to a great many things. (Applause)

On October 5th of this year, in our nation's capital, a 16-year labor of love will finally come to fruition. The American Veterans' Disabled for LIFE Memorial, which will be the only memorial not defined by service branch, military unit, or specific conflict, is slated to open this fall. Here is a short video about this exciting news.

(Whereupon, a video on the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial was viewed.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We are quite fortunate to have with us here today, to tell us more about this upcoming, momentous event, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation's chairperson.

In 1998, Lois Pope joined forces with then-DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson and the late Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown to begin this amazing effort. A prominent philanthropist, Mrs. Pope and her private charitable foundation have provided awards for medical research, scholarships, summer camps, humanitarian relief, the performing arts, animal welfare and disabled veterans.

Mrs. Pope has proven to be among our nation's strongest supporters of injured and ill veterans and we are grateful to have her with us today. (Standing Ovation)

MRS. LOIS POPE: La-la-la-la la-la-la. (Applause) Pennies from heaven. Will I ever forget that? And I will never forget you, ever, as long as I live. And I'm humbled and honored to be here with you, all of you disabled American heroes. Thank you for inviting me.

And thank you, Commander Johnston. What did you think of that video? Is it wonderful? (Applause) Yes. It's leading us, all of us, up to what will be an amazing and momentous occasion on October 5th in Washington, D.C. And I couldn't be any more excited. How about you? (Applause)

You know, when I was visiting Washington and the many monuments and memorials in the mid-90s it always struck me. It struck me that we honor our fallen and the services, all of them, but we had not honored – we had not honored – or paid tribute to the men and women – you – you heroes whose lives were forever changed in service to our nation.

So that's when I – that's when I sought out Jesse Brown, then Secretary of Veterans Affairs – and what a great man. Jesse, are you looking down on us? I think he is, Secretary Brown – and Art Wilson, your then National Adjutant, to suggest a memorial dedicated to the sacrifices of American disabled veterans.

And after a very long journey together, our dream is about to become a reality. Oh, my god. (Applause) Yes. My god. It's more than pennies from heaven. It's much more than pennies from heaven.

Through a star – you saw the video – through a star shaped pool, lit by a ceremonial flame, and imposing granite and glass walls, the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial will convey a combination of strength and vulnerability, loss and renewal.

And, as you saw in that wonderful video, it is becoming a – it is becoming almost a sacred spot, a sacred spot where everyone – sons and daughters, mothers and dads, wives, friends, everyone – will have the opportunity to learn the important lessons of courage, sacrifice, tenacity, and loyalty and honor by bearing witness to the experiences of our disabled heroes who gave so selflessly to ensure our liberty and freedom.



There are many people – many people – who have generously and given freely of themselves to make this all possible. And I want to recognize just some of them now. We are fortunate to have four members of our board of directors with us, first my very close friend, co-founder and president of this foundation, Art Wilson. (Applause) None – none – of this would be possible if it were not for his dedication, his determination and his leadership. Art, thank you.

Our treasurer and member of the board since its inception in 1998, Gene Murphy, Gene, where are you? Where? (Applause) And Secretary Dennis Joyner, who has been an invaluable member of the board of the directors for the past six years, Dennis, where? (Applause)

I also want to recognize two members of the board who, sadly, are not with us anymore. Teleprompter? That's it. Keep going up, please. They're not here today but – no, these member of the board could not be here today but they have worked so hard to make this memorial a reality: Diane Musselmann and Gunner Kent – Diane Musselmann and Gunner Kent. (Applause)

To make something like this possible, there are a couple of people who have dedicated so much of their time, their passion, every day, every day operations, the every-day operations of this foundation: Rick Fenstermacher, our chief executive officer, and Barry Owenby.

They took this project past the many hurdles we have faced along the way with their experience, vision and strategic approach. And, sadly – and Rick and Barry, are you here? Everyone give them a hand. (Applause)

Very sadly, since this massive, massive effort has begun we have lost three amazing people who made tremendous differences for us all. The late Ken Musselmann and Gordon Mansfield were both members of our board of directors and, of course, the late, great Jesse Brown who is smiling down on us today (Applause) who was co-founder and the first executive director of the foundation.

I know – I know these three gentlemen would be immensely proud that this construction is actually occurring and that the memorial will become a reality this fall. So, now I just want to express my personal thanks to all of you disabled heroes as well as the appreciation of every member of our board of directors, past and present, to DAV, to all of you DAV heroes, National, State Departments, Chapters, Auxiliary and members – members – for their generous support.

You, the members, are the reason and the means by which this memorial is becoming a reality. Please join us in giving you a huge, huge round of applause. (Applause) Yay.

Lastly, please, over the next day or two, visit the Memorial booth here, right here in the exhibit area, for more information and to make hotel reservations and register for the Dedication Ceremony tickets. God bless you all. I love you.

And I hope to see all of you on October 5th in Washington, D.C., at the memorial. Thank you. (Applause) Thank you.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thanks, Lois. We look forward to seeing you in October and are grateful for your contributions to make this dream a reality.

This past year has come with many changes and challenges that have demanded consistent leadership and guidance from within the veterans' community. During his first full year – and certainly not an easy year – as National Adjutant Marc Burgess has provided the organization's day-to-day direction with a level of professionalism, and dedication to veterans that makes DAV the leader amongst veterans' service organizations.

In an ever-changing landscape, with storms ravaging veterans' homes, and the VA in crisis, Marc has demonstrated the visionary leadership and foresight to keep the organization moving on a clear and steady course. In these turbulent times for veterans we are thankful for his solid direction as we continue moving forward to achieve our mission and fulfill the promise to the nation's veterans, their families and survivors.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome your DAV National Adjutant, Marc Burgess. (Standing Ovation)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. Thank you, everybody. I am honored and humbled to serve as your National Adjutant.

As you can well understand, this last year has been one of growth and challenge. We have been entrusted with the incredible legacy of DAV. And no matter the obstacles we face, our purpose, our mission, do not change, nor does our commitment waiver.

It is that commitment that has cemented our place among veterans' advocates and our body of work that has earned a reputation as a strong and influential advocate for veterans' rights.

Our reputation has been forged through the commitment of our members, our camaraderie and our dedication to service. It demands that we strive even harder in helping those who served to overcome obstacles as they reclaim their lives after service.

Now it's time to give you all a brief highlight of DAV's last twelve months of service and advocacy. This has been an incredible year of growth for our organization and it's one that we can all be proud of to have been a part of. With that, let the show begin.

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

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I think we can all agree that this has been another spectacular year for DAV and for the men, women and families that we serve. There have been some big moments for this organization and, no doubt, there are many more to come.

But none of it would have been possible without the continued dedication and hard work you all contribute on a daily basis. It's those day-to-day moments that help us create a year of exemplary service to veterans. Thank you for all you do. (Applause)

It is most important, I think, to look at these images and reflect on the heart of what it expresses. The heart of DAV – the backbone of what we are able to do – lies in the men and women in the field who make our services and mission of hope possible.

It is because of that dedication that we have been able to represent more than 330,000 benefit claims for veterans and their families in the past year. It is because of that commitment that nearly one million veterans have entrusted us with their powers of attorney for those claims. No other veterans' service organization will come close to that in our lifetimes. And that is an enviable record that we should all be exceptionally proud of. But we want to raise the bar.

Through the continued training and hard work of our Chapter, Department, Transition and National Service Officers, we continue to improve and build a legacy of hope that empowers and enables veterans to enjoy the American Dream they fought to defend.

They are the best because they have an unmatched commitment to veterans. And we will continue to give them the tools and education they need to operate at their absolute peak. If you're a service officer, please stand up and let us all give you a big round of applause.

(Whereupon, all service officers present stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: DAV is also a leader in the realm of veterans' advocacy. We garner tremendous respect among lawmakers, their staff members, as well as the leaders within VA that we work with day-in and day-out in Washington. This is a credit not only to the professionalism and experience of our staff, but our expertise in veterans' affairs and the strength of our grassroots advocacy network.

We work hard to keep our members well informed about veterans' issues and when we ask for you to support, we find you are eager to lend it. Your continued active engagement in these grassroots efforts will ensure DAV remains a powerful voice for veterans.

And let us never forget – as you saw in the video – our "true north" always points back to veterans and their families.

At the Department and Chapter levels, all across the country, our members are touching lives through their volunteer efforts. It could be serving as a volunteer driver through the DAV Transportation Network, volunteering time to visit injured and ill veterans at VA hospitals or nursing homes, or just lending a hand to those in the local community. We see this spirit of compassion, of giving, and veterans serving veterans, and it is a heartwarming inspiration to us all.

Clearly, DAV, nationwide, is on the move. And every day I see the reports in the media. And our stories are being told. Stories like those in Chapter 16 in North Carolina, whose active members are developing community partnerships to address and prevent homelessness.

Or Chapter 12 in San Bernardino, California, who partners with Home Depot to improve living conditions for needy veterans and builds gardens in their community to bring them together and provide creative rehabilitation.

And Chapter 2 in Youngstown, Ohio, where veterans are teaming up with other charities to provide a mobile food pantry for veterans in need.

The stories come in daily. And they only cover a fraction of the great initiatives that are making DAV a household name in communities nationwide. I try to reach out and thank you when I hear of these great reports, but I know I am missing a few. So thank you. Thank you all.

We have departments trying new and innovative programs based on need and stepping up in times of natural disasters to ensure our own are not left behind. If you volunteer for DAV or the Auxiliary in any capacity, please stand up to be recognized and recognize your fellow heroes who make our organization work. Volunteers, please stand.

(Whereupon, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: We recognize that there are core areas we need to maintain and strategic areas where we need to build. It is a great tragedy that it cost more than 6,000 lives in recent wars and a miscarriage of justice to our Vietnam veterans to change the American public's views on veterans.

Little can remind us more of that sacrifice than the “Always Lost” exhibit that joins us here at our convention. The fight “to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan” and to separate the war from the warrior have come at a heavy price to you in this room.

Over the course of the last nine decades, DAV has seen the public's affinity for its veterans ebb and flow. We've seen the parades. We've seen every kind of homecoming one could imagine. And now, with the perspective of history on our side, we can see many different roads this relationship could take in the coming years. It can change. It will change.

Though the public may be by and large ready to send their young off to war, they rarely consider the full cost of the battle. When the shooting stops, so does much of the attention paid to the warrior whose battle toward recovery can last a lifetime.

Now is a time when we must harness the patriotism shared by our public and build a relationship with the American people that turns the moment's good will into an enduring future of compassion and advocacy for those who have served.

I'm humbled to be among you and serve as your national adjutant. And while I couldn't be more proud of our accomplishments, I know it's the hard work of the many in this hall and the many more you represent who made it possible.

I'd also like to recognize my staff. With feedback and support from our membership, we've challenged our team members for several years now to take DAV to a new level. And we have made tremendous strides this year.

I'm blessed to have, as heads of every department, and under the superb leadership of Executive Directors Barry Jesinoski and Garry Augustine, innovative and strategic leaders. They are finding new solutions to serve our core functions and support the folks in the field who make things work. At every level, at every office in headquarters, we are blessed to have professionals who understand the importance of our mission and respond with dedication and passion.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve. And thank you, Commander, for your leadership, your guidance, and your friendship. This concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Marc. The chair will entertain a motion to accept the National Adjutant's report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: So moved.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Second.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? So ordered. Now I want to recognize someone who through their spirit and actions embodies what DAV is all about: veterans helping veterans.

Despite catastrophic injury, this individual has gone on to achieve tremendous personal and professional success. But what is remarkable is how he continues to turn around and use those achievements to benefit his fellow veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's take a closer look at a veteran whose impassioned work, patriotism, compassion for veterans, and inspiring spirit has made him our 2014 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

(Whereupon, a video outlining Roger Ferland's service was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Sisters and brothers, please give a warm reception to your 2014 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Roger Ferland. (Standing Ovation)

If you would permit me to read this citation:

“DAV is honored to recognize your extraordinary commitment to veterans, your local community and the nation. From the earliest stages of your rehabilitation following your injuries during combat actions in Vietnam, your optimism and strength of character have provided inspiration to your fellow injured and ill veterans and their families.

“Through tireless dedication to meeting goals in your personal and professional life, you set an exceptional example for others to follow. You are selflessly committed to providing cost-free legal assistance to your fellow veterans in Arizona and have helped guide statewide policy to ensure that they are neither forgotten nor abandoned after leaving military service.

“Despite physical challenges, you continue to live your life fully and put the needs of other veterans first. Your humble spirit and positive attitude are a living testament to DAV's mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

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

(Whereupon, an official photograph was taken, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. JOHN FERLAND: Good morning, to all of you. Mr. Johnston, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Marszalek and the other distinguished officers, members and guests of the DAV. You pay me an honor with this award for which I am very grateful, although unsure whether it is deserved. Thank you. I will say one thing this rostrum makes me feel very short, but, anyway. (Laughter)

Last month I visited Fort Rosecrans, National Cemetery in San Diego, with my friend Susan. Like Arlington and other National Cemeteries, it is a very special place. As Lincoln said in referring to the Gettysburg battlefield, "It is hallowed ground." And I am sure that the memorial that Lois described will also be that same hallowed ground.

Because of its location on hills and on cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, it has spectacular views of San Diego – and I would advise anybody in the audience when you are in San Diego to visit this incredible place. It has spectacular views of San Diego and the Navy and Marine bases that call San Diego home.

Over 100,000 veterans, beginning with veterans from before the Spanish-American War, are buried there. You feel an overwhelming reverence, peace, and, most of all, gratitude, for who they are and what they did.

As I said when I was told of this award, those of us that are survivors have an obligation to those whose time on earth has passed to take the legacy they have left us and build on it. We owe it to them as we owe it to each other to make this a better world for our families, our communities, our country, and, most of all, all of you fellow veterans.

That is a commitment that I have made and that I have tried to fulfill with the actions you have heard on the film a few seconds ago. It's also a commitment that I hope each of us will make to each other today and to this great organization that is the DAV, and that we all serve and that has accomplished so much for the veteran community.

Now, as any good lawyer does, I will have a disclaimer. I am about to make some statements that have not been endorsed by the DAV, by anybody up here, by many, many of you, perhaps. But because Teddy Roosevelt calls the sort of thing I'm doing here a "bully pulpit" I'm going to use that pulpit to get some points across that I think are relevant to the DAV and this award.

The first are two questions. The first question is why is our leadership in this country not stronger? I'm not asking this as an attack on the president or the Congress, with its lofty 15 percent approval rating. The problem of deficient leadership applies to institutions that are governmental, religious and private, across-the-board.

However, the state of the leadership in this country makes no sense. Our leaders should be the best educated, the most mentally sophisticated, with the most resources available to them physically and intellectually in our history. Yet all of these advantages, it would seem, are being squandered.

Indeed, the integration into leadership of the over 50 percent of our population that is female and has heretofore not had access to that leadership has not made things better the way they should be with that new folks coming in. Problems are still not being solved. And the right decisions are not necessarily being made. As you know from reading the newspaper, our decision makers are in constant gridlock with problems ignored or fought over but not resolved.

Many of you have read the biography or seen the television program about the life of our second president, John Adams. He lived in a time when the country was brand new and barely surviving. Communication was measured in days or weeks. There were no computers to provide the analysis and data for well-informed decision making that we have now.

In those days there were huge divisions in the country. They were, in many ways, much more fundamental than what we have now. Yet those same individuals with this same division produced not gridlock but the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and a basic structure of government that exists to this day and that is the envy of the world. How could they do it and we don't seem to be able to? That is a question I would ask you.

Part of the answer may be to assist and strengthen the good guys like the DAV that are providing the right kind of leadership to our country. We can assist in achievement of this mission by providing such organizations with the resources, commitment and political support to make an even greater difference. That leads me to my second question and a proposal.

There are structural changes that we should make to have an improved quality of leadership. What should they be? Well, we could spend the next 100 conventions talking about that. My purpose today, however, is much more modest.

I would ask you to consider the benefits to improve leadership of adopting a two-year requirement for mandatory public service for all Americans after high school but before college and joining the workforce. (Applause) I hope that means support and not amusement, but in any case. (Laughter)

The obligation could be met by military service but also by service in the Peace Corps, Teach for America, going on a Mormon mission, feeding the poor, protecting the environment, and, most of all, working for the DAV and hundreds of other pursuits that could mean payback to this country for the freedom and prosperity that we enjoy as Americans.

John Kennedy in his Inaugural Address spoke of asking "not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." In recent years that sentiment has apparently been reversed. Congress and the federal courts have created dozens of new legal rights that we automatically enjoy merely because we are born as Americans but with no consequent obligation as the price of exercising these rights.

We as veterans know, and it was said earlier today, that "freedom is not free." Mandatory public service can at least begin compensating our forbearers who paid the cost of our freedom. It will also help solve the leadership crisis about which I have complained.

We who served in the military understand leadership because its existence is inherent in how we achieve our mission. Mandatory public service will create the structure for leadership to be learned and exhibited in dozens of contexts.

What I am proposing is certainly not a panacea but it is a start in an area where nothing is being done and it must be done. If this country is to survive we need to take action. And what I am proposing is at least a modest start.

Thank you for your time. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: On behalf of all of us, Roger, thank you for all you have done for your fellow veterans. I will now ask adjutant, National Adjutant to read DAV's Statement of Policy, the list of committee advisors who I have appointed and who received the approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting, and to make any further announcements.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: "The DAV 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:

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.
2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.
3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.
5. Adequate compensation to 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.
6. Enhanced outreach to ensure that all disabled veterans receive all benefits they have earned and that the American people understand and respect the needs these veterans encounter as a result of their disabilities.

"It, therefore, follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for veterans, their surviving spouses and dependents which are based upon other than wartime service-connected disability.

"We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

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

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

I would now like to read into the record National Commander Johnston's appointed Convention Committee Advisors: Credentials Committee, Mike Dobmeier, Tony Baskerville; General Resolutions and Membership, Paul Varela, Chad Moos; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joe Violante, Joy Ilem; Constitution and Bylaws, Bradley Barton, Edward Hartman; Finance, Chad Richmond, Barry Jesinoski; Employment, Jeff Hall and Danny Soto; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Bill Baumann, Adrian Atizado; Nomination of National Officers, Gene Murphy, and Dick Marbes.

The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolution Coordinating Office in Palace 4.

Now for a few announcements: if you are a member of the National Executive Committee please stand by at the conclusion of the Opening. Immediately following the conclusion of this session we will hold a rehearsal of the Memorial Service in this hall. So, again, if you are a member of the NEC or involved in the Memorial Service, please stay in the hall once we are finished. The Memorial Service will be held at 7:30 a.m. here tomorrow morning.

Seminars start this afternoon with the POW/MIA Seminar in the Grand Ballroom Silver on the Casino Level at 3:00, at 3:00 o'clock. The Social Networking Seminar will be held in Grand Ballroom Platinum on the Casino Level at 3:30. The National Commander's reception will be held in the Grand Ballroom at 7:00 p.m.

For Fun Night tomorrow evening at 8:00 p.m. we will be treated to swing revival band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. (Applause)

Beginning this afternoon at 1:30 Convention Committees are scheduled to meet. Those of you who have been elected to Convention Committees are asked to please be on time in the room assigned for your meeting. We ask that the Committees complete their work as soon as possible.

Check out your program for more information on Convention events and links to view and download photos and videos, reports and other convention content. The information is in your program on how to do that.

Our first business session will convene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. At that time we will hear reports from our headquarters executive directors and the board of directors' treasurer. We will also honor employers, VA employees, volunteers and our top recruiters.

Finally, many of you have noticed the photo walls inside the exhibition area that I mentioned earlier. Titled "Always Lost: A Meditation on War," the photos and prose on display includes the individual photographs and names of more than 6,500 war dead who served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. It is on loan from Western Nevada College and includes 2004 Pulitzer Prize-winning Iraq War photographs from David Leeson and Cheryl Diaz courtesy of the Dallas Morning News.

Though intended to illustrate and personalize the service and sacrifices of our fallen, it is a reminder to us of the true cost of war – and the men and women of all generations who we honor through our service as members of the DAV and the Auxiliary.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Marc. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Chaplin Ringo to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Our Eternal Father, we are always honored and humbled for the responsibility of serving those who have so freely served. We are also grateful for those who spend their time in this great organization continuing to serve. In our missions we strive to make a world a better place.

Father, keep us aware of our heritage and those who have fought and sacrificed so much for the freedoms that we enjoy today. We thank You for all of our blessings and for these days of fellowship and warm reunions.

We so appreciate those behind the scenes of providing this great convention. May we all express that to each one of those workers as we see them throughout this weekend.

We ask for Your special spirit and blessings to continue to be with us for the remainder of this Convention. We humbly pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The Convention stands in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. (Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:43 o'clock, a.m. on Saturday, August 9, 2014.)

## FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

August 10, 2014

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 93rd National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday morning, August 10, 2014, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Joseph W. Johnston.

COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: Okay, can everybody hear me? Hey. I want to dispel a number of myths before we get started this morning. First of all, I am not Lady Gaga. (Laughter) My name is not Josephine. (Laughter) And I'm not a ventriloquist dummy. (Laughter) Although, if you ask Vicki she would say, well, I'm probably all three.

The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I would ask everyone to please turn off your cell phones and your portable devices. Ladies and gentlemen, sisters and brothers, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Hand Salute.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Please be seated. I will now ask our National Chaplain Ron Ringo to lead us in prayer this morning as we prepare to undertake this morning's business.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, veterans have always and will stand vigil over the free world. We are held together by a common bond: our love of life, liberty and freedom for all. Veterans are a team that sets them apart as a group that makes the world a better place. They are an essential part of our nation's heritage.

Please be with all those here today as we conduct and organize our business affairs to help the veterans and their families. We are grateful for all those who have worn the uniform of our country and for their families. We are honored here in the DAV to assist in fulfilling the promises made to them. And we do so humbly in the name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Please be seated. In order to be heard as a delegate at this Convention you must first be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at the microphone will be recognized. They must state their name, chapter and the state that they represent.

Comrades, the convention rules are a continuing part of our Bylaws. They are the part and parcel of Article 3 and remain in effect continually. They are subject to amendment as provided by the Bylaws, and do not require re-adoption.

I would now call on the Credentials Committee for its report, Chairperson Warren Tobin. Warren.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on August 9th, 2014, by Committee advisors Michael E. Dobmeier and Anthony Baskerville.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention chairman and secretary. Warren Tobin from North Dakota was elected chairman and James Guglielmoni of California was elected as secretary. The committee on credentials met this morning in the Sky View 1 and roll call showed 1,188 delegates and 44 alternates are present.

This is a partial report for information purposes only and reflects the registration as of 6:00 o'clock p.m., August 9th, 2014. At the present time we have 437 Chapters, 48 Departments, 40 National Officers, 9 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,206 delegates and 58 alternates for a total vote count of 8,217.

Comrade Commander, this completes and concludes the first report of the Credentials Committee.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Warren. At this time I would also like to introduce and recognize a few members of my personal staff, if they would please stand when I call their name: National Chief-of-Staff Ray Hutchinson; Officer-of-the-Day James Johnston; and Sergeant-at-Arms, David Uetterling. Thank you all for your support. It has made my job easier throughout this year.

Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine leads DAV's National Service and Legislative programs and serves as DAV's principal spokesperson before Congress, the White House, and the VA.

Following graduation from high school, the Ohio native enlisted in the United States Army in August of 1969. Garry was medically discharged in 1972 due to injuries sustained on the battlefield on a combat patrol in Vietnam.

A landmine explosion in the Batangan Peninsula on April 9th, 1970, resulted in the loss of use in his left hand and left foot, multiple shrapnel wounds to his body, and the loss of his spleen. Garry spent two years recovering at Walter Reed Army Hospital and the Cleveland VA medical center.

But, like many here, he would not let his injuries stand in the way of a meaningful life. Following his injury he earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Ohio University in 1978. The same year he was brought on as one of the first Hospital Service Coordinators in the nation for the DAV Department of Ohio. He earned a master's degree in sociology at Cleveland State in 1983, the year he joined DAV.

He has served in numerous capacities at the Chapter level as well as Director of Service for the DAV Department of Ohio. A success at every level, Garry is doing an excellent job during a tumultuous and challenging time for veterans through he (sic) and his staff's hard work in Washington, D.C.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to your Washington Headquarters' Executive Director, Garry Augustine. (Applause)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARRY AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, DAV.

(Response of "Good morning.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARRY AUGUSTINE: National Commander Johnston, distinguished guests and delegates to DAV's 93rd National Convention, I am honored and privileged to present my first annual report to the membership as Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington.

First, let me begin by thanking National Commander Johnston and National Adjutant Marc Burgess for their inspired leadership and tireless dedication to the DAV. In addition, our Auxiliary leaders – Commander Miller and National Adjutant Hezlep – and our staff members in Washington, D.C., and Cold Spring, all play a critical role in what DAV does for the men and women who served and I want them all to know how much we appreciate their contributions.

But, truly, the biggest thanks I owe are to you, our members. You have been there to answer the call for support in times of need. And it is your voice, collectively, that gives DAV the strength to fight the fight for veterans' care and benefits.

The past year has been one of the most challenging year ever for America's veterans. Since we convened last year in Orlando, the political gridlock in Washington has only intensified, culminating last October in a 16-day government shutdown that closed VA Regional Offices, slowed down claims processing and appeals work, and even delayed burials.

Had this shutdown continued a couple of weeks longer, millions of veterans and dependents would have stopped receiving their disability compensation, DIC and G.I. Bill checks. In the face of this political stalemate DAV responded and we responded forcefully.

As many VA Regional Offices shut their doors to veterans, our National Service Department, with critical help from our Departments and Chapters, executed a contingency plan to set up alternative offices to ensure every veteran who needed assistance filing a claim for benefits got the help that they needed. At the same time, our Legislative team, along with other VSOs, put a plan in motion to pressure lawmakers to protect veterans.

In October, I was proud to represent DAV at a rally in front of the World War II Memorial calling on the president and Congress to end the shutdown that was harming veterans and their families.

Our National Commander Johnston wrote directly to President Obama, Speaker Boehner and Secretary, Majority Leader Harry Reid demanding they find a solution to end the shutdown.

He also called on Congress to keep VA's doors from ever closing again by passing legislation to extend advanced appropriations to all veterans' programs, services and benefits. This message was echoed by you, our members, across the country.

You rallied behind DAV by making phone calls, sending emails, and holding town hall meetings in places like Jacksonville, Anchorage, South Dakota, Oakland and Boston, to get the message through: never again will we allow veterans to be held hostage during budget battles or government shutdowns. And while the shutdown did end, we knew DAV's work must continue.

Five years ago DAV achieved one of our finest victories when we helped gain passage of advanced appropriations for veterans' health care and programs, ensuring a year in advance. Because of this, the shutdown in October did not interrupt health care services for our veterans. Now we are working to give the rest of the VA the same protection.

In November, we organized a Capitol Hill press conference with two-dozen VSO partners and Congressional sponsors of advanced appropriations legislation, the Putting Veterans' Funding First Act. Just weeks later, the Senate VA Committee voted to approve the legislation.



Next, our Legislative and Communications teams developed a comprehensive strategy to maximize public pressure on lawmakers to pass advanced appropriation legislation, a campaign that we called Operation Keep the Promise.

Undeterred by the snow and cold, hundreds of you stood with National Commander Johnston at the Operation Keep the Promise rally during our Mid-Winter Conference. And those who couldn't come in person were able to lend your support with phone calls, emails and Facebook posts.

Working through the Commander's Action Network and social media you generated in excess of 10,000 emails and phone calls to Congress and helped spread our message to more than 4.3 million people online. Here's a short clip that shows what a great day that was.

(Whereupon, a video of Operation Keep the Promise was viewed.)

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARRY AUGUSTINE: DAV is taking a more aggressive approach to outreach and our efforts to get DAV's voice in the media have paid off.

We are developing relationships with reporters and DAV's voice has found its way to CNN, The New York Times, NPR, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, USA TODAY, Military.com, Los Angeles Times, and other local and national outlets. This helps as we continue our push for advanced appropriations and address the challenges we as a community face.

Unfortunately, the news that has put a spotlight on veterans is not good: the new crisis that emerged several months ago with allegations of secret waiting lists, falsification of medical appointment records, and the destruction of official documents at VA clinics across the country.

This breakdown in management and accountability at VA, which left thousands of veterans waiting for care, was shocking and absolutely unacceptable. We called on Congress and the Administration to take responsible steps to ensure such a breakdown never occurs again.

For more than a decade, DAV and our partners in the Independent Budget have been warning that a continual pattern of inadequate resources at VA would lead to increased rationing and decreased access to care and that veterans would be the ones who suffered. Unfortunately, our predictions proved correct. The size and scope of the scandal ultimately led to the resignation of numerous VA officials, including Secretary Shinseki.

Since his departure, we have worked closely with then-Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson who moved aggressively to expand medical treatment options to veterans awaiting care, fix management and accountability problems within VA, and to begin restoring the trust of veterans, Congress and the American people. We look forward to continuing this partnership with him and the new VA Secretary Robert McDonald now that he has assumed the office.

Both the House and Senate moved quickly to draft and pass separate legislation to address the VA health care access problems, focusing almost exclusively on creating temporary programs to send veterans out to the private sector for their health care.

Because we are concerned about long-term solutions, we worked with our fellow VSOs to send a joint letter to Congress urging them to follow some fundamental principles before passing any final legislation.

First, ensure that all veterans waiting for treatment are provided access to timely care. Second, when veterans are sent to the private sector for care, VA must both coordinate and pay for that care. Third, VA must request supplemental funding for new private sector care and Congress must fully fund it. And, fourth, Congress must preserve and strengthen the VA health care system so that it remains capable of providing high-quality, timely health care.

A couple of weeks later, then-Acting Secretary Gibson did submit a request for an additional \$17.6 billion to increase VA's capacity to provide medical care to veterans by hiring more doctors and nurses and by expanding treatment space. Once again, we worked with more than a dozen VSO colleagues to build support for that request in Congress.

Finally, just over a week ago, Congress reached a deal to create a temporary program expanding private sector care while also investing new resources into the VA health care system.

The final bill, which was signed into law last week, provides \$10 billion to give some veterans additional options for non-VA care and \$5 billion for VA to hire more medical providers and strengthen its facilities, and another \$1.3 billion to lease 27 new clinics across the country.

This legislation was a compromise that will temporarily increase access for some veterans, while making a down payment on long-term investments to sustain the VA health care system.

Over the rest of this year and into next year DAV will continue working to ensure veterans' health care needs are being met today and will be met in the future.

This new legislation has many unfinished details and could have unintended consequences so rest assured we will be actively engaged with VA and Congress to make sure it gets done right.

We remain dedicated to ensuring that veterans receive timely, high-quality care and that we do not lose the wealth of valuable veteran-centered knowledge and expertise inside the VA system.

But even in the midst of all the major upheavals at VA, DAV continued doing what it does better than any other veterans' organization: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives through our many programs – particularly our service program.

In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico we employ a corps of approximately 277 NSOs and 34 Transition Service Officers who counsel and represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from VA, DoD and other government agencies.

In 2013 they represented more than 330,000 claims for benefits for veterans and their families and survivors, obtaining for them nearly \$3.3 billion in new and retroactive benefits. In 2013 our TSOs conducted nearly 1,400 formal presentations to more than 54,000 transitioning service members on military installations and filed close to 20,000 claims for benefits.

Our Mobile Service Office program traveled almost 90,000 miles in the past year, visiting over 800 cities and towns, interviewing more than 20,000 veterans and other claimants. I say with pride that DAV's well-trained National Service Officers are the best in the business. (Applause)

But we don't sit on our laurels. Right now we are developing a new interactive program that will keep DAV on the leading edge by migrating our training into online knowledge resources.

Our team of National Appeals Officers helped thousands of veterans prepare written briefs and conduct formal hearings before the Board of Veterans Appeals, representing almost 30 percent of all cases decided by the Board last year.

About three-fourths of DAV-represented appeals resulted in original decisions being overturned or remanded for additional development and re-adjudication. DAV also continues its pro bono representation program for clients seeking review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In 2013 these pro bono attorneys provided personal representation at the Court in over 1,100 cases.

But our National Service Department doesn't do it alone. We rely largely on the cooperation, support and assistance of our Department and Chapter Service Officers. In 2013 DAV trained and certified more than 1,600 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 31 states.

Throughout 2013 our NSOs, Departments and local Chapters also provided disaster relief during damaging natural disasters in New York, Illinois, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Oklahoma and Missouri, providing over \$240,000 in direct financial assistance to veterans, service members and their families to aid them in times of great need.

In addition to the direct service we provide to veterans, we also work closely with the Veterans Benefit Administration to assist them in their transformation to a modern, paperless claims processing system. In fact, DAV was the first VSO to file an electronic claim. And we lead the way in filing fully-developed claims which now account for almost 40 percent of all claims that we file.

While claims still take too long, there has been progress. At the beginning of 2013 more than 860,000 disability compensation and pension claims were pending, but by the beginning of this month that number had dropped by more than 37 percent, currently at 555,000. The number of claims officially in the backlog – those pending more than 125 days – dropped by more than 60 percent, from over 600,000 in January 2013 to under 270,000 today.

In addition, VA reports that the quality of completed claims rose steadily from 86.3 percent in January 2013 to 90.3 percent in June of 2014. While this progress is encouraging, our service and legislative teams continue to work closely with VA and Congress to ensure that progress continues and that the system is truly reformed so that each claim is done right the first time. (Applause)

We are also working closely with the BVA, the Board, and other VSOs to address the growing backlog of appeals. We are developing a new, fully-developed appeals program, modeled after the fully-developed claims program, and hope to take that idea to Congress later this year.

Our legislative team continues to promote DAV's other policy priorities such as expanding caregiver assistance to veterans of all eras. Several years ago Congress authorized new services and supports for family caregivers of severely-injured and wounded veterans; however, the law only provided the full array of services to caregivers of veterans injured since September 11, 2001.

We reached out to our members early this year to find out how this inequality was effecting veterans and received a number of heart-breaking responses.

One letter from a caregiver told us about his father, a Korean and Vietnam War veteran, who was left 100 percent disabled from a traumatic brain injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The cost of care in the final years of his life cost the family in excess of \$7,600 per month, yet the new caregiver program was unable to provide any monetary support.

Through DAV, the family was able to obtain their father's other earned VA benefits but this story and hundreds more like it illustrate the inequity of limiting caregiver services to veterans from recent

wars. Our legislative team is working to amend the law so that it applies equally to family caregivers of veterans from all eras. (Applause)

We are also working to improve and expand services to another overlooked group of veterans – women veterans. For many years DAV has been recognized for promoting the needs of women veterans at the National, Department and Chapter levels.

Our Women's Advisory Committee, made up of women veterans from across the country, meets annually at our National Convention and Mid-Winter Conference, and we are known for actively recruiting women to serve in our NSO and TSO corps, where there are currently 63 women.

Because of our reputation and expertise, DAV regularly provides testimony before Congress and has actively drafted and advocated for new legislation to address the unique health care and benefit needs of women who have served.

I am very pleased to announce that DAV recently commissioned a study and special report focused on the challenges and barriers women veterans face as they transition out of the military. This research will examine existing government programs designed to help women in their difficult transitions from active duty back to civilian life and identify gaps that need to be filled.

We plan to present DAV's Women Veterans in Transition Report to Congress in September at a Capitol Hill event and will work with VA and Congress next year to implement recommendations in that report through changes to federal laws, regulations and policies.

But despite all the scandals and crises and political dysfunction we have seen in recent years, I remain confident that working together we can continue to make progress for all of the men and women who were injured, wounded or made ill in their service.

After a year in this new position, I feel even more optimistic for the future, particularly when I look at the renewed respect across the country for military veterans, especially from our young people.

A letter we recently received from an elementary school social worker in New York is a perfect example. Here is what she wrote:

"We held a 'care-crow' making contest with a character education-related theme. Parents and students voted for the best one using loose change.

"The winning 'care-crow' received all the funds from voting for a donation to a charity of their choice.

"The winning 'care-crow' was made by one of our second grade classes with a citizenship theme. The charity of choice for this class was DAV (Applause) because their teacher has veterans in her family and she is thankful for their commitment each day and every day.

"Please accept our donation of \$324 to your organization. We want to express our gratitude to all veterans for their service and dedication to our country.

"I have included a picture of the 'care-crow' as well as Mrs. Cislos' second grade class at Clinton Street Elementary in West Seneca, New York.

"Thank you again for all you do to help our many veterans."

That's the kind of letter that motivates me to get up every day and come to work to continue fighting for the cause we all believe in.

So let me close by saying the same thing as Mrs. Cislos' class: Thank you for all you do to help our many veterans. Commander, this concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Garry. May I have a motion from the floor to accept Mr. Augustine's report.

MR. JOSEPH VIOLANTE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 1.

MR. VIOLANTE: Thank you, Commander. Joe Violante, DAV Chapter 7, Bowie, Maryland, moves that we accept the report of DAV National Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I have a motion, do I hear a second? You have to go to the microphone.

MR. DONALD DAY: Donald Day, Commander, Department of New York, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? The motion is carried.

I have long said – I have long said – that I would put DAV's executive staff up against any professional team in this country, including all other non-profit and for-profit organizations. And the work of Garry's team and those in Cold Spring this last year illustrate that point.

That said, it is now my pleasure to introduce to you National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski for his report. Barry is a Gulf War era veteran of the United States Marine Corps (Cheers) – God help us (Laughter) – and a native of Ottertail County, Minnesota.

He was appointed to his current position following last year's national convention. Before that, he led DAV's efforts in Washington, D.C., as Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Head-

quarters. He started his career with DAV nearly 20 years ago as a National Service Officer and also worked for several years on our National Service Staff in Human Resources.

In his current capacity Barry serves as DAV's chief financial officer and leads DAV's voluntary services, membership, employment, communications, fund-raising, accounting, administration, information technology, logistics and plant operations. As DAV has taken extraordinary steps in the areas he leads, we must all be grateful to have a leader with such thoughtful skills and strategic vision. He is doing an amazing job for us every day.

Sisters and brothers, please welcome to the podium your Executive Director, Barry Jesinoski. (Applause)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: National Commander Johnston, guests and delegates to our 93rd National Convention of DAV, it is certainly my privilege to share what is going on at DAV National Headquarters and what is coming in the future as we grow – and we are growing.

First, I would like to thank National Commander Johnston for his leadership and guidance in what was a very fast-paced year for DAV. And, of course, I thank National Adjutant Burgess. Your vision for plotting our course and the direction we have taken this year has truly taken DAV to a new level in terms of our approach to the business of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served.

If there is one thing instilled in DAV's culture it is that maintaining the status quo is a sure path to mediocrity. Veterans are exceptional people and the veterans who comprise DAV, all of you, are particularly exceptional because you have sacrificed and overcome tremendous adversity just to quality for membership.

As such, DAV members rightfully demand, and deserve, the exceptional from those who comprise our professional staff. I'm proud of the hard work our team has put forward this year and I feel confident that the results of our efforts and the strategic direction we are taking for the future will yield tremendous results.

DAV is evolving. We are doing so because it is the right thing to do for the veterans we serve. And we are doing so because it is completely necessary for the future of our organization. We are staying true to our values but finding ways that we can use technology and emerging resources to improve our efficiency and increase awareness of DAV.

When I talk about DAV's values, I am talking primarily about service. That's what we are all about. How we serve our nation's veterans and the core functions of our organization are extremely important. And I'm proud of our efforts in this area.

It includes infrastructure. DAV is thoughtfully, but aggressively, working on a software solution that will replace many of the applications that we use in the areas of fund-raising, membership, voluntary services, and other areas. This application is called DAV 360.

It is going to take time to implement; in fact, it is going to take years. But it is going to give us a 360 degree view and understanding of our data while consolidating and streamlining our processes. In short, it's going to improve the way we function as an organization and put DAV ahead of the curve in terms of how we serve our volunteers, our donors and our members.

Of equal or greater importance is our work to replace our current Case Management System. Our current CMS is eight years old and has served us well. But when it comes to the work DAV service officers do, we need and deserve the very best of resources.

This new system will give us more flexibility and allow us to better integrate with future changes we anticipate the VA to make as the claims process becomes increasingly digital.

It's also going to improve our services for veterans and provide up-to-the-second access to information for our hard-working Department and Chapter service officers who augment and support DAV's service efforts.

As Adjutant Burgess said yesterday, we know that DAV has to improve our recognition among the veterans who need our assistance and the public on whom we rely for support. And there is a great deal of work going into changing the way we handle our outreach.

For the first time in our history, as we saw with Regis Philbin here yesterday, we've begun using direct response television messages to engage monthly donors. I cannot overemphasize how important recurring donors can be to the long-term health of our organization. In addition to Regis' participation, these messages feature a few other prominent VIPs. This one may look familiar to all of us.

(Whereupon, a DRTV message featuring Past National Commander Roberto "Bobby" Barrera was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: We are all very aware of the hero featured there – our own Past National Commander Bobby Barrera. (Applause) No offense to Regis and we thank him immensely for what he is doing for us but that is my favorite version of this ad.

In addition to receiving pledges of support, we're taking calls that connect veterans, their dependents or their survivors, with our free services.

We are on track to reach our goals through this new initiative and though we haven't anticipated a windfall for DAV, the type of donors we are engaging are of incredible value. The more frequently a prospective donor encounters our message, the more likely it is that they, too, will join DAV's Honor Guard to maintain the long-term health of DAV and fuel our services.

As many of you know, we also hosted the first-ever DAV 5K Run/Walk/Roll and motorcycle ride to honor veterans. The event, hosted in Cincinnati, drew nearly 2,500 participants and put our cause on center stage, both in the heart of downtown and on every local network as the public was anticipating Veterans' Day. In this clip National Adjutant Burgess will tell us more.

(Whereupon, a video on the DAV 5K was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: I'm sure some of you noticed Past National Commander Rob Reynolds leading that motorcycle group there and we were very proud to have Rob there with us as well.

We're expanding to San Diego this year and will now host two events in the Veterans' Day time frame. And we will look at adding one new city every year for the next ten years or so to expand our outreach, to connect with communities, and to raise funds to support our mission.

We're also looking at how we can most efficiently make our fellow citizens and veterans aware of all we offer through public service announcements. This year we're going beyond television releases of our PSAs and we will be reaching out to stations and entities who wish to donate billboards, outdoor advertising, radio and print messages for free.

The creative work we are putting out there advertises our services, promotes our branding, and builds upon the relationship we need to have with the American public. It also reminds the public that veterans come in many different ages, genders, and races, and that all deserve our utmost respect.

We're making the letter "V" more prominent to brand our connection with veterans and feel already our branding and outreach efforts have proven successful in many key areas.

We'll also have a new television message that we'll be asking station managers to run to build awareness for the organization.

(Whereupon, the video "Promises" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: We're seizing new opportunities. In addition to DAV's national release, we've had an invaluable friend in Inspire Network over the past couple of years. At no cost they've helped us with a series of three public service announcements highlighting veterans and expanding our efforts to build a relationship with the American public.

(Whereupon, the video "Unbroken Soldier" from moments.org was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: Again, these messages have been produced at no cost to DAV and can be seen wherever cable or satellite providers carry the I-N-S-P network. In partnership, we are working on a new series focusing on women veterans and we look forward to more of their support in the future. They are here today at a booth outside and if you get a chance, please stop by and thank them for all they are doing to raise awareness for our cause.

Just days ago we wrapped filming for messages we will be presenting in partnership with the History Channel and their popular series "American Pickers." These broadcast segments, which will air in conjunction with programming leading up to Veterans' Day, will include messaging about DAV and feature the show's star Mike Wolfe.

Our work with Chapters and Departments is something that is encouraged all the way from the top. And we are seeing more and more news related to DAV's volunteer efforts and fraternal activities across the entire country. In addition to a new publicity guide and brand resources, we are looking to provide training to give our members the tools they need to spread awareness and fuel support for our core initiatives.

I can't mention DAV's volunteer efforts and the media without mentioning that the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic which we co-host with the VA received significant attention on many national outlets. It was prominently featured on Fox and Friends. And the Today Show aired an entire segment on the program.

As we forge ahead with new ideas and initiatives we are not forgetting our core competencies. Volunteers continue to be the primary asset that extends our mission and message of hope nationwide. Here is a quick look at the event and what it means to those who participate.

(Whereupon, the video "Slopes of Hope" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: Seeing some of our most profoundly disabled veterans overcoming obstacles in that environment is truly amazing. We met a gentleman named Lonnie Bedwell.

Lonnie is legally blind. For fun he does things like kayaking the entire 212 miles of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon – solo. The only aid he had was a guide in a separate boat in front of him. And he has earned a world record for that, by the way.

Like all of our veterans, Lonnie is resilient and he is creative. We learned this when we found out he is an avid downhill skier. He uses a coach in front of him with a cowbell attached so he can follow the sound and a coach behind him with a two-way radio.

We have members like Laurie Wood who suffered a spinal cord injury while in uniform. Yet she says the only time that she is vulnerable is when her nail polish is wet. (Laughter)

At the clinic Laurie was literally a terror on the ice during the sled hockey events. And she scaled the rock-climbing wall as well. She said that adaptive sports saved her life but I believe she is giving back to our veteran community tenfold as she inspires others with her confidence, determination, and her great sense of humor.

As Marc mentioned in his report, we received some somber news during the Winter Sports Clinic that another shooting tragedy had, again, struck Fort Hood, Texas.

While that type of news is never well received, it was particularly difficult for Army veteran Patrick Zeigler. Patrick had been shot four times by Nidel Hasan at the first Fort Hood incident years before and he was at the event to recover from four gunshot wounds.

As the story broke, he was taking his ill wife to the hospital, actually. But we made sure he knew that he wasn't alone. DAV and Patrick's fellow veterans were there for him.

Amazingly, he was not bitter for his losses but, instead, he delivered a message of hope and condolences for the families of the victims. He thanked his home state DAV in Minnesota for their ongoing support. They had just held a benefit to help her service dog get food and supplies. He is a hero. And he, in his audacious courage, epitomized the determination we have seen every year from DAV Freedom Award Recipients.

While the clinic is a time of infinite glory, nothing compares in context to the work our volunteers are doing inside and out of VA medical centers. It is hard to attach a dollar figure on the sheer importance of dedicated volunteers making positive impacts on America's veterans. But we know that the DAV Transportation Network volunteers alone donated nearly \$40 million worth of work in 2013.

Let's look real quick at our Transportation Network through a couple of the 9,000 amazing individuals who make it possible. Like volunteer John Tiry from DAV Billings. He is from Montana Chapter 10 and he manages DAV's Transportation Network in the entire eastern half of Montana. That's not a light job considering Montana is a frontier state with miles of rural areas.

Jimmie Kerr of that Chapter has driven nearly 250,000 miles and has transported over 3,000 veterans. That's equated to nearly 8,000 hours of time that he gave back to his veteran community.

And Clayton Morgan, right here from Nevada, has driven 800,000 miles helping veterans.

As you can see from the graphic above, those numbers didn't invent themselves and our volunteers make it all possible. Our volunteers in our Transportation Network drove almost 26 million miles in 2013.

Then there are the volunteers – (Applause) then there are the volunteers inside the hospitals whose special thanks to our nation's heroes truly extend the gratitude our heroes have earned for their dedication.

The Commander will recognize some of our top volunteers this morning but I'd like to ask everyone here to consider how you may be able to encourage volunteerism further within DAV.

There are so many things to do. Volunteers can assist through the Local Veterans Assistance Program that credits nearly any support or talent that serves those who serve. And we need more young folks to pursue our Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship. We know that we can benefit from more participation. And your help to bring more into our fold is greatly appreciated.

As I said, we remain true to our values and we remember the keys to success for our organization.

Just as sergeants and petty officers are the backbone of our America's military, our members are the backbone of DAV. New members strengthen our voice before Congress and the Administration.

And recruiting is an area where you here today have been amazingly exceptional. Commander Johnston, Adjutant Burgess, and ladies and gentlemen, I am proud of the efforts that resulted in all DAV Departments reaching their recruiting goals for the second consecutive year. (Applause)

And further, more than 80 percent of our Chapters have reached their individual recruiting goals. While other VSOs are declining in membership, DAV is maintaining and building. And that's something that I know we are all proud of.

Though this is a remarkable achievement, it's not an area where we can afford to rest. In the next few years thousands of men and women will shed their uniforms and, as we all here can attest, make the very challenging transition from military service to begin civilian life once again.

Many of these service members are unaware of the benefits they've earned through service and they will need our help the most. So long as we assist them and give them meaningful opportunities to serve, we'll continue to grow in the years ahead.

We're also aware of their unmet needs facing our fellow veterans. And this year we've determined to tackle one of the most significant of them all. For the first time in many years, as Adjutant Burgess mentioned yesterday, DAV launched a new initiative this summer by establishing the DAV Employment Department.

Even before our newly-appointed Director Jeff Hall and Assistant Director Danny Soto had a chance to pack and move to National Headquarters, we had a partnership inked with Recruit Military to host some 65 all-veteran career fairs nationwide.

That means we'll be connecting some 26,000 veterans with in-person job opportunities with employers who value veterans and want to hire them. Many more will be able to connect with listings and resources through tools we've made available on DAV.org.

There, too, veterans can learn about our partnership with NCOA. Through NCOA career fairs, DAV service officers are assisting with making sure in addition to employment opportunities veterans are able to learn and receive assistance with claims for VA benefits.

A veteran's transition from injury in uniform to a quality civilian life is not complete until he or she is truly able to pursue their maximum potential. For veterans who can work, that means getting a job and being able to support their families. If you've helped a veteran with his or her claim, you know that this is one piece where, at one time or another, you wished DAV could help more. And now we are.

And our new Employment Department will build a strong network with all those concerned about connecting veterans with jobs, such as Local Veterans' Employment Representatives, Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialists, VR&E counselors and corporate recruiters.

This is just a snapshot of what we've been up to at National Headquarters. I want to thank my staff who are doing an exceptional job of implementing these ambitious and critical programs.

I would also like to thank Adjutant Burgess and National Commander Johnston for your guidance and support and our Board of Directors and National Executive Committee for ensuring that we have the resources necessary to pursue our vision for the future.

Thank you, Commander. This concludes my report. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by National Service Director Anthony Baskerville:)

★ ★ ★  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE  
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
August 9-12, 2014**

Nearly a decade ago I stood before our convention and reported on the future of membership as we moved to embrace the 21st century. We discussed social and demographic change, our declining pool of eligible members resulting from the end of the military draft, and multiple deployments for our now all-volunteer military.

Sadly in 2007, I announced the loss of World War II veterans nationally was over 1,000 each day as reported by VA. The nationwide attrition has impacted our ranks, with more than 3,000 DAV members passing monthly.

They represent our Greatest Generation and the foundation of this organization and others. They drew the blueprints that give us the respect we receive on Capitol Hill and the veteran community, a legacy you and I inherited.

It is not within us to squander what was handed down to us. We are DAV. We have been, for over nine decades, the organization that evolves to meet the needs of its members among ever changing demographics and social changes to ensure all veterans are able to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity.

DAV Membership continues to play a vital role as agents of change. With 52 state-level Departments and 1,370 active Chapters nationwide, we closed the 2013-2014 membership year with 1,279,391 veterans in DAV, exceeding our membership goal.

The state of DAV's membership is good! This marks the second consecutive year that all DAV state-level departments reached or exceeded goal, and 83 percent of our Chapters either met or exceeded goal.

This would not be possible without your help, the dedicated among you who are not afraid to ask the question, "Are you a member of DAV?" DAV's hard working corps of National Service Officers remain the backbone of DAV's recruiting efforts. Along with their other major commitments of service to veterans and their families, they contributed 11,202 part and full life members as well as 96 DAV Auxiliary members.

There are 75 dedicated members who also contributed to our ranks this year. Together, they brought 11,001 part and full life members as well as 3,225 DAV Auxiliary members into our organizations.

When a veteran benefits from our services, he or she is more likely to join. It is for that reason, I believe, that we have been able to maintain and build upon our memberships while our fellow established veterans' service organizations face declining ranks.

The DAV 2013/2014 recruiter of the year, who is credited with recruiting 129 part and full life members, is Mr. Ron Voegeli from Beaufort, South Carolina, Chapter 12.

Your top NSO recruiter, with 240 part- and full-paid life members is Daniel I. Knabe, of the St. Louis National Service Office.

In the area of Division top recruiters, our NSOs took top honors for 2013-2014 they are:

Division I (over 35,000 members); Samuel E. Denham, Department of Virginia  
Division III (10,000—17,999 members); Daniel I. Knabe, Department of Missouri  
Division IV (5,000 – 9,999 members); Darrell Brandon McKinney, Department of Maine  
Division V (less than 5,000 members); Eric J. Van Emmerik, Department of South Dakota

In the Division race for Commanders of the Year the winners are:

Division I - Richard Valdez, Department of California  
Division II - Robert B. Hartley, Jr., Department of Minnesota  
Division III - Richard W. Polk, Department of Missouri  
Division IV - Virgil A. Hagel, Department of Nebraska  
Division V - Helen Parr, Department of South Dakota

The Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is presented to the Department that closes the year with largest increase in new members. This year's award recipient has taken this trophy home for the past six consecutive years.

The Department of Texas takes top honors. Commander Timothy W. Lindsey Department of Texas will receive this award on behalf of his great state's continued efforts.

The Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the department that completes the year with the highest percentage increase of fully paid life members over goal.

This year's winner is the Department of Nebraska, represented by Past Department Commander Vergil Hagel.

Since 1994, DAV has recognized the success of its members who have signed 100 or more new members for three consecutive membership years with a gold lapel pin and entering their names into the Membership Recruiters Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are:

Daniel I. Knabe, Missouri  
Kwan Cortez Tillman, Michigan  
Leonard K. Harris, Missouri  
Karl C. Ford, Arizona  
David M. Fitzgerald, Massachusetts



Each year six recruiters, three members and three National Service Officers who've signed 100 or more members are randomly selected by the membership system and given the opportunity to select a prize of their choice from a list of wonderful gifts.

This year, the lucky winners are:

Life Member Ronald L. Voegeli, Beaufort, South Carolina

Life Member George Roso, McAlester, Oklahoma

Life Member Sheila A. Sanders, Jacksonville, Florida

NSO Trainee Samuel E. Denham, Washington D.C.

National Area Supervisor Leonard K. Harris, St. Louis, Missouri

Associate National Service Officer Karl C. Ford, Phoenix, Arizona

DAV has 1.2 million members and 75 of them this year asked the question, "Are you a member or would you wish to join?"

Our founders formed DAV because they saw a need and that need continues to exist and will continue to exist as long as there are men and women who stand up and bravely ask, "Are you a member of DAV?"

The fight to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served does not end at the VA's rating board. It begins and continues on Capitol Hill where the ongoing battle calls for strength in numbers.

I thank all who have contributed to DAV's legacy by supporting our membership recruiting efforts.

We will continue to build and grow at a time when it is of the utmost importance.

(The following written annual report was submitted by National Director of Voluntary Services:)

★ ★ ★  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF JOHN H. KLEINDIENST**  
**ACTING NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES**  
  
**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR**  
**THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**August 9-12, 2014**

NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND DELEGATES TO THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

It is my pleasure to report to you on the progress we've made in 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 the set expectations. The task may seem difficult, the obstacles insurmountable. Yet our DAV, DAVAuxiliary and youth volunteers have proven their true resolve. We can count on them to be there – when and where they're needed – and to get 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 Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (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, 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, 11,540 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 1,667,196 hours in the 12 months ending September 2013.

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 11 State Chairpersons, 134 VAVS Representatives, 143 Deputy Representatives, seven Associate Representatives and three Deputy Associate Representatives.

The DAV volunteer effort is enhanced by a very active corps of 1,671 Auxiliary volunteers who donated 140,567 hours last year. Together, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided 1,807,763 hours of VAVS service over the past year – considerably more than any other service organization. This is equivalent to the VA having an additional 869 full-time employees with an estimated value of more than \$40 million in hourly wages alone.

## **LOCAL VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LVAP)**

In October 2007 we announced the creation of the Local Veterans Assistance Program, or LVAP, to assist veterans and their dependents in their local communities through a variety of initiatives. Opportunities abound for individuals to empower veterans and their families to live high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facility while others have special skills or prefer non-traditional volunteerism. LVAP allows people to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV volunteers. It honors our organization and encourages and recognizes volunteerism. We still need our Transportation Network and VAVS program volunteers on the road and in the hospitals. But, we recognize that there are other ways to address unmet needs for veterans and their family members.

More than 5,000 volunteers from 35 states have donated more than 1.6 million hours of service through LVAP. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and help make a difference. Volunteer incentives apply to all of our programs. LVAP volunteers are eligible for the same benefits and recognition as others. Youth volunteers who serve through LVAP will also be eligible to apply for consideration to the DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

LVAP activities may include Chapter and Department Service Officer work; DAV outreach efforts such as Harley's Heroes, National Guard mobilizations and homecomings, and approved fundraisers. Volunteers can use their time to provide direct assistance to veterans, widows, or families by doing yard maintenance, home repairs or grocery shopping.

They can also use special skills to assist veterans or DAV by managing social networking efforts for Chapters, providing classes to enhance the lives of veterans or any other initiative that provides a direct service.

The LVAP Division winners are:

- Division I – The Department of Virginia, Past Department Commander, John W. King, with 128,173 hours.
- Division II – The Department of Minnesota, Past Department Commander, Robert Hartley, Jr., with 34,219 hours.
- Division III – The Department of Missouri, Past Department Commander, Richard Polk, with 15,829 hours.
- Division IV – The Department of Connecticut, Past Department Commander, Ronald Werlich, with 12,260 hours.
- Division V – The Department of South Dakota, Past Department Commander, Helen Parr, with 808 hours.

Many deserve our thanks for the great year DAV's volunteer programs have had. If it were not for their support, the many programs mentioned in this report would not have been realized.

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.

## **DAV HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROGRAM**

Because so many ill and injured 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 194 active programs. They've recruited 8,867 volunteer drivers who logged 25,585,598 miles last year, providing 705,484 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 2,851 vans to VA healthcare centers nationwide at a cost of \$61,305,585.

At the DAV's 92nd National Convention, Ford Motor Company donated seven Ford E-350, Super Duty Club Wagon (12-passenger) vehicles to the DAV Transportation Network. The VAMCs that received these vehicles were: Birmingham, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Meade, South Dakota; Houston, Texas and Shreveport, Louisiana. Ford has donated a total of 171 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.

## **2014 GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARDS**

This year marks the 37th anniversary of the George H. Seal Memorial Award, which is given annually by DAV in recognition of extraordinary volunteer dedication to the needs of ill and injured veterans through the VAVS program. Only DAV and DAV Auxiliary members enrolled as accredited VAVS volunteers are eligible for the George H. Seal Memorial Award.

This prestigious award honors the memory and accomplishments of the late George H. Seal, a World War II combat-injured paratrooper, who made many significant contributions during his lengthy career as a DAV National VAVS Representative and member of the VAVS National Advisory Committee.

The 2014 George H. Seal Memorial Award recipients are Ernest L. Flynn Sr. of Billings, Montana (Fort Harrison VA Medical Center), and Fredrica L. Haymaker of Los Angeles, California (West Los Angeles VA Medical Center). DAV National Commander Joseph W. Johnston will present the award at the Opening Session of the 93rd National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### *About the Recipients:*

DAV recipient, Ernest L. Flynn Sr., is a 100% service-connected blind Army veteran who sustained concussive combat injuries while serving in Vietnam. A lifetime member of DAV Billings Chapter 10, Mr. Flynn has been a regularly scheduled volunteer for 19 years and has accumulated 12,500 total VAVS hours as a Veterans Service Officer, DAV Transportation Network (TN) Assistant Hospital Service Coordinator as well as serving on VA's Visual Impairment Services Team at the Billings, Montana VA Medical Center and VA Community-Based Outpatient Center.

Ernie has a keen understanding and mastery of technology for blind and hearing impaired veterans and is an asset to assisting with VA's Visual Impairment Services Team to present current challenges facing blind veterans. He encourages his fellow injured and ill veterans that their disabilities don't limit them; but, that they can indeed still climb mountains in life, and upon reaching the summit, say, "Look at the view."

DAV Auxiliary recipient, Fredrica L. Haymaker, is a regularly scheduled volunteer serving for four years at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center and with a total of 5,581 hours, and has served as a DAV volunteer driver and, on special occasions, as the interim DAV TN Coordinator.

Affectionately known as "Freddie," she helps the veterans feel dignified even in frustrating states of health with care and dignity when escorting them to their medical appointments. She knows many of the regular patients by name and recalls their routes as though she were driving an old friend. When it comes to the DAV TN, new volunteer drivers take their cue from Freddie, adding to the ranks of West Los Angeles' knowledgeable and devoted drivers. The veteran patients regard her and the DAV TN drivers at the West Los Angeles VAMC as their "angels on wheels."

We are proud of the service and dedication demonstrated by volunteers like Ernest and Fredrica, who each day, provide friendly service and compassionate support to ill and injured veterans.

## **2014 JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program was created to honor outstanding youth volunteers who are active participants in the VAVS and/or the LVAP. Scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have generously donated their time and compassion to ill and injured veterans. DAV is deeply appreciative of Ford Motor Company for helping us recognize the

thousands of hours these outstanding students have donated to care for and comfort veterans and their families.

The 2014 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarships recipients have widely divergent interests, but they have one thing in common – they honor those who defended our nation’s freedom by volunteering their time to assist service men and women.

The recipient of the top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship to receive \$20,000 is Shannon Mathew of Coral Springs, Florida.

Miss Mathew has been a DAV volunteer for four years and has contributed more than 585 hours at the Miami, Florida VA Medical Center, where she has been assigned to the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitative Service. This past year alone she volunteered 133 hours to the LVAP.

Shannon is looking forward to attending college in Florida with the hopes of studying Physical Therapy, and ultimately pursuing a career with the VA Veterans Health Administration.

Other scholarship winners include:

Richard Struck	Palo Alto, CA VA Medical Center	\$ 15,000
Leah J. Lee	Clement J.Zablocki VA Medical Center	\$ 10,000
Joseph S. Janikowski	Biloxi VA Medical Center	\$ 7,500
Lilit Kazazian	Ann Arbor VA Medical Center	\$ 7,500
Brendan O’Sullivan	Edward Hines VA Medical Center	\$ 5,000
Tymber Long	Lincoln VA Medical Center	\$ 5,000
Natalia Morales	James J. Peters VA Medical Center	\$ 5,000

The outstanding service provided by this dedicated group of young volunteers is inspiring to us all.

## **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 ill and injured 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 help avert skin breakdowns. Another advantage is that sports are community-based rather than hospital-based undertakings. DAV believes disabled veterans should have the same opportunity as non-disabled individuals to participate in these activities.

During March 30 - April 4, 2014, nearly 300 severely disabled veterans took part in the 28th 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 DAV and the 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 2014 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:

### **HOST**

Cisco  
DAV Department of Missouri and Chapter 2  
United Healthcare Military & Veterans  
Veterans Canteen Service

Military.com  
Prudential  
Ford Motor Company

### **NATIONAL**

AstraZeneca  
Health Net

Paul Wolfowitz and Klaus and Friends  
The Selz Foundation

## **GOLD**

ACell, Inc.  
Baxter Healthcare Corporation  
Booz Allen Hamilton  
CDW-G  
DAV California Rehabilitation Foundation  
Deloitte  
Fifth Third Bank  
Gene Taylors  
GetWellNetwork  
HelpOurWounded.org  
Iron Bow Technologies

Lockheed Martin  
Masimo  
National Government Services  
Purdue Pharma  
Sprint  
SystemsMadeSimple  
3M Health Care  
United Airlines  
United Concordia  
World Wide Technology  
Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems

## **SILVER**

Anonymous  
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks  
Burton Snowboards  
CA Technologies  
Coca-Cola  
DaVita  
DAV St. Louis Chapter #1  
Warrior Technology

GTRI  
Govplace  
Merlin International  
Presidio  
Red River  
RR Donnelley Response Marketing Services  
EMC2  
General Dynamics Information Technology

## **BRONZE**

AMSUS Sustaining Members Section  
Advanta Healthcare Partners  
The Alderson Family  
Dixie Aljets & Mary Lane  
EMW  
ID Edge  
Janus Orthotics, Prosthetics and Pedorthics  
Millennium Laboratories  
NetApp  
Frank Pacello, Inc.  
James & Christy Peterson  
Phase One Consulting Group  
Scott Group of Virginia  
Sigma Health Consulting  
VMware  
Western Colorado Chapter Military

DAV Department of Tennessee  
DAV Department of Virginia  
DAV State Commanders and Adjutants  
Alkermes  
Alta Health and Performance Solutions  
American Board for Certification in Wanda S.  
  
Aspen Seating LLC – Ride Designs  
Bowlers to Veterans Link  
DAV Blind Veterans National Chapt. 1  
DAV Auxiliary  
DAV Department of Colorado  
DAV Department of Florida  
DAV Department of Massachusetts  
DAV Department of South Carolina  
Officers Association of America

## **DAV FREEDOM AWARD**

In 1992, we instituted the DAV Freedom Award at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. This award is given to a veteran whose outstanding courage and achievement is an example to all injured veteran athletes.

The award's inscription reads: "Your accomplishments during the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic have proved to the world that a physical injury 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 DAV Freedom Award for Outstanding Courage and Achievement.

Army veteran Patrick Zeigler was named recipient of the 2014 DAV Freedom Award at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado, April 4th.

After returning from a second combat tour in Iraq, Zeigler was shot four times, including once in the head, by a fellow soldier at the Fort Hood Soldier Readiness Processing Center on November 5, 2009. The prognosis doctors gave Zeigler was very grave and he was not expected to live. Medical professionals believed he would remain in a vegetative state for the rest of his life.

He defied all odds and relearned to walk, talk and embrace life again. In spite of the extent of his injuries, he relearned to ski at the clinic and participated in scuba diving.

After arriving at Snowmass, Patrick received devastating news that another shooting related tragedy struck Fort Hood again. Patrick could have become bitter or given up. But instead, he shared his condolences with the families of Fort Hood victims, addressed the difficulties service members face when returning home from war and shared his positive message of hope for the future.

Patrick was joined at the five-day event by his wife, Jessica, and son, Liam, as well as his new service dog, Ranger, which his local DAV Chapter had helped finance through donations from the community.

## Clinic Statistics

Total Veteran Participants: 290

Male veterans: 248

Women veterans: 42

New veterans: 91

Youngest participant: 21

Oldest participant: 91

New OIF veterans: 20

### Branch of Service:

Army: 135

Navy: 63

Coast Guard: 4

Air Force: 48

Marines: 42

## Periods of War:

World War II: 1

Korean War: 4

Vietnam War: 36

Gulf War: 26

Operation Iraqi Freedom: 57

Operation Enduring Freedom: 26

## Locations:

State Represented: 44

VA Medical Centers represented: 86

## DAV CELEBRITY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Continuing to provide a morale boost to injured and ill veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program assures that hospitalized patients are not forgotten and 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 90 hospital visits last year alone, these wonderful people include Major League Baseball Umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne.

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 they care very deeply about the needs of our nation's heroes.

## 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 here would not have been realized.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sabrina Clark, 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 Joseph W. Johnston and Auxiliary National Commander Susan K. Miller 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 2013 success story. My sincere gratitude for the support of the staff of National Headquarters led by Executive Director Barry Jesinoski, and the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters led by Executive Director Garry Augustine.

My personal thanks to Kati Yockey, Voluntary Services Supervisor, Voluntary Services Support Specialist Linda DeMartino; Program Coordinator Joyce Barrett; and Correspondents Odie Hall, Connie Kinney and Jennifer Seiter 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 Marc Burgess 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 heroes and their families. Your devotion, compassion and commitment to DAV's mission of Fulfilling our Promises to the Men and Women Who Served is truly second to none.

Thank you.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)  
(October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013)**

Number of regularly scheduled VAVS Volunteers	13,211
Number of hours by regularly scheduled volunteers	1,807,763
Number of hours by occasional volunteers	55,375
Number of hours by all VAVS Volunteers	1,876,349

**VAVS APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Number of State Chairpersons	15
Number of State Chairpersons also serving as representatives	11
Number of Representatives	134
Number of Deputy Representatives	143
Number of Associate Representatives	7
Number of Deputy Associate Representatives	3
Number of appointed positions	313
Annual joint reviews received for the year	34

**DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
(January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013)**

Total number of Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCS)	189
Number of veterans transported	705,484
Transportation hours	1,584,330
Transportation miles	25,585,598

**2013 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK GRANTS**

National Transportation Network HSC program grants	\$ 454,097
National Transportation Network van grants (128 vans purchased and delivered in 2013)	\$ 3,279,341
<b>2013 Total National Grant Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 3,733,438</b>



**ANNUAL REPORT OF JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE  
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

**WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR THE  
93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Las Vegas, Nevada  
August 9-12, 2014

NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND DELEGATES TO THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

My fellow DAV members, this is an extraordinary time. As you all know, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system has been thrown into an unprecedented nationwide crisis because a VA Inspector General investigation report in May showed over 100,000 veterans in need of VA health care were not being served – but their names and needs did not appear on any VA waiting list.

Both the VA Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health have resigned from office, and the whole VA system has been under temporary leadership until the recent confirmation of Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald, the President's nominee to lead VA forward toward numerous and necessary reforms. In the meantime, Congress has hastily introduced new laws to address VA's shortcomings. VA is adopting many other changes identified to be necessary to change practices that fostered this crisis.

The National Legislative Department closely followed all the details and nuances of the VA scandal when they were brought to light, and we offered Congress and the Administration our views on what needed to be done to address it. I am pleased to report to you that many of our ideas for change were accepted and are being implemented to get VA back on the right track for all veterans who need VA services.

At its base, this explosive issue is a consequence of decades of Administration and Congressional underfunding of VA health care, budget gimmicks, and false promises, despite the pleas every year by DAV and numerous other national veterans organizations that VA health care funding, whether proposed or appropriated, was insufficient to the challenge at hand.

As far back as 2003, it was widely recognized that VA health care demand and VA health care funding were mismatched. In fact, a Presidential task force found that VA had a wait list of more than 236,000 veterans waiting six months or more for appointments, reached the same conclusion and warned that, without an infusion of new funding, VA would eventually face a crisis. It is here because at that time neither the Administration nor Congress, took any actions to correct the situation, other than cut off enrollment to some veterans and to do away with the wait list.

Today, we do not excuse the behavior that caused VA to fail to serve these particular veterans. In its effort to promote quality system-wide for the patients it treats, VA set standards for maximum waiting time that it should have known could not be met with the resources that were available. VA then tied these unrealistic standards to its performance measurement system for health care executives across the system.

While "cover-up" is too judgmental a term to resort to here, it is reasonable to conclude that VA scheduling clerks, their supervisors and facility and network managers are culpable for hiding the true demands on the system by using subsidiary waiting lists for new enrollees that were not disclosed or visible to national VA management in any data system.

The retired Phoenix whistleblower's call for an investigation spurred both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the VA Inspector General (IG) to first focus on practices at the Phoenix VA Medical Center, and then to expand the inquiry nationwide. It is fair to observe that VA was caught flat-footed by the revelations of the IG report, and again, by its own internal audit, completed on June 3.

DAV intends to work with acting Secretary Gibson and incoming new VA Secretary Robert McDonald to address the problems that have been uncovered, and to demand that VA use all means available to correct deficiencies that have been identified. We are also calling on the Administration and Congress to remember why this crisis occurred, and urging them to prevent any recurrence by adequately funding VA for its true patient care demand. Finally, we are demanding that VA become more transparent to those of us who are invested in the VA system, including all DAV members, and their families and survivors, and to be forthcoming with us when problems and challenges arise in the future.

By all measures, this incident is a national disgrace, having done tremendous damage to an institution that, over the past 15 years, had been lauded for its safety, quality, cost-effectiveness, and patient satisfaction. DAV will be working hard to return VA health care to that status.

## **EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

On November 19, 2013, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs approved the nomination of Mr. Sloan Gibson to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and confirmed him on February 11. Until recently, Mr. Gibson served as acting VA Secretary.

Ms. Linda Schwartz was nominated to be VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning; and, Ms. Constance Tobias to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The full Senate still needs to act on these nominations.



On June 30, 2014, President Obama nominated Robert "Bob" McDonald for the position of Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Mr. McDonald graduated from West Point in 1975 and later served as the Chief Executive Officer of Proctor and Gamble. He served in the Army for five years with the 82nd Airborne Division and achieved the rank of Captain. The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee conducted a confirmation hearing on July 22, 2014, and unanimously reported this nomination to the full Senate on July 23. On July 29, Secretary McDonald was unanimously confirmed.

## **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

On October 9, 2013, (now former) Secretary Eric Shinseki of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to report on VA's status during the ongoing partial government shutdown.

The Secretary indicated, as we reported, that VA's financial resources for both discretionary and mandatory programs would be exhausted by the end of October. As you know, because of advance appropriations, VA health care was fully funded for this year in the fiscal year (FY) 2013 appropriation. Thus, VA health care was largely unaffected by other disruptions occurring in VA, although the access scandal has altered many assumptions about the sufficiency of VA funding.

Presenting a unified front, DAV and a nonpartisan coalition of 32 other organizations representing veterans and members of the military demanded an end to the government shutdown during a rally attended by several hundred supporters and journalists October 15 at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On October 17, 2013, President Obama signed into law a temporary budget agreement that ended the partial government shutdown that disrupted, delayed and suspended critical non-health care services and benefits for the men and women who have served in uniform.

Had this budget stalemate continued for another week of two, it would have been devastating to millions of veterans, their families and survivors, as benefit checks for disability compensation, pension and dependency and indemnity compensation would have been cut off due to a lack of appropriations.

The measure restored veterans' access to VA facilities, including DAV National Service Offices, many of which set up shop at alternative locations during the shutdown to continue DAV's free benefit services to veterans and their families.

## **TWO-YEAR BUDGET AGREEMENT**

Chairwoman Patty Murray and Chairman Paul Ryan, of the Senate and House Budget Committees, respectively, forged an agreement December 10, 2013, on the federal budget for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. The budget saved \$28 billion over ten years by requiring the President to sequester the same percentage of mandatory budgetary resources in 2022 and 2023 as will be sequestered in 2021 under current law.

One agreed-to element modified the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for working-age military retirees. Under that plan, beginning in 2015, until they reach the age of 62, these retirees would see their COLA reduced by inflation minus one percent.

The joint statement issued on December 10, 2013, by both Budget Committees explaining the agreement stated: "This [reduction in COLA] would not affect service members who retired because of disability or injury." Nevertheless, we later learned that disabled military retirees indeed would be affected by this new policy. DAV fought to repeal this unconscionable policy toward wounded, injured and ill military heroes, and Congress subsequently repealed this reduction, and the President signed it.

The agreement carried no other impacts on veterans and did not touch VA programs in any way, including payments for disability compensation, disability pension, death and indemnity compensation (DIC), education, or VA life insurance plans.

The House passed the budget plan with a bipartisan majority on December 12, 2013 in a late-evening vote. The Senate passed the plan on December 18, 2013. The Appropriations Committees in both Congressional chambers allocated funds accordingly in an omnibus Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations act. Congress subsequently enacted and the President signed this legislation into law on January 17, 2014, nearly four months late.

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LEASED CLINICS**

The VA is planning to open dozens of new community-based clinics in 22 states and territories by 2017. These clinics will be operated in commercially leased space, but will be staffed by VA employees. This arrangement has worked very well in hundreds of existing VA clinics, nationwide.

In evaluating 15 of these leases VA proposed to Congress in its budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concluded these facilities were, in effect, long-term capital

commitments of the federal government and, as such, needed to be funded in full, in the first year, for a full 20 years.

Existing law only requires the first year to be funded to justify authorization, with subsequent years' funding to be managed through the annual budget and appropriations process.

This new CBO interpretation effectively halted all VA leases proposed, because VA could not identify dollar offsets in the amount CBO determined were needed (between \$1.2 and \$1.5 billion). As a result the leases were withdrawn from further congressional consideration, and had been in limbo since.

Authorizations for these leases are now under consideration by a House-Senate conference committee that is meeting to discuss an omnibus veterans' bill. As of July 21, 2014, the conference was still underway. Until these authorizations are enacted by Congress and approved by the President, VA is prevented from opening new community-based outpatient clinics.

## HEARINGS

One of the main missions of the Legislative Department is to build government support for wounded, injured and ill veterans, to provide for their families and survivors, and to prevent the erosion of benefits and services they have earned and deserve.

We accomplish this mission in many different ways, including meetings with members of Congress, congressional staff and VA officials, encouraging grassroots activities and by co-authoring The Independent Budget. In a more formal manner, we present both written and oral testimony to congressional committees on issues of importance to DAV and our members.

Since last year's Annual Report to the National Convention, the DAV Legislative staff testified at 19 Congressional hearings, covering 65 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues, and one hearing before the Institute of Medicine on June 5, 2014. Below is a summary of all of these hearings.

On July 19, 2013, DAV testified on behalf of The Independent Budget before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, concerning military sexual trauma.

On September 11, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the fully developed claims process.

On October 30, 2013, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on 36 pieces of legislation.

On November 13, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity concerning VA's Independent Living Program.

On November 20, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Capital Investment Program.

On December 4, 2013, DAV submitted testimony for the record of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, regarding claims adjudication.

On February 5, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding many technological initiatives within the claims process.

On February 25, 2014, DAV National Commander Joseph W. Johnston testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for the year.

On February 27, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity concerning ways to maximize the effectiveness of the VR&E program.

On March 12, 2014, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, on behalf of The Independent Budget, concerning the FY 2015 budget.

On March 13, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, on behalf of The Independent Budget, concerning the FY 2015 budget.

On March 25, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on nine legislative proposals.

On March 26, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on 10 legislative proposals.

On March 27, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health on 10 legislative proposals.

On April 30, 2014, DAV submitted testimony for the record of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning overmedication and its problems and solutions with VA.

On May 15, 2014, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the state of VA health care. Essentially, DAV testified on many of the issues reviewed in the introduction to this report, above, and expressed our outrage that veterans were not being properly served in their health care needs.

On May 29, 2014, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, concerning the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

On June 5, 2014, DAV testified before the Institute of Medicine concerning VA mental health services.

On July 24, 2014, DAV testified before the full House Committee on Veterans' Affairs oversight hearing on recent changes made by VA to reform the health care system in the wake of the access-to-care scandal.

## **ENACTED LEGISLATION**

### **Cost-of-Living Adjustment Approved**

On November 21, 2013, with the President's signature, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act became Public Law 113-52. The Act provides a 1.5% increase in veterans' disability compensation, DIC and other related veterans benefits, which became effective December 1, 2013. Unlike COLAs in the past, this COLA does not include the provision of rounding down increases to the nearest whole dollar amount, a policy that DAV has consistently fought for many years and is in line with our longstanding resolution opposing such reductions.

## **KEY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

Since the beginning of the 113th Congress, the National Legislative staff held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs, to educate them about DAV and our legislative priorities. We have particularly focused on the new members of Congress and the Senate who were elected in 2012, and those who are members of the Veterans' Affairs Committees, to ensure they understand the needs of wounded, injured and ill veterans, and understand and will support DAV's initiatives, and our national priorities.

### **Completing the Transformation of the Veterans Benefits Claims Processing System**

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has made measurable progress toward eliminating the backlog of veterans' claims that reached its zenith 18 months ago. However, despite progress that has been achieved, significant work remains before VBA can hope to completely eliminate the backlog.

At the beginning of 2013, more than 860,000 claims were pending from veterans for disability compensation and pension. By June 30th of this year, that number had dropped by more than 37 percent, down to 555,000. The number of claims in the backlog – greater than 125 days pending – dropped by more than 60 percent, from over 600,000 in January 2013 to 268,000 at the end of June. VBA completed almost 1.2 million claims last year and is on track to do about the same again this year.

Furthermore, the quality of completed claims rose steadily from 86.3 percent in January 2013 to 90.3 percent in June 2014; a four percent increase over the past year. Finally, the average days pending for VA's rating claims dropped from 280 days to under 160 days over the past 18 months, and VBA is holding virtually no claims that have been pending for more than a year.

All of this progress comes after four years of unprecedented transformation that included implementation of new organizational and operating processes, new information technology (IT) systems, and new training, testing and quality control regimes. And despite a partial government shutdown that disrupted progress for most of October 2013, VBA appears to have finally turned a corner in its processing performance for the first time in more than two decades.

In early 2010, VBA leadership made the hard decision to rebuild and modernize its claims process by creating a contemporary, paperless system. Former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki established an ambitious goal: by 2015 all claims would be processed within 125 days at a 98 percent degree of accuracy. To accomplish this goal, VBA would need to develop entirely new IT systems, organizational structures and adjudication procedures, while continuing to process a million claims or more every year.

Considering VBA's failure to modernize this system over the past two decades, this task was daunting. Since 2000, the number of claims filed annually had doubled, from about 600,000 to nearly 1,200,000 in 2013; but that rise only tells part of the story. The complexity and average number of issues per claim had also risen, further multiplying the workload that VBA must now address. Over this same time period, VBA's workforce grew by 50 percent, resulting in an ever-increasing structural backlog of claims.

VBA began its current transformation efforts with a comprehensive review of the existing claims process, which included extensive outreach to DAV and other veterans service organizations (VSOs). VBA also launched dozens of experimental pilot programs and initiatives to test innovative changes that might streamline operations or increase the quality and accuracy of decisions.

In 2011, the second year of transformation, VBA analyzed and synthesized the results of its studies and experimentation and developed a strategy to re-engineer the entire claims process, focusing on

three critical areas: people, process, and technology. Throughout 2012, VBA further developed, refined, and deployed these ideas, and in 2013 completed the roll out of a new IT system, the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) to all VA regional offices (VAROs).

While there are metrics today that show increases in both productivity and accuracy, there are also troubling questions about whether this progress can be sustained two, five or ten years from now. Based only on the currently available data and information obtained from VBA, DAV remains uncertain whether this level of progress will be sufficient to meet the ambitious 2015 goals.

For example, although the backlog has fallen, it appears that the most important factor driving VBA's productivity gains was a policy of mandatory overtime for claims processors that ran from May 2013 to November 2013. During this six month stretch, VBA achieved significant boosts in the number of completed claims per month, reaching as high as 129,488 in August, before dropping back during the government shutdown and after mandatory overtime was ended. Over the first six months of this year, the monthly average for completed claims has been slightly below 95,000.

Another critical factor boosting claims production was the increased focus on fully developed claims (FDCs), which now account for about one-third of disability compensation claims being filed by veterans. DAV was instrumental in developing this program that began as a Congressionally-mandated pilot program, and we continue to work closely with VBA to improve and expand it; however, the reduction in claims processing times for FDCs also appears now to be leveling off.

DAV continues to advocate for the expanded use of private medical evidence in order to eliminate the time and resources required to administer compensation medical examinations, which could also support efforts to increase the number of FDCs filed. VBA has taken significant actions in recent years to encourage private evidence, such as the development and use of Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ) and the Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) initiative, under which VA physicians review existing medical records to determine if enough evidence already exists for VBA to make a rating decision without the need for a VA-ordered examination.

However, some VAROs and some VBA employees remain resistant in giving private medical evidence the same weight as VA-produced medical evidence. In order to further support efforts to encourage the use of private medical evidence, DAV will work with Congress to amend title 38, United States Code, section 5103A(d)(1) to provide that, when a claimant submits private medical evidence, including a private medical opinion, that is competent, credible, probative, and otherwise adequate for VA's rating purposes, the Secretary shall not request a redundant and duplicative VA medical examination.

Over the past year, DAV has also worked with both VBA and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to develop and institutionalize greater cooperation between them in completing DBQs for veterans treated by VHA physicians.

In the past, many VHA attending physicians were told that they either should not, or may not fill out DBQs for their patients. VHA has made efforts to address this problem by creating more convenient opportunities for veterans to have DBQs filled out by VHA physicians at specific times and locations. However, VBA and VHA should continue working to reach an agreement that VHA-treating physicians are required to complete DBQs for veterans upon request.

Perhaps the most important element of VBA's transformation strategy is the successful implementation of new technology, particularly the VBMS, which is the new backbone for VBA's paperless, rules-based adjudicative system. VBMS creates electronic claims files, manages workflow and helps to determine ratings. VBA was able to complete the rollout of VBMS ahead of schedule last year, and virtually all new claims are now being processed using VBMS electronic files.

However, while VBA was able to deploy VBMS ahead of schedule, it has not been fully linked to the Appeals Management Center (AMC), the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC), which, if fully implemented would allow for a continuous electronic work flow throughout the claims and appellate processes. The coding and embedding of rating calculators inside VBMS also remains a labor-intensive, time-consuming detail and one that will continue as the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) is updated in the future.

In addition, VBMS is ultimately intended to include all of VBA's business lines so that no matter where a veteran or survivor applied for benefits, it would seamlessly connect them to all benefits to which they may be entitled, and that work remains ahead. DAV will continue to work with Congress to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to allow continued development of VBMS to meet both current and future requirements.

Now that all new claims are being scanned and digitized, VBA has begun to develop plans for a National Work Queue, designed to allow claims to be processed at any VA regional office, regardless of where the claim was filed.

VBA has established a national mailing and scanning system that diverts all mail, including claims and correspondence, to a couple of centralized scanning centers. There the paper is converted to digital data, placed in electronic files and returned to the VARO of jurisdiction for electronic processing within the VBMS environment.

The National Work Queue initiative would allow workload to be distributed based on available capacity throughout the entire system. In addition, it would allow claims to be divided, either by issue or by stage of work, since simultaneous review can be performed on electronic files. DAV will continue to work with Congress and VBA to ensure that the National Work Queue is carefully developed and implemented to protect the integrity of all claims decisions, not solely to accelerate decisions.

As VBA has made progress in reducing the backlog of claims, some disturbing reports have arisen that the appeals backlog is growing. VBA also must not neglect the preparation of claims awaiting certification to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

DAV has received reports that some VAROs have redirected some VSRs and RVSRs who normally work on preparing appeals instead to work only on claims that contribute to lowering the claims backlog. VBA has also used both Decision Review Officers (DRO) and Quality Review Specialists, both during regularly scheduled working hours and during overtime, to work on original claims.

Such an approach may yield short-term gains in reducing the backlog, but diverting these specialized appellate resources will contribute longer term negative consequences on the growing backlog of appeals. Congress must ensure that sufficient manpower and resources are provided and allocated to both claims and appeals work.

In the coming year, DAV will continue to work closely with both the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees, as well as VBA officials, to create a new and permanent claims processing system based on the principle that every veteran's claim should be done right the first time.

## **ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALL VA PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND BENEFITS**

As a result of a very successful advocacy program by DAV and other VSOs, in October 2009 Congress passed, and the President signed, Public Law 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, legislation to provide the VA health care system with funding up to a year in advance of need.

As a result, during last year's government shutdown while many VA offices and services were closed or disrupted, VA systems of care, medical centers, and community-based outpatient clinics were able to provide uninterrupted care and services to veterans.

Over the past year, working together with a growing coalition of veterans organizations, we have achieved significant legislative progress to extend advance appropriations to the remainder of VA's appropriations accounts.

With the support and encouragement of DAV, bipartisan legislation, the Putting Veterans Funding First Act (H.R. 813) was introduced last year by House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) and Ranking Minority Member Mike Michaud (D-Me.) to extend advance appropriations to all VA discretionary programs.

The Putting Veterans Funding First Act was subsequently introduced in the Senate (S. 932) by Senators Mark Begich (D-Alaska) and John Boozman (R-Ark.). Last August, H.R. 813 was unanimously approved by the House Committee and is pending before the full House as of July 21, 2014.

During the government shutdown last October, the benefits of extending advance appropriations became even more evident, as claims processing to reduce the backlog was slowed, activities at VA national cemeteries were scaled back, and vital medical and prosthetic research projects were nearly suspended. Had this stalemate continued for only a few days beyond October 16th, even mandatory obligations of the federal government, such as disability compensation and pension payments to veterans and their survivors, would have been suspended until the government reopened.

After the shutdown ended, DAV organized a Capitol Hill press conference, with our two dozen VSO partners, also featuring both House and Senate bill sponsors, to call on Congressional leaders to schedule votes on the Putting Veterans Funding First Act.

During the press conference, Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) announced that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee would mark up S. 932, and that it would also include a provision to ensure that advance appropriations for mandatory veterans' benefits, such as disability compensation, would also be included in the legislation.

House Chairman Miller also voiced his support for this provision, which had not been considered when the House committee had approved H.R. 813 prior to the shutdown. On November 19, 2013

the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee voted 13 to 1 to approve S. 932, with an amendment that included all VA mandatory benefits payments.

In February of this year, DAV organized a major national and Capitol Hill event, "Operation: Keep the Promise," which focused on advance appropriations for all VA accounts. Standing in front of the Capitol, with hundreds of DAV activists and other VSO leaders braving a February snowstorm, Commander Johnston called on Congress to pass the Putting Veterans Funding First Act.

Simultaneously, millions of Americans were contacted through DAV social media to amplify our message. Although the VA health care waiting list scandal has dominated Congressional and media attention for the past four months, DAV continues to work with Congress to extend advance appropriations to all VA programs, services and benefits, building on the progress achieved over the past year.

### **Senate Omnibus Veterans Bill**

Senator Bernie Sanders, Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014.

If enacted, this bill would have accomplished many of DAV's most important priorities and legislative goals based on national resolutions approved by our members. This massive omnibus bill, unprecedented in our modern experience, would have created, expanded, advanced, and extended a number of VA benefits, services and programs.

For example, responding to a call from DAV, it would have created a comprehensive family caregiver support program for all generations of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans.

Also, the bill would partially respond to DAV's drive to enact advance appropriations for VA's mandatory accounts to ensure that in any government shutdown environment in the future, veterans benefits payments would not be delayed or put in jeopardy.

This measure also would provide additional financial support to survivors of service members who die in the line of duty, as well as expanded access for them to G.I. Bill educational benefits. As discussed above, the bill would fully restore military retirement cost-of-living adjustments that were recently reduced. It also would approve 27 VA pending lease proposals for new VA community-based outpatient clinics and other important facilities in 22 states and territories.

These and many other provisions in the bill were directly responsive to DAV's legislative and policy priorities. Nevertheless, we were disappointed that the advance appropriations provisions in this bill would not have been applied to the remainder of VA's discretionary funding accounts, but only to the mandatory ones.

While an important gain, leaving behind the discretionary accounts would continue to perpetrate VA's annual financial and planning challenges in operating in the continuing resolution environment to which we have all become so accustomed.

The impact of budgetary delays falls directly on the ability of VBA to accomplish the goal of reducing the disability benefits claims backlog while reforming the claims system itself. I know you share our concerns that extraneous budgetary disputes make VBA's reform efforts all that more challenging.

In that light I pledge that DAV will continue to work with Congressional Members and their professional staffs to find the means so that all VA funding accounts can be included in the existing Congressional policy of advance appropriating VA health care funds.

The advent of advance appropriations in VA health meant that during last October's 16-day shutdown, the VHA and its more than six million veteran patients were largely unaffected while most of the remainder of VA was shut down along with most of the rest of the federal government. It is our intent that VA funding be protected in the same manner as Congress already decided to protect VA health care, and we know that many Members of the Senate and House share our goal.

In a procedural vote on February 25, 2014, the Sanders omnibus legislation stalled.

In the wake of the VA access-to-care scandal, both Chairmen Sanders and Miller (with numerous co-sponsors) introduced legislation to address VA's failures and lack of accountability. These bills (HR 3230 and HR 4810) were quickly and nearly unanimously approved in both Congressional chambers, but to work out differences between them, a Senate-House conference committee was formed. In the matter of veterans' issues, this is only the third such formal conference in the history of the two committees.

Similar proposals in the underlying bills being considered by this committee would authorize veterans in certain circumstances to receive their care by private providers at VA expense, even though the Governmental Accountability Office has testified before Congress that current law already authorizes VA to contract for veterans' care by private providers, providing a strong suggestion that this provision is not needed.

Also in common in both bills are a number of proposed private entities, task forces, commissions and other appointed groups to examine various aspects of VA health care, including its outpatient scheduling and specialty referral practices, health care infrastructure and its planning, and VA health care management systems, with a requirement of the submission of rapid reports on such topics to both the VA Secretary and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs containing recommendations for reform. Both bills would grant the VA Secretary an expedited power to terminate or otherwise remove certain members of VA's Senior Executive Service, if such action were warranted in the view of the Secretary.

DAV has not taken a formal position on these bills, but along with 19 other veterans and military service organizations DAV made a number of recommendations to the conference committee on improving and perfecting a compromise bill that can pass the Congress and be approved by the President. This committee has been meeting for several weeks, but as of July 10, 2014, it had not resolved the differences in legislative language.

If, during our 2014 National Convention, we learn that the Committee has completed its work, I will provide the Convention additional information about the results of the Committee's efforts.

## **KEY MEETINGS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDTABLE HELD CONCERNING APPEALS**

On October 1, 2013, DAV was represented at a Congressional roundtable sponsored by the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. In attendance were Chairman Jon Runyan, Ranking Member Dina Titus, and full Committee Chairman Jeff Miller.

The roundtable examined the VA appeals process, the backlog of appeals, and ways to make it more efficient. Other veterans service organizations were in attendance, as well as VA officials from the Board of Veterans' Appeals, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Some private attorneys were also present.

DAV is keeping a watchful eye to ensure that none of the suggestions that emerged during this discussion will diminish the rights of veterans to prosecute their appeals. In fact, DAV called a meeting of the veterans service organizations, VA and the Hill to further discuss the reform of the appeals process. From that larger meeting, a workgroup has been established to develop possible solutions for improving the claims process.

On October 4, 2013, staff of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hosted an informal roundtable discussion with DAV and other veterans service organizations to discuss the government shutdown and its impact on our local services.

DAV informed those in attendance that the early days of the shutdown left local VA Regional Offices in a state of confusion because of conflicting information being disseminated within VA. Specifically, reports of veterans being able to access certain VA Regional Offices, but not others, and exactly what VA Regional Office divisions would remain functional and who would or would not be furloughed during the shutdown remained unclear.

DAV assured the Subcommittee staff and those in attendance that DAV's solid contingency plan is fully in place to ensure our services and assistance to disabled veterans and their families who are not able to access VA Regional Offices during the shutdown will continue with as little interruption as possible.

DAV National Service Officers, along with Transition, Chapter and Department Service Officers, would set up offices in alternate locations, including our Mobile Service Offices, and all locations will be made available through social media outlets and the DAV website.

**Congressional Leadership Roundtable Held on Legislative Priorities**

On November 19, DAV participated in a roundtable discussion with the House Democratic Leadership. During the meeting DAV discussed concerns about the then-still pending COLA legislation; the troubling hold-up of VA's community-based clinic leasing program; and, our highest legislative priority, the advance appropriations bill for all of VA's funding. Several other VSO representatives in attendance expressed concerns similar to ours.

On June 11, 2014, DAV participated in a Congressional roundtable with Minority Leader Pelosi and other members of the House Democratic Leadership on the ongoing crisis in VA health care, as well as a variety of matters affecting VA health and benefits programs and the needs of veterans.

These events, whether public or private, 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 legislative program is 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, and thereby convince Congress of the importance of enacting our priorities into law.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2015 INDEPENDENT BUDGET**

DAV and our Independent Budget (IB) co-authors (AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) are calling for \$61.1 billion in VA Medical Care funding. For Medical and Prosthetic Research, the IB recommends a funding level of \$611 million. The IB recommends approximately \$2.9 billion for VA's General Operating Expenses.

For total capital infrastructure programs and grants, the IB recommends \$3.9 billion, \$2.8 billion for major medical facility construction projects, \$831 million for minor construction projects, and \$298 million for VA grants to state veterans homes and state veterans cemeteries. DAV and its IB co-authors recommend a total discretionary funding level of \$72.9 billion in FY 2015.

More detail on our recommendations for both policy and budget matters can be found at [www.independentbudget.org](http://www.independentbudget.org).

## **FISCAL YEAR 2015 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET**

The Administration's proposed budget for next year calls for Congress to appropriate \$56 billion for VA medical care, including an assumption that VA will collect \$3.1 billion in first- and third-party payments from veterans, their health insurers and others.

The Administration proposes an advance appropriation for FY 2016 in medical care of slightly less than \$62 billion. For VA's biomedical research program, the Administration is proposing \$589 million.

In infrastructure, the Administration is proposing \$562 million for major medical facility construction, and \$495 million in minor construction funding. The General Operating Expenses (GOE) account would receive \$2.9 billion. The GOE appropriation supports all operations of VBA, as well as the Office of the Secretary and numerous other national VA staff offices.

The Administration's request totals \$68.4 billion across all discretionary accounts.

The FY 2015 budget and appropriations process is stalled as Congress predictably once again endlessly debates the acceptable size and scope of the federal government for next year. Whether VA receives its regular appropriation before October 1, 2014 (the beginning date of FY 2015) remains much in doubt.

## **OPERATION: KEEP THE PROMISE**

As indicated earlier in my report to you, on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, during our Mid-Winter Conference, DAV launched Operation: Keep the Promise (OKTP), a comprehensive and coordinated rallying of veterans and supporters calling on Congress to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served.

National Commander Joseph W. Johnston, DAV members, other veterans leaders and members of the House of Representatives and the Senate participated in a Capitol Hill press conference at the House Triangle across from the Cannon House Office Building.

Commander Johnston and other speakers called on Congress to hold a vote on the Putting Veterans Funding First Act, legislation to provide advance appropriations for all VA programs, benefits and services. Simultaneous with the rally, DAV activated our extensive social networks, including DAV's Facebook and Twitter followers, and DAV CAN members, to support our call to action using online tools made available on the DAV webpage.

The impact of OKTP was felt throughout the country through virtually all media and press outlets. DAV was able to place two national opinion pieces co-signed by Commander Johnston to promote OKTP and the need for enactment of advance appropriations: one in the Wall Street Journal and the other in the Washington Times.

In addition to attending the OKTP rally and the Commander's testimony to a joint Congressional Hearing, DAV members visited over 300 Members of the House and Senate, calling on them to pass the Putting Veterans Funding First legislation.

DAV's message was further amplified through our grassroots networks during OKTP. There were over 2,000 YouTube views of DAV Commander Johnston's OKTP rally invitation. Over 4,000 people visited [dav.org](http://dav.org) to learn about OKTP. DAV's coordinated grassroots campaign resulted in over 4,000 telephone calls and 6,000 email messages sent to Congress calling for the passage of the Putting Veterans Funding First Act.

Finally, using a mix of paid and social media, OKTP reached over 800,000 people through our "thunderclap," over 3.5 million people through Facebook and Twitter, and had over 2.7 million total impressions on targeted websites across the country.



Although some significant institutional opposition resists extending advance appropriations, OKTP helped build additional Congressional and public support for passing the Putting Veterans Funding First legislation, hopefully before year's end.

## **DAV 2014 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

The DAV Mid-Winter Conference held February 23-26, 2014, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, was once again a great success, with historic attendance by our members and their families. During the conference, DAV's National Service and Legislative staffs presented key information on a variety of subjects of our concern to hundreds of DAV 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 priorities as well as their own issues of concern from their states and local congressional districts.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2014, the focal point of the conference was National Commander Joseph Johnston's presentation to a standing room-only joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, in the Cannon Conference Room in the House of Representatives. Commander Johnston did an excellent job in presenting DAV's agenda and our concerns for this year. The Commander's remarks were well received by the members of the Committees.

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 the 2015 Mid-Winter Conference, February 22-25, 2015. Let all of us show our resolve to make the Administration, VA and Congress more responsive to the needs of our nations' wounded, injured and ill veterans and their families and survivors.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the upcoming year, the Legislative Department will be dealing with the aftermath of the access-to-care crisis in VA health care, and as a representative of significant consumers of VA services across all programs, services, and benefits, DAV will remain highly influential in helping VA restore itself.

Also, 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 wounded, injured and ill veterans receive the full range of benefits they have earned through their service, and receive them in a timely manner.

As indicated earlier, DAV is leading an initiative to reform the appeals process as well, because the chronic problems of the adjudication system pile up in veterans' appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and now BVA, too, is facing a daunting backlog with a much longer-term processing time to resolve appeals.

Finally, we will continue to request adequate funding for all veterans programs and call upon Congress to use its oversight authority to ensure VA properly uses its funding to provide timely, quality services and benefits to those veterans wounded, injured or made ill by their honorable service, and to their caregivers, families and survivors.

In the year ahead, undoubtedly a number of new issues will arise, and we will face challenges to maintain the benefits wounded, injured and ill veterans have earned through their service to America. DAV stands ready to face these challenges head-on with the unwavering support and strength from, you, our membership. We need your active participation and dedication to help us achieve DAV's goals. We need you to Stand Up for Veterans. If we don't stand up for veterans, who will?

If you haven't already done so, I strongly encourage all delegates at this National Convention, and your family members, to sign up and participate in the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN), easily found at the DAV website, [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org). Signing up will ensure that you receive up-to-date alerts on important issues and can gain an easy opportunity to help us achieve success in Washington, D.C.

In closing, I want to thank all DAV and DAVA members for their contributions during this past year, and in particular the members of my staff in Washington. I call upon you to continue engaging with us in the National Service and Legislative Headquarters, with Congress, and the Administration in advancing our organizational mission of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

(The following written annual report was submitted by James Marszalek, National Service Director:)

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ANNUAL REPORT OF JIM MARSZALEK  
NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR

WRITTEN REPORT SUBMITTED FOR  
THE DAV 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nevada

August 9-12, 2011

NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND DELEGATES TO THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

"Accountability"

"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

~ Abraham Lincoln

As National Service Director, it is my sincere pleasure to present to the delegates my report on the endeavors and achievements of the National Service Department. This annual report provides details concerning the DAV National Service Programs during 2013 and our impact in bringing the promise of hope and success into the lives of countless veterans, service members and their families.

Since that fateful Christmas night in 1919 when Judge Marx held a party, which later resulted in the birth of DAV, we have stood united in our mission of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

Through experience, DAV has long understood the vital importance of establishing a strong voice to advocate for the rights and interest of injured and ill veterans and their beneficiaries. Merriam-Webster's Dictionary defines accountability as "An obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions."

With this being said, DAV has instilled both change and action throughout 2013, and has willingly maintained the responsibility in ensuring our government is held accountable in providing sound health care and wide-ranging benefits for our nation's heroes.

"Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served" is not just a catchphrase - it is the fundamental responsibility of our organization. Our effective communication and influence are required to instill our strategic plan with innovative solutions in today's technological society.

Throughout 2013, the National Service Department maintained accountability by taking necessary approaches in ensuring injured and ill veterans are provided a service built on quality with the amenity of timeliness.

On February 17, 2013, during an Information Seminar conducted by National Service Officers (NSOs) in Fairfax, Virginia, DAV filed the very first electronic claim on behalf of a veteran. The VA believes this represents the future of disability claims processing, one that will replace an antiquated system that has buried VA regional offices under piles of paper.

The consequence of having paper files instead of electronic is delayed decisions, which are keeping veterans from receiving earned benefits within a timely manner.

By the end of December, DAV was on the forefront of paving the foundation into the future by submitting approximately 4,700 electronic claims on behalf of clients; more than any other Veterans Service Organization in existence.

In March of 2013, DAV provided a greater emphasis on submitting Fully Developed Claims (FDCs). At that time, roughly 3.4 percent of all claims being submitted by DAV were fully developed. With initiative and dedication from our NSOs, more than 27 percent of all claims being received were fully developed by the end of December of 2013. This emphasis, based on our knowledge and determination, resulted in roughly 41,068 veterans receiving benefits within months instead of a year or longer.

In October of 2013, our government shut down as the result of the new budget not being passed by Congress. In less than 36 hours from that shut down, our NSOs, along with Department and Chapter members, set up site locations in every state throughout the nation to continue serving veterans, service members and their families. In a time of great need when the government was not open for business, DAV was there.

Throughout 2013, our NSOs, Departments and local Chapters, provided disaster relief during damaging natural disasters in New York, Illinois, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Oklahoma and Missouri. As a result, more than \$241,000 in direct relief assistance was provided to veterans, service members and their families to aid them in times of great need.

During the course of DAV's history, we have continually adapted to the ever-changing needs of our nation's veterans, their families 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 ill veterans, as well as their families, receive the rights and benefits they have earned.

As we advance forward into the future, DAV continues to understand the vital importance of being a strong and influential advocate for the rights of injured and ill veterans, DAV members and their families. Throughout the past year, we have fought for the rights of our nation's heroes and their families, and this report will provide specific examples of DAV's committed efforts in ensuring their voices did not go unheard.

## **NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM**

Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served is accomplished through service. Service has always been the mainstay of DAV. 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 277 NSOs and 34 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 \$47,060,644 in 2013, these direct services make up the largest item in our budget for program activities. Between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013, our NSOs and TSOs, who themselves defended the American way of life by way of military service, represented veterans and their families with more than 330,000 claims for VA benefits, obtaining nearly \$3.3 billion in new and retroactive benefits.

NSOs function as attorneys in fact, assisting injured heroes and their families in filing claims for VA 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 service men and women before Discharge Review Boards, Boards for Correction of Military Records, Physical Evaluation Boards, the Transition Goals Planning Service (GPS) and other official panels.

## **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/Board) is the highest appellate level within the VA responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, the BVA decided 41,910 cases in which more than 96 percent of the claims before the board involved VA compensation benefits 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 almost 29 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in FY 13. Approximately 74% of the appeals represented by DAV at the BVA resulted in original decisions being overturned or remanded to the regional office for additional development and re-adjudication.

## **JUDICIAL APPEALS**

DAV continues its pro bono representation program for clients seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court). Through the DAV National Appeals Office, in 2013, these pro bono attorneys extended an offer of free representation before the veteran's court in 1,468 appeals which had been denied by the BVA, and provided personal representation at the Court in over 1,160 of those cases.

Since the inception of DAV's pro bono program before the federal courts, pro bono attorneys have made offers of free representation in more than 5,218 cases and provided free representation before the court in approximately 3,420 cases.

The substantial growth of this program would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of DAV and two top-notch law firms – Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP of Washington, D.C., and Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick of Providence, Rhode Island.

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 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 increase in the number of veterans, dependents and survivors served by DAV through this venue.

## **TRANSITION SERVICE PROGRAM**

For the defenders of freedom making the all-important transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and GPS 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 1,390 formal presentations to 54,220 transitioning service members. During that same time they filed 19,898 claims for VA benefits. Counsel and representation for active duty service men and women during their transition was provided through the military's disability evaluation system. We devoted in excess of \$2.1 million to this program in 2013.

## **MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE PROGRAM**

The Mobile Service Office Program continues to reach out to veterans in their own communities. Not all veterans are 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 access to benefits.

With 10 specially equipped MSOs 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 2013, our MSOs traveled more than 89,708 miles, visiting 832 cities and towns. Our NSOs interviewed 20,075 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 2013, the MSOs participated in 127 days of activities for 112 individual dealerships. Nearly \$1.1 million was expended for the Mobile Service Office program in 2013.

## **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 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 our defenders of freedom. In 2013, DAV trained and certified 1,638 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 31 states.

During 2013, we conducted 37 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 4,044 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**

Serving in record numbers, women make up nearly one-fifth of today's active duty, Guard and Reserve military forces. Over 150 service women have made the ultimate sacrifice in combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thousands more were critically wounded by visible and invisible injuries. Once they have served, women veterans are enrolling in VA health care in unprecedented numbers, and they are seeking a wide array of VA benefits and services they have fully earned. As a consequence VA at all levels is experiencing a large influx of new women veterans, who are in need of gender-specific services that VA traditionally did not provide.

VA acknowledges the need to make an internal cultural change to improve and expand services for women veterans and to tailor VA programs to meet their needs. DAV is helping to make that change in fostering greater awareness of women veterans and working cooperatively with VA officials through our legislative, communications and foundation resources, providing testimony before Congress, and by conducting a variety of forums and discussion groups in Washington, D.C., and throughout the nation.

DAV has recently commissioned a special report focused on the challenges and barriers women veterans face as they transition from active military service to civilian life. The report will also examine existing government programs designed to help them return to duty, post deployment or to civilian life. Based on the findings of the Women Veterans in Transition Report, DAV will address defined gaps in services by making recommendations for improvements in federal laws, regulations and policies.

DAV continues our determined advocacy for women and is the leading veteran's service organization in promoting the needs of women veterans at the National, Department and Chapter levels. In addition, DAV's own Women's Advisory Committee, made up of women veterans from across the country, meets annually at our National Convention and Mid-Winter Conference to help set our agenda on women and their needs.

To ensure women's unique experiences and sacrifices in serving our nation in uniform are properly recognized, DAV actively seeks out and recruits women veterans to add to the 63 women now serving in our NSO and TSO corps.

## **EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

Our National Service Program, in conjunction with our National Legislative Program and newly established Employment Department, is responsible for the organization's employment-related programs and works alongside the Department of Labor, the VA, the Office of Personnel Management, Congress and other government agencies to ensure our injured and ill veterans are treated fairly and equitably in the work force.

Our Employment Department empowers veterans by overseeing special employment initiatives and working with private and public sector entities to develop and build partnerships to address joblessness and underemployment.

Historically, our injured and ill heroes have not fared as well as non-injured or ill 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, private and public sector entities, the Office of Personnel Management and other government agencies. Through active involvement and oversight, we are empowering our veterans to live high-quality and fulfilled lives in the job market.

## HOMELESS VETERANS

Homelessness has been a constant presence in America 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 seeks 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 uphold the great principles of this organization by ensuring our defenders of freedom and their families have legal representation and a voice when filing claims with the VA for benefits. NSOs understand their role as veterans' advocates and are committed to DAV's mission of service for those who sacrificed in our defense.

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 have left 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, one NSO retired this past year, Kent Hoffman.

## REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN

We call to remembrance our National Service Officers who passed on this year. As the nation's veteran population rapidly declines -- the attrition takes its toll on our NSO ranks. These NSOs have provided services and aided in fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served for scores of injured and ill veterans, their dependents and survivors. We shall recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: William Gearhart, Kenneth Grunewald and Jerry Steelman.

## CONCLUSION

At this time, I wish to recognize the leadership, professionalism and personal sacrifices made by our National Commander Joseph Johnston 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 thank National Adjutant Marc Burgess for his continued leadership, vision and direction.

Our success is a reflection of their tireless efforts to inspire and ensure quality and professionalism in all we do. They have kept us focused on what it takes to bring to fruition our mission of service to injured and ill veterans and their families.

In addition, I express my gratitude to National Headquarters for their support of our goals and programs during the past year. I also want to thank Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine and National Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski. As a result of their continued support and contribution, their knowledge and passion for the National Service Program time after time has strengthened everything we have done this past year.

Appreciation is extended to the National Service Department staff members with whom I have the pleasure of working: Assistant National Service Directors, Scott Trimarchi, Chad Moos, John Maki, Justin Hart and Steven Wolf; and our staff of devoted Service Support Specialists, Emily Hall, Amanda Evans, Angela D'Aguilar-Kauffin, Queen Blanks, and Tyese McCall.

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

injured and ill veterans, and their families. The National Service Department will continue to ensure all of our country's defenders of the American way of life and their families receive free, professional assistance in obtaining VA and other government benefits earned through their service.



# RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES

## JULY 1, 2013–JUNE 30, 2014

Office: National Totals			Office: Phoenix, Arizona			Office: Sacramento, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	80,295		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,399		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	172	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	49,801		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	43,778		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	179	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	79,666		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,512		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	199	
4. PENSION	3,730		4. PENSION	70		4. PENSION	1	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5,015		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	40		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	7	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	56,079		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	820		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	12	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3,666		8. MISCELLANEOUS	29		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2,800		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	60		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	98		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	18		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	4		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	1,225		12. DEATH PENSION	13		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	597		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1,133		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	31		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	9		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	284,032		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,760		16. TOTAL AWARDS	537	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$268,166,995.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,681,371.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$823,380.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,243,787,302.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,775,189.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,883,699.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$4,511,954,297.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$87,456,560.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,707,079.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	302,619		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,853		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,104	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	114,829		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,138		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,138	
Paper	111,782		Paper	2,113		Paper	1,118	
Electronic	3,047		Electronic	25		Electronic	20	
22. INTERVIEWS	189,196		22. INTERVIEWS	6,315		22. INTERVIEWS	2,480	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	257,425		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,604		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,535	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	36,585		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	24		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	23	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	14		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	213,747		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,516		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,058	
Paper	208,579		Paper	3,438		Paper	2,022	
Electronic	5,168		Electronic	78		Electronic	36	
27. MEMBERSHIP	7,214		27. MEMBERSHIP	157		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	850		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	40780		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Montgomery, Alabama			Office: Little Rock, Arkansas			Office: Oakland, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,671		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	954		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,418	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,240		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,160		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,659	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,012		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,441		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,687	
4. PENSION	108		4. PENSION	67		4. PENSION	74	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	107		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	61		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	35	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,719		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	380		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	783	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	184		8. MISCELLANEOUS	81		8. MISCELLANEOUS	116	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	56		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	76		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	60	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2	
12. DEATH PENSION	41		12. DEATH PENSION	12		12. DEATH PENSION	13	
13. INSURANCE	1		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	20		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	18		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	58	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,159		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,250		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,905	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,848,129.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,211,249.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,523,105.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$100,208,950.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$66,326,163.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$86,294,986.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$107,057,079.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$70,537,412.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$103,808,091.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,510		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,211		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,018	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,798		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	861		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,374	
Paper	1,746		Paper	825		Paper	2,338	
Electronic	52		Electronic	36		Electronic	36	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,983		22. INTERVIEWS	4,312		22. INTERVIEWS	9,098	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,378		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,054		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,404	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	489	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,059		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,839		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,388	
Paper	3,031		Paper	1,761		Paper	4,341	
Electronic	28		Electronic	78		Electronic	47	
27. MEMBERSHIP	278		27. MEMBERSHIP	105		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	70	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	2506	

Office: Anchorage, Alaska			Office: Los Angeles, California			Office: San Diego, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	330		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,503		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,761	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	220		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	800		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,873	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	279		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,324		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,894	
4. PENSION	11		4. PENSION	80		4. PENSION	54	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	66		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	179		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,110		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	253	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1		8. MISCELLANEOUS	19		8. MISCELLANEOUS	174	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	43	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	14		12. DEATH PENSION	5	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,040		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,944		16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,112	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$693,794.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,359,989.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,870,480.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,087,322.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$94,084,162.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$149,924,162.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,781,116.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$99,444,151.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$158,794,622.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,125		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,959		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	11,191	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	470		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,866		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,748	
Paper	467		Paper	1,864		Paper	3,740	
Electronic	3		Electronic	2		Electronic	8	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,324		22. INTERVIEWS	4,856		22. INTERVIEWS	8,361	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,869		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,615		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,681	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	547		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	11,576	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,258		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,686		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,174	
Paper	1,249		Paper	4,642		Paper	5,093	
Electronic	9		Electronic	44		Electronic	81	
27. MEMBERSHIP	4		27. MEMBERSHIP	176		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	24		28. BRIEFINGS	253	
29. PARTICIPANTS	30		29. PARTICIPANTS	678		29. PARTICIPANTS	15296	



<b>Office: Denver, Colorado</b>			<b>Office: Washington, D.C.</b>			<b>Office: St. Petersburg, Florida</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,647		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	78		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,578	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,117		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	110		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,533	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,546		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	83		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	6,347	
4. PENSION	62		4. PENSION	1		4. PENSION	278	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	61		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2,149	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	812		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	4,045	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	253		8. MISCELLANEOUS	5		8. MISCELLANEOUS	726	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	54		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	199	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	236	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	202	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,577		16. TOTAL AWARDS	280		16. TOTAL AWARDS	22,293	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,737,820.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$310,242.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$17,090,676.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$72,795,247.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$5,544,535.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$269,577,836.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$77,533,067.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,854,777.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$286,668,512.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,262		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,418		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	16,828	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,693		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	711		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	6,924	
Paper	4,651		Paper	694		Paper	6,639	
Electronic	42		Electronic	17		Electronic	285	
22. INTERVIEWS	6,694		22. INTERVIEWS	3,613		22. INTERVIEWS	5,830	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,658		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,521		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	14,432	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,160		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,175		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,797	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,403		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,688		26. NEW CLAIMS	13,930	
Paper	8,261		Paper	2,654		Paper	13,667	
Electronic	142		Electronic	34		Electronic	263	
27. MEMBERSHIP	104		27. MEMBERSHIP	187		27. MEMBERSHIP	406	
28. BRIEFINGS	21		28. BRIEFINGS	7		28. BRIEFINGS	10	
29. PARTICIPANTS	597		29. PARTICIPANTS	154		29. PARTICIPANTS	342	
<b>Office: Newington, Connecticut</b>			<b>Office: Board of Veterans Appeals</b>			<b>Office: Orlando, Florida</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	665		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	10		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	248	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	437		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	17		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	168	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	992		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	9		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	210	
4. PENSION	21		4. PENSION	4		4. PENSION	5	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	20		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	297		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1	
12. DEATH PENSION	6		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,467		16. TOTAL AWARDS	40		16. TOTAL AWARDS	639	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,318,336.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$23,315.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$520,043.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$34,806,987.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$426,580.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,659,898.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$37,125,323.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$449,895.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,179,941.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,350		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	18,922		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	599	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	956		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,696		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	408	
Paper	945		Paper	1,640		Paper	405	
Electronic	11		Electronic	56		Electronic	3	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,994		22. INTERVIEWS	1,813		22. INTERVIEWS	1,006	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,202		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,908		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	598	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	20		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,967		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,216		26. NEW CLAIMS	757	
Paper	1,941		Paper	2,982		Paper	749	
Electronic	46		Electronic	234		Electronic	8	
27. MEMBERSHIP	12		27. MEMBERSHIP	99		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>Office: Wilmington, Delaware</b>			<b>Office: DC Nat'l Svc &amp; Legis Hqtrs.</b>			<b>Office: West Palm Beach, Florida</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	106		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	10	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	82		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	43	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	126		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	7	
4. PENSION	6		4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	17		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	1		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	351		16. TOTAL AWARDS	0		16. TOTAL AWARDS	65	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$320,985.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$36,547.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$5,280,709.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$733,612.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,601,694.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$770,159.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,919		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	141	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,016		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	147	
Paper	1,005		Paper	0		Paper	146	
Electronic	11		Electronic	0		Electronic	1	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,758		22. INTERVIEWS	4		22. INTERVIEWS	1,347	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,775		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	94	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,031		26. NEW CLAIMS	0		26. NEW CLAIMS	740	
Paper	1,955		Paper	0		Paper	697	
Electronic	76		Electronic	0		Electronic	43	
27. MEMBERSHIP	154		27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

**Office: Atlanta, Georgia**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,725
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,199
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,569
4. PENSION	57
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,391
8. MISCELLANEOUS	74
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	40
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	6
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,098
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,522,300.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$107,700,909.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$114,223,209.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,120
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,941
Paper	2,889
Electronic	52
22. INTERVIEWS	4,696
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,375
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,454
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,574
Paper	4,515
Electronic	59
27. MEMBERSHIP	4
28. BRIEFINGS	54
29. PARTICIPANTS	2146

**Office: Boise, Idaho**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	405
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	298
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	405
4. PENSION	23
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	348
8. MISCELLANEOUS	16
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	7
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	9
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,541
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,273,075.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,508,138.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,781,213.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,618
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	607
Paper	596
Electronic	11
22. INTERVIEWS	3,782
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,438
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	38
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,158
Paper	1,140
Electronic	18
27. MEMBERSHIP	27
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	268

**Office: Chicago, Illinois**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	833
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	632
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	904
4. PENSION	111
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	108
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	414
8. MISCELLANEOUS	27
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	65
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	8
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	31
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,139
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,036,920.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$53,779,000.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$56,815,920.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,252
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,681
Paper	1,591
Electronic	90
22. INTERVIEWS	4,066
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	785
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	451
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,134
Paper	1,948
Electronic	186
27. MEMBERSHIP	101
28. BRIEFINGS	10
29. PARTICIPANTS	359

**Office: Indianapolis, Indiana**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,515
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	561
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	889
4. PENSION	59
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	39
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	753
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	43
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,901
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,099,000.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$48,838,224.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$51,937,224.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,684
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	880
Paper	870
Electronic	10
22. INTERVIEWS	1,897
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,354
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,490
Paper	2,446
Electronic	44
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Des Moines, Iowa**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	509
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	229
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	506
4. PENSION	58
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	181
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	45
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	42
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,625
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,595,328.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$25,663,605.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$27,258,933.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,059
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	609
Paper	603
Electronic	6
22. INTERVIEWS	552
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,974
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,479
Paper	1,472
Electronic	7
27. MEMBERSHIP	80
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Wichita, Kansas**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	784
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	479
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	959
4. PENSION	38
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	56
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	155
8. MISCELLANEOUS	45
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	33
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	9
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	4
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,577
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,495,965.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$36,959,303.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$39,455,268.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,898
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	884
Paper	879
Electronic	5
22. INTERVIEWS	1,782
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,784
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,616
Paper	1,608
Electronic	8
27. MEMBERSHIP	43
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Louisville, Kentucky**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,364
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	618
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,680
4. PENSION	92
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	53
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	692
8. MISCELLANEOUS	34
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	75
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	31
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,648
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,662,595.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$69,747,779.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$74,410,374.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,085
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,565
Paper	2,447
Electronic	118
22. INTERVIEWS	1,093
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,469
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	980
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,842
Paper	3,688
Electronic	154
27. MEMBERSHIP	103
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: New Orleans, Louisiana**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	598
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	445
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	853
4. PENSION	21
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	72
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	360
8. MISCELLANEOUS	49
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	17
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	5
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,424
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,567,568.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$45,273,850.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$47,841,418.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,694
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,054
Paper	2,041
Electronic	13
22. INTERVIEWS	2,372
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,574
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	597
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,982
Paper	1,959
Electronic	24
27. MEMBERSHIP	87
28. BRIEFINGS	32
29. PARTICIPANTS	295

**Office: Togus, Maine**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	450
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	510
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	590
4. PENSION	18
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	19
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	193
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	23
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,823
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,904,899.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$29,486,714.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$31,391,613.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,676
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	733
Paper	404
Electronic	329
22. INTERVIEWS	1,914
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,599
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,508
Paper	897
Electronic	611
27. MEMBERSHIP	68
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

<b>Office: Baltimore, Maryland</b>			<b>Office: Detroit, Michigan</b>			<b>Office: St. Louis, Missouri</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,958		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,628		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,108	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	755		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,430		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,045	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,869		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,756		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,515	
4. PENSION	45		4. PENSION	229		4. PENSION	188	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	60		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	121		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	136	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	221		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	388		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	19,178	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2		8. MISCELLANEOUS	131		8. MISCELLANEOUS	123	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	25		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	123		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	106	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	9	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	7		12. DEATH PENSION	106		12. DEATH PENSION	39	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	27		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	40	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,946		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,941		16. TOTAL AWARDS	26,487	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,754,244.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,541,785.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$23,329,538.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$92,227,673.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$103,035,195.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$255,914,190.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$96,981,917.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$108,576,980.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$279,243,728.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,947		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,664		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,144	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,491		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,968		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,354	
Paper	1,441		Paper	3,922		Paper	3,290	
Electronic	50		Electronic	46		Electronic	64	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,925		22. INTERVIEWS	2,298		22. INTERVIEWS	2,235	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,785		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,942		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,772	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	26		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	17	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,506		26. NEW CLAIMS	6,853		26. NEW CLAIMS	6,005	
Paper	3,428		Paper	6,787		Paper	5,992	
Electronic	78		Electronic	66		Electronic	13	
27. MEMBERSHIP	7		27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	476	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	2		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	114		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>Office: Cold Spring, Kentucky</b>			<b>Office: St. Paul, Minnesota</b>			<b>Office: Fort Harrison, Montana</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,337		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	139	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,341		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	125	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,237		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	269	
4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	142		4. PENSION	15	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	62		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	387		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	26		8. MISCELLANEOUS	8	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	156		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	8		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	51		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	77		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	11		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,625		16. TOTAL AWARDS	573	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,286.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,784,356.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$537,215.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$395,644.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$81,097,673.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,487,156.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$398,930.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$86,882,029.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,024,371.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,468		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,000	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	8		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,495		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	319	
Paper	3		Paper	1,473		Paper	319	
Electronic	5		Electronic	22		Electronic	0	
22. INTERVIEWS	9		22. INTERVIEWS	1,488		22. INTERVIEWS	395	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,669		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,929	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	6		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	7		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,896		26. NEW CLAIMS	538	
Paper	5		Paper	3,583		Paper	534	
Electronic	2		Electronic	313		Electronic	4	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	132		27. MEMBERSHIP	10	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>Office: Boston, Massachusetts</b>			<b>Office: Jackson, Mississippi</b>			<b>Office: Lincoln, Nebraska</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,056		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	260		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	202	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,288		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	219		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	162	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,958		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	432		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	322	
4. PENSION	44		4. PENSION	87		4. PENSION	10	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	34		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	9		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	165		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	365		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	86	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	30		8. MISCELLANEOUS	3		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	52		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	21		12. DEATH PENSION	21		12. DEATH PENSION	6	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	28		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,676		16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,415		16. TOTAL AWARDS	817	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,246,294.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,254,075.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$712,990.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$116,440,210.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$18,364,045.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$9,502,357.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$122,686,504.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$19,618,120.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$10,215,347.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,964		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,835		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,120	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,840		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	604		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	281	
Paper	1,761		Paper	601		Paper	263	
Electronic	79		Electronic	3		Electronic	18	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,314		22. INTERVIEWS	1,224		22. INTERVIEWS	585	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,687		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,575		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,797	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	872		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,327		26. NEW CLAIMS	998		26. NEW CLAIMS	544	
Paper	3,156		Paper	975		Paper	528	
Electronic	171		Electronic	23		Electronic	16	
27. MEMBERSHIP	41		27. MEMBERSHIP	16		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	23		28. BRIEFINGS	1	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	812		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

**Office: Reno, Nevada**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	624
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	299
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	300
4. PENSION	27
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	14
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	70
8. MISCELLANEOUS	25
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24
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	1,392
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,138,417.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$24,416,313.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$25,554,730.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,539
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,332
Paper	1,303
Electronic	29
22. INTERVIEWS	3,069
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,331
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	28
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,624
Paper	1,593
Electronic	31
27. MEMBERSHIP	78
28. BRIEFINGS	1
29. PARTICIPANTS	7

**Office: Las Vegas, Nevada**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	311
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	223
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	208
4. PENSION	9
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	50
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	11
8. MISCELLANEOUS	11
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	835
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$864,097.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,324,570.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,188,667.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	700
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	996
Paper	969
Electronic	27
22. INTERVIEWS	2,927
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	52
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,091
Paper	2,046
Electronic	45
27. MEMBERSHIP	42
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	607

**Office: Manchester, New Hampshire**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	338
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	178
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	306
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	6
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	830
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$869,823.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,972,439.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$15,842,262.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,960
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	693
Paper	661
Electronic	32
22. INTERVIEWS	1,915
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,780
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,308
Paper	1,242
Electronic	66
27. MEMBERSHIP	23
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Newark, New Jersey**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	454
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	539
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	976
4. PENSION	24
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	29
8. MISCELLANEOUS	45
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,118
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,336,129.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$36,104,310.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$38,440,439.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,799
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	787
Paper	676
Electronic	111
22. INTERVIEWS	2,396
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,511
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,235
Paper	993
Electronic	242
27. MEMBERSHIP	267
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Albuquerque, New Mexico**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,421
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,073
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,712
4. PENSION	62
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	92
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	621
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	28
8. MISCELLANEOUS	63
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	24
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,123
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,349,666.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$82,598,241.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$87,947,907.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,676
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,860
Paper	1,635
Electronic	25
22. INTERVIEWS	3,266
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,517
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,394
Paper	2,365
Electronic	29
27. MEMBERSHIP	160
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: New York, New York**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	785
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	751
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	605
4. PENSION	20
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	22
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	12
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	11
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,242
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,311,582.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$50,071,019.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$52,202,601.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,473
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,519
Paper	1,495
Electronic	24
22. INTERVIEWS	1,583
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,363
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,373
Paper	2,348
Electronic	25
27. MEMBERSHIP	83
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Albany, New York**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	39
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	20
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	19
4. PENSION	1
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	83
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$78,569.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$1,916,407.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$1,994,976.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	584
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	111
Paper	103
Electronic	8
22. INTERVIEWS	938
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	525
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	360
Paper	303
Electronic	57
27. MEMBERSHIP	21
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Buffalo, New York**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	240
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	216
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	360
4. PENSION	6
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	10
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5,317
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,159
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,935,547.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$68,005,603.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$75,941,150.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,800
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	422
Paper	412
Electronic	10
22. INTERVIEWS	962
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,684
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	963
Paper	925
Electronic	38
27. MEMBERSHIP	8
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Syracuse, New York**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1
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	1
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$101.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$14,452.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,553.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	70
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	18
Paper	17
Electronic	1
22. INTERVIEWS	21
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	65
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	33
Paper	28
Electronic	5
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

<b>Office: Winston-Salem, North Carolina</b>			<b>Office: Cincinnati, Ohio</b>			<b>Office: Portland, Oregon</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,006		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	598	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,954		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	440	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,196		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	871	
4. PENSION	45		4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	32	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	36		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	36	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,973		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	440	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	35		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	3	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	41		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	13		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	7	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	26		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	10	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,329		16. TOTAL AWARDS	0		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,458	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$11,427,177.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,415,932.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$176,192,085.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$35,489,651.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$187,619,262.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$37,905,583.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,193		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	36		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,883	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,454		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	473		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	623	
Paper	3,968		Paper	467		Paper	618	
Electronic	486		Electronic	6		Electronic	5	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,572		22. INTERVIEWS	694		22. INTERVIEWS	1,531	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,548		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	19		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,647	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,344		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	42		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	36	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,239		26. NEW CLAIMS	853		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,527	
Paper	6,181		Paper	853		Paper	1,495	
Electronic	58		Electronic	0		Electronic	32	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	62	
28. BRIEFINGS	32		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	3541		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>Office: Fargo, North Dakota</b>			<b>Office: Muskogee, Oklahoma</b>			<b>Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	444		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,603		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,151	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	423		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,290		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	861	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	550		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,327		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,243	
4. PENSION	28		4. PENSION	75		4. PENSION	61	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	98		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	48	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	112		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	835		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	280	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6		8. MISCELLANEOUS	23		8. MISCELLANEOUS	10	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	53		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	122		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	37	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	4	
12. DEATH PENSION	28		12. DEATH PENSION	22		12. DEATH PENSION	24	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	596	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	43		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	39		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	28	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,695		16. TOTAL AWARDS	8,438		16. TOTAL AWARDS	4,346	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,537,797.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,325,457.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,125,349.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$22,223,824.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$156,946,694.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$71,102,222.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$23,761,621.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$167,272,151.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$75,227,571.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,596		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,758		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,492	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	665		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,724		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,918	
Paper	660		Paper	4,664		Paper	1,894	
Electronic	5		Electronic	60		Electronic	24	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,295		22. INTERVIEWS	3,003		22. INTERVIEWS	3,483	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,476		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,321		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,290	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	106		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,541		26. NEW CLAIMS	7,790		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,460	
Paper	1,501		Paper	7,750		Paper	3,368	
Electronic	40		Electronic	40		Electronic	92	
27. MEMBERSHIP	55		27. MEMBERSHIP	55		27. MEMBERSHIP	280	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	23		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	722		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
<b>Office: Cleveland, Ohio</b>			<b>Office: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</b>			<b>Office: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania</b>		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,842		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,528		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,405		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0	
4. PENSION	296		4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	255		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,241		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	163		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	119		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	2		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	96		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,967		16. TOTAL AWARDS	0		16. TOTAL AWARDS	0	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,807,199.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$166,805,163.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$176,612,362.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,517		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	139		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	0	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,215		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	131		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0	
Paper	4,192		Paper	125		Paper	0	
Electronic	23		Electronic	6		Electronic	0	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,380		22. INTERVIEWS	53		22. INTERVIEWS	0	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,886		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	136		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	696		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	13,398		26. NEW CLAIMS	237		26. NEW CLAIMS	0	
Paper	13,191		Paper	224		Paper	0	
Electronic	207		Electronic	13		Electronic	0	
27. MEMBERSHIP	331		27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	28		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	1141		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

**Office: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	960
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	606
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,070
4. PENSION	35
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	45
8. MISCELLANEOUS	48
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	23
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,842
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,600,448.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$46,952,865.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$49,553,313.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,841
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	727
Paper	720
Electronic	7
22. INTERVIEWS	1,071
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,868
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,480
Paper	1,432
Electronic	48
27. MEMBERSHIP	144
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Providence, Rhode Island**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	577
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	259
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	623
4. PENSION	9
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	13
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	44
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,532
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,395,467.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$21,636,339.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$23,031,806.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,178
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	973
Paper	960
Electronic	13
22. INTERVIEWS	1,803
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,949
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,510
Paper	1,470
Electronic	40
27. MEMBERSHIP	418
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Columbia, South Carolina**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,022
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,452
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,854
4. PENSION	62
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	696
8. MISCELLANEOUS	20
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	22
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	10
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	19
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,177
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,928,498.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$101,647,792.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$107,576,290.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,009
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,478
Paper	2,406
Electronic	70
22. INTERVIEWS	6,069
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,085
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	58
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,457
Paper	4,406
Electronic	51
27. MEMBERSHIP	180
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	197
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	237
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	559
4. PENSION	16
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	28
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	231
8. MISCELLANEOUS	21
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	10
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,306
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,537,587.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$16,573,762.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,111,349.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,531
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	415
Paper	414
Electronic	1
22. INTERVIEWS	1,510
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,291
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,197
Paper	1,161
Electronic	36
27. MEMBERSHIP	72
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Nashville, Tennessee**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,107
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,866
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,479
4. PENSION	165
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	212
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	518
8. MISCELLANEOUS	110
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	73
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	37
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,583
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,220,991.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$122,460,681.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$130,681,852.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,507
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,224
Paper	5,171
Electronic	53
22. INTERVIEWS	2,974
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,920
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,294
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,888
Paper	6,789
Electronic	117
27. MEMBERSHIP	128
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Waco, Texas**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,420
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,319
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,514
4. PENSION	228
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	213
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,287
8. MISCELLANEOUS	368
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	92
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	33
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	68
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	16,542
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$14,508,675.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$222,598,821.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$237,107,496.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	17,158
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,812
Paper	4,717
Electronic	95
22. INTERVIEWS	2,444
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	16,116
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	676
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,908
Paper	8,827
Electronic	81
27. MEMBERSHIP	364
28. BRIEFINGS	28
29. PARTICIPANTS	2256

**Office: Houston, Texas**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,343
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,230
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,504
4. PENSION	94
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	96
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	665
8. MISCELLANEOUS	62
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	139
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	38
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	18
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,189
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,342,182.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$124,325,041.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$131,667,223.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,855
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,115
Paper	1,104
Electronic	11
22. INTERVIEWS	5,444
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,845
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,272
Paper	5,169
Electronic	103
27. MEMBERSHIP	39
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: San Antonio, Texas**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	99
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	27
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	29
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	1
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	5
16. TOTAL AWARDS	178
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$234,516.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$4,901,318.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$5,135,834.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	998
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,676
Paper	2,646
Electronic	30
22. INTERVIEWS	9,321
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	565
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	378
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,578
Paper	5,548
Electronic	30
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	42
29. PARTICIPANTS	374

**Office: Salt Lake City, Utah**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	6,723
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	960
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,983
4. PENSION	46
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	40
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	14
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	15
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	6
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,813
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,020,526.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$194,667,421.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$204,687,947.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	10,291
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	711
Paper	700
Electronic	11
22. INTERVIEWS	2,586
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,103
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,260
Paper	1,225
Electronic	35
27. MEMBERSHIP	66
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: White River Junction, Vermont**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	120
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	55
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	152
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
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	335
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$387,491.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$6,119,457.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$6,506,948.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,145
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	442
Paper	406
Electronic	36
22. INTERVIEWS	1,358
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,999
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	811
Paper	767
Electronic	44
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Huntington, West Virginia**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	67
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	107
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	152
4. PENSION	4
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	58
8. MISCELLANEOUS	69
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	478
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$507,878.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,391,959.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,899,837.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	987
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	311
Paper	298
Electronic	13
22. INTERVIEWS	727
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	938
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	984
Paper	929
Electronic	55
27. MEMBERSHIP	1,019
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: San Juan, Puerto Rico**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	350
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	224
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	573
4. PENSION	59
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	178
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	157
8. MISCELLANEOUS	265
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,823
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,648,902.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$29,401,543.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$31,050,445.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,461
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,053
Paper	1,033
Electronic	20
22. INTERVIEWS	3,760
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,040
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	56
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,431
Paper	1,416
Electronic	15
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	7
29. PARTICIPANTS	273

**Office: Roanoke, Virginia**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,609
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	640
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,189
4. PENSION	31
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	18
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	237
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	38
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	2
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,789
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,589,247.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$68,759,988.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$72,349,235.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,064
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,487
Paper	4,380
Electronic	107
22. INTERVIEWS	2,861
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,266
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,671
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,975
Paper	4,944
Electronic	31
27. MEMBERSHIP	35
28. BRIEFINGS	81
29. PARTICIPANTS	5919

**Office: Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	569
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	568
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,056
4. PENSION	91
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	66
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	232
8. MISCELLANEOUS	17
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	70
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	26
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	32
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,727
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,774,055.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$39,702,445.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$42,476,500.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,074
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,014
Paper	970
Electronic	44
22. INTERVIEWS	2,289
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,963
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	3
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,347
Paper	2,286
Electronic	61
27. MEMBERSHIP	56
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

**Office: Honolulu, Hawaii**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	397
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	181
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	296
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	413
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	4
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	4
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,307
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,664,128.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$19,048,443.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$20,712,571.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,889
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,286
Paper	1,275
Electronic	11
22. INTERVIEWS	3,033
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	791
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,215
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,474
Paper	2,417
Electronic	57
27. MEMBERSHIP	242
28. BRIEFINGS	22
29. PARTICIPANTS	752

**Office: Seattle, Washington**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,055
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,347
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,919
4. PENSION	110
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	35
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	730
8. MISCELLANEOUS	93
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	109
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	9
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	40
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,470
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,102,217.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$136,763,644.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$143,865,861.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,706
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,355
Paper	3,260
Electronic	95
22. INTERVIEWS	2,517
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,852
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,598
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,921
Paper	5,757
Electronic	164
27. MEMBERSHIP	20
28. BRIEFINGS	65
29. PARTICIPANTS	1591

**Office: Cheyenne, Wyoming**

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	399
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	309
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	255
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	23
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	8
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	19
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,039
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$670,471.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$11,830,908.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$12,501,379.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,095
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,753
Paper	1,734
Electronic	19
22. INTERVIEWS	4,126
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,706
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	14
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,643
Paper	4,507
Electronic	136
27. MEMBERSHIP	87
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Barry. May I have a motion to accept Mr. Jesinoski's report?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2.

MS. TINCIE MARIE LYNCH: Commander Lynch, Georgia, DAV Chapter 91, I would like to make a motion to accept the report.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I have a motion. Do I hear a second?

MR. ANDREW MARSHALL: Mic 2. Andy Marshall, Department Delegate, Department of Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? The motion is carried.

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 ill and injured veterans.

The award for the Veterans Health Administration employee is being presented to Dr. David Tharp, a psychologist at the Waco Mental Health Post-Traumatic Stress Residential Rehabilitation Program. Dr. Tharp, a DAV life member and a lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve, is recognized for his commitment to doing whatever it takes to provide the best service and treatment to veterans returning from combat.

A veteran, Dr. Tharp recognized something we at DAV have known since we pioneered the initiative that evolved into today's Vet Centers – that veterans feel most comfortable relating with staff who had spent time in a combat zone. This led him to volunteer for deployment to Afghanistan where he served as the NATO medical advisor and commanded the medical assets of 28 countries.

Since returning from Afghanistan in 2011, Dr. Tharp has used his real-world experience by providing direct clinical care to veterans. He has implemented significant improvements to PTSD residential treatments, improving performance scores from 65.5 percent to more than 90 percent.

He simultaneously served his country and his fellow veterans. If I could ask our National Service Director Jim Marszalek to join me for this presentation. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to the podium Dr. David Tharp. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Dr. David Tharp advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

DAVID THARP, M.D.: Ladies and gentlemen, what an honor and a privilege it is to just be here and to serve. And if I can say anything from the perspective of the VA it's about keeping the promise and to hearing from you with one voice. So if I could, let me hear you repeat, "Keep the promise."

(Response of "Keep the promise.")

DR. THARP: Keep the promise.

(Response of "Keep the promise.")

DR. THARP: Keep the promise.

(Response of "Keep the promise.")

DR. THARP: Let me just tell you, when you speak with one voice, people listen. And it is powerful. And there is not one person in this room that is sitting that doesn't deserve this more than I. I will tell you, when my wife and I were coming up here I was in tears.

I can't thank you enough for serving our country. It is a privilege to work from the Air Force Academy and the cadets all the way through to a gentleman that is 85-years old that's in our program and what a service that he has done. Thank you and God bless you for everything. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Congratulations, David. And thank you for your commitment to our nation's injured heroes.

Sharon McGill serves both as homeless veterans' and outreach coordinator and special projects manager in the Decatur Veterans Benefit Administration. For her outstanding performance she is being honored with the award given to our Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration employee.

Sharon oversees homeless claims processing and also conducts outreach throughout the state of Georgia. She is responsible for identifying homeless veterans and educating them on the services and benefits that may be available to them.

She has interviewed more than 4,000 homeless veterans since 2010. Sharon has logged an impressive number of interactions with veterans who are not easy to find or identify. The sheer volume alone is a testament to her dedication to ending veterans' homelessness.

The wife, daughter and sister of veterans, she is committed to standing up for the men and women who served. So please join me in applauding Sharon McGill for putting veterans first. (Applause)



(Whereupon, Sharon McGill advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You've got a lot of fans out there.

MRS. SHARON MCGILL: I do. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MRS. MCGILL: I would like to thank the DAV for considering and selecting me for the National Commander's Award for it is truly a great honor and privilege to serve our veterans.

I am sincerely grateful for the recognition from Mr. Donald Warren, the Atlanta DAV National Service Officer Supervisor at the Atlanta Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Atlanta Veterans Benefits Administration and my DAV colleagues for recognizing me for this prestigious award.

My commitment to homeless veterans comes from a family history of military service. My grandfather served during World War I. My father served in the Pacific during World War II. My husband, Robert McGill, whose support, who is very supportive of my work hours and time away from home, my three brothers that served in the United States Army, and I have one brother who served in the United States Marine Corps. (Cheers)

Please know that I will continue to be dedicated in serving our veterans and today I am humbled to accept this award and recognition. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Congratulations, Sharon, and thank you for your commitment to our nation's injured veterans.

The National Commander's Award for Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Employee is being presented to Al Richburg, formerly the Director of Wood County National Cemetery in Milwaukee.

Since being nominated for this award Al was promoted to Director of the Fort Custer National Veterans Cemetery in Michigan. At both cemeteries Al was tasked with the important duty of ensuring veterans receive their final honors.

A U.S. Army veteran, Al understands he and his staff have only one chance to make this solemn day right for the families of heroes. And they go above and beyond to exhibit compassion and professionalism.

Community engagement is a priority for Al. He is committed to ensuring his fellow veterans are aware of their benefits and understand that they are eligible to be interred at a national cemetery free of charge – because the fee has been paid through our service to our country.

Day-in and day-out Al works diligently to ensure that families burying their loved ones know that this final resting place will honor their hero's service and sacrifice. Let's give a warm DAV welcome to Al Richburg. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Richburg advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. AL RICHBURG: First of all, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. RICHBURG: I would like to thank the DAV for everything they have done for me here and I definitely want to thank God. I will say this, as an Army veteran (Cheers) I have, I can tell you now there is no other job that is more honorable than the one that I have here.

I meet people on the worst days of their life and I try to make it something special for them. I believe in treating every veteran and their family member with dignity, honor and respect and compassion, knowing that I only have that one chance to get it right.

And that is what I strive to do every day. So I am normally not at a loss for words but I love my veterans. I love their families. And I love what I do. And I thank God that I am able to do it. And thank you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Congratulations, Al, and thank you for your commitment to our nation's injured heroes.

Each year DAV recognizes those who have distinguished themselves in making sure veterans get an even break in the job market.

The award for Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative is being presented to Teresa Mariska, a Navy veteran who takes pride in helping fellow veterans obtain meaningful employment and a better quality of life through her work at the Texas Veterans Commission.

This year alone, Teresa contacted more than 140 employers to talk about veteran job seekers and their unique skill sets. She led her region in the job placement of 81 veterans, including 10 disabled veterans.

Teresa is known for pursuing new opportunities to better serve veterans in their career search. These unique initiatives have included a "Suits for Vets" drive which provides veterans with

professional apparel for interviews, and procurement of donated bicycles for veterans without a means of transportation to work.

Teresa's innovation helps veterans overcome obstacles as they seek high-quality and fulfilled lives. Her service to America's heroes extends outside of the office and throughout her community.

Unfortunately, Teresa could not be here today to receive this award. But let's give her a round of applause loud enough so she can hear it back in Texas. (Applause) Sisters and brothers, please join me in recognizing Teresa Mariska. I will ask our National Director of Employment Jeff Hall to accept the award for her. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Jeff Hall advanced to the podium to accept the award for Ms. Mariska, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The individual selected as the Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist for 2014 is Roy Fillion, an employment specialist at Job Services North Dakota. In this capacity, Roy ensures that every veteran who seeks his support services receives the answers and assistance that they are looking for.

Roy travels extensively, serving ten counties in northeastern North Dakota, where he helps veterans obtain meaningful employment. He is also responsible for ensuring their offices are informed about current veterans' issues and opportunities. But it's the one-on-one interactions with veterans that sets Roy apart.

Roy is committed to the veterans he is serving from start to finish, providing frequent follow-up with each case. Outside of work, the Air Force veteran and active life member has served as Commander for Chapter 2 and the Department of North Dakota. Roy never "clocks out." He epitomizes veterans helping veterans in all that he does. Please join me in welcoming Roy Fillion. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Fillion advanced to the podium to receive the Commander's Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. ROY FILLION: Good morning, everybody.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. FILLION: This is a wonderful, a wonderful day. Some people know me here out in the audience. I've got a lot of my friends and family here. I don't talk a lot but really I do.

But, I've been working for Job Service North Dakota for 14 years. And it's probably one of the neatest jobs that I've ever had in my life, to work with veterans and to help them with their employment needs and to make a difference in their lives.

It's just a neat thing to do, to be able to see people that you work with on a day-in and day-out basis and they give you a call and say, "Hey, Roy, I got this job and I want to thank you for your help." It's just a neat thing to do. One of the biggest things that I wanted to do in my new career with Job Service was to make a difference in peoples' lives. And it's just a neat thing to do.

And I want to thank the National Commander for this wonderful recognition. And it is my pleasure to be here. Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Fillion, and thank you, Ms. Mariska. Thank you, again, to our Outstanding VA employees. The VA is regularly beat up in the press and in the media. It is a large health care system with a big job of caring for so many veterans.

Today's recipients remind us of the hard work that is the rule rather than the exception amongst those at VA who care and work so hard to care for our nation's heroes. Let's give them all a big hand. (Applause)

Each year DAV recognizes companies who go out of their way to recruit and hire disabled veterans.

It is my pleasure to announce the DAV Employer of the Year Awards to a couple of outstanding organizations who know what all of us in this room do day-to-day: veterans are an invaluable asset to any team. Both of these companies know very well that those who have served bring outstanding skills to the workplace that they are trainable, and their abilities and work ethic make them invaluable.

IntelliGenesis is a veteran-owned company that consistently recruits military talent. Disabled veterans comprise nearly one-in-five team members of the organization's staff and nearly one-half company-wide of the employees are veterans.

The company speaks at military transition assistance program classes to assist military members returning to civilian life by conducting seminars about the contracting businesses and civilian sector employment. IntelliGenesis attends job fairs seeking military applicants and consistently donates to veterans' causes, including a support to the DAV.

I ask Jeff Hall, National Director of Employment, and Angie Lienert, President and Chief Executive Officer of IntelliGenesis to join me as we present the DAV Outstanding Small Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Jeff Hall and Ms. Lienert advanced to accept the DAV Outstanding Small Employer of the Year Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. ANGIE LIENERT: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. LIENERT: I just want to, again, thank the DAV for this very distinguished award. It actually means a lot to me, personally. I am an Air Force veteran (Applause) – thank you – as well as being accompanied with my husband who is a DAV from the Air Force and, again, my father is also DAV.

I want to also thank you, my fellow veterans, for all that you give and – all that you gave and continue to give, especially to the disabled veterans. You continue to wear, to bear the injuries of your service and we thank you for that.

At IntelliGenesis veterans are the cornerstone of our company. We never forget where we come from and we always remember those who give of themselves. At IntelliGenesis we are keeping the promise with our workforce of over 50 percent veterans and 20 percent of disabled veterans. (Applause) Thank you.

One of the reasons that I really enjoy hiring veterans is because of their experience, their expertise, their mission focus, their teamwork. They are, by far, the ideal employee. (Applause)

Future plans for IntelliGenesis have us cross-training more of our veterans into lifelong technical careers. We also plan to continue to support charities such as the DAV and Gold Star team programs. And we want to make sure that we are supporting the programs that advance veterans and provide support to their families.

We also look forward to becoming more involved with the DAV. Thank you, again. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Our next recipient is a strong company because of its patriotic values and its practice of recruiting and maintaining many veterans in its ranks.

Hewlett-Packard makes an active effort to hire America's veterans through a variety of channels. They attend veterans' career fairs, maintain a veteran-specific recruiting website, and even host hiring events where they offer those who have served interview coaching, resume assistance, and electronic resume books that allow candidates to browse potential jobs in the company and better prepare to interact with HP career recruiters. HP has more than 5,000 veterans as a part of their total workforce.

Would Marilyn Crouther, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Hewlett-Packard Company, please join me to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Crouther advanced to the podium to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year Award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. MARILYN CROUTHER: Thank you, Commander, and thank you to everyone at DAV. It is very much, indeed, an honor to stand here on behalf of HP and accept this award and to be named the Disabled American Veterans Large Employer of the Year.

The videos, when you watch them, they just stir something inside of you that say, "I must, too, stand and do my part." We are so proud to be the Disabled American Veterans' corporate partner. As the most long-standing veterans' service organization DAV is an important part of our national community.

We are honored to support the DAV National Service Program, enabling more than 100 U.S. and Puerto Rico offices to provide free benefits, counseling and services to veterans and to their families.

At HP we are 270,000 employees strong, operating in 170 countries. We are the hardware, software and converged infrastructure wrapped in industry-leading IT solutions and enterprise services that enable a new style of IT.

To us we see the world from our client's point of view, one where cloud security, mobility, and big data are critical components to enabling our military, our federal health care, civilian and state and local agencies to solve some of today's biggest challenges.

The employees at HP also very strongly believe in social innovation and community action. We believe that our involvement in DAV creates a stronger community. And it creates opportunities for the men and women who risked everything for our country.

We now must stand and deliver on our commitments to you. We are determined to be a part of fulfilling the promise. As a part of our commitment, we actively engage veterans in our hiring process and recruiting process. We've led more than 5,000 veterans to the HP team as a part of the 100,000 jobs mission.

Once onboard we support our veterans as they transition from military to civilian life through activities such as our Veterans Employee Resource Network and our Veterans Mentoring programs, as well as through Workforce Opportunity Services, a non-profit HP partner which provides work study and certification programs for our veterans. In addition, through our benefits program HP offers Vet Advisor which provides coaching services to help veteran employees successfully transition.

We are in our third year of HP's Home of the Brave. As the executive sponsor I am thrilled that we have an internal program that not only recognizes our veterans on Veterans' Day but throughout the year. This program enables our employers and employees to give back to the veterans through community action programs and events at the VA medical centers around the country.

On behalf of HP thank you to DAV, thank you to our veterans, and thank you to the business community for your continued support. (Applause)      COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Let's give both of these outstanding companies another big round of applause for all they do. (Applause)

I'd now like to call on Board of Directors' Treasurer Chad Richmond for his report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER CHAD RICHMOND: National Commander Johnston, DAV members and guests, the members of the Board of Directors joining me in this report are Chairman Larry A. Polzin, California; Vice Chairman Ron F. Hope of North Carolina; Secretary J. Marc Burgess; Directors Marlowe Benner of California, Danny Oliver of Oklahoma, and Gary Lucus of Wyoming; along with National Commander Johnston and National Judge Advocate Dobmeier who served as 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, 2014. DAV's total solicited support through that date was \$46.9 million. Direct marketing contributions were \$40.7 million, primarily from mailing 44.2 million solicitation pieces. Bequests were \$4.9 million. By year's end we expect to send 86 million pieces of fund-raising mail and generate an estimated \$109.6 million in total solicited support.

Under the Department Fund-raising Program distributions to Departments in December of 2013 and June of 2014 totaled \$2.8 million. Since the program began in 1994, \$84.9 million have 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 generosity.

As of June 2014, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of \$83.1 million. Through June 2014, DAV had total expenditures of \$95 million, of which \$69 million were for service programs – 72.6 percent of the total expenses. It is important to remember that these expenses are for the federally-chartered purposes of our organization.

Over the same period expenditures for fund-raising increased by 7.6 percent due primarily to mailing 6.7 million more solicitation pieces. Administrative outlays were \$3.9 million, \$1.1 million, or 22 percent, less than this time last year. In early 2013 a membership development mailing was sent to 1.6 million prospective new members at a cost of \$1.1 million. There wasn't a similar mailing in 2014. As of June 30th, 2014, our market value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio is \$373.2 million, a 4 percent increase over the \$358.8 million reported as of December 31st, 2013.

DAV's unrestricted net assets or net worth increased from \$291.2 million at the start of this year to \$304.6 million. DAV's hard-working staff nationwide and at both headquarters has been able to expand our sources of support and enhance our exemplary programs, yet control our operating expenses.

We continue to see a recovery in our financial position from its early recessionary low in early 2009. We are pleased to report that at the June 30th, at the – yes, June 30th, 2014 – I'll get it right in a minute – the Life Membership Fund Reserve was \$68.6 million. And at a projected earnings rate on investments of 6.7 percent we estimated that the fund will be depleted by the year 2026 with 487,000 members remaining for distribution.

Commander, it is also my privilege to present DAV's proposed 2015 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention. At the June 18, 2014, meeting of the Board of Directors held at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky, the Board was presented the 2015 proposed budget.

The budget was assembled by the DAV Accounting Department with the assistance of Department Directors and was reviewed by National Adjutant Burgess, and Executive Directors Jesinoski and Augustine. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget at that time, a copy of which was provided to all Convention attendees at registration.

I would like to thank National Adjutant Burgess and his staff for all their hard work which makes this report possible. Let me thank you, Commander Johnston, for the support I received in my role as the Board of Directors' Treasurer. It has been an honor to hold this position.

Commander, this 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 2015 Annual Budget.

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# Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Year Ended December 31, 2013, and  
Independent Auditors' Report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of  
Disabled American Veterans:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans ("DAV"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2013, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

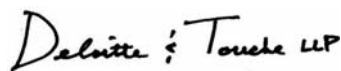
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DAV as of December 31, 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 7, 2014

Member of  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
CASH	\$ 5,290,627	LIABILITIES:	\$ 7,913,650
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	1,371,620	Accounts payable	2,374,108
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	44,093	Accrued expenses	14,059,977
SOLICITATION MATERIALS	1,793,638	Pension liability	83,943,581
PREPAID EXPENSES	3,951,276	Postretirement benefit obligation	1,022,864
INVESTMENTS	386,304,012	Other liabilities	2,664,921
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — Net	7,162,306	Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	3,290,122
OTHER ASSETS	554,346	Deferred revenue	367,451
LIFE MEMBERSHIP:		Life membership:	61,919,951
Cash	2,914,754	Accounts payable	
Investments	59,372,648	Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	
TOTAL	<u>\$ 468,759,320</u>	Total liabilities	177,556,625
		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	291,202,695
		TOTAL	<u>\$ 468,759,320</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

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### SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

#### Support:

Contributions	\$ 113,633,364
Contributed services and facilities — primarily services	41,611,093
Contributed media and materials	<u>7,977,515</u>
Total support	<u>163,221,972</u>

#### Revenue:

Membership dues and fees	5,327,557
Income from investments — net	10,827,377
List royalties	388,959
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>72,642</u>
Total revenue	<u>16,616,535</u>

Realized investment gains	<u>16,022,718</u>
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Total support and revenue	<u>195,861,225</u>
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### EXPENSES:

#### Program services:

National service program	47,060,645
Legislative service program	1,612,140
Voluntary service program	41,631,740
State services and disaster relief	4,390,895
Publications and other communications	10,839,074
Membership program	6,622,401
Public awareness outreach	<u>34,156,802</u>

Total program services	<u>146,313,697</u>
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#### Supporting services:

Fundraising costs	37,206,161
Administrative and general	<u>9,576,819</u>

Total supporting services	<u>46,782,980</u>
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Total expenses	<u>193,096,677</u>
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED  
APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS

2,764,548

CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS

19,033,797

EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED  
APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER EXPENSES

21,798,345

PENSION LIABILITY AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENT

20,741,425

CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

42,539,770

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year

248,662,925

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year

\$ 291,202,695

See notes to financial statements.



# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**

## **STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013**

	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	\$ 21,718,801	\$ 671,420	\$ 366,535	\$	\$ 768,538	\$ 1,215,099	\$	\$ 24,701,068	\$ 3,453,737	\$ 4,374,869	\$ 7,829,596	\$ 32,590,664
Employee benefits	13,919,207	399,022	264,048		574,181	1,172,146		16,328,604	2,453,867	3,006,517	5,460,384	21,788,988
Payroll taxes	1,768,669	47,550	31,023		62,230	84,632		1,994,104	289,212	342,326	631,538	2,625,642
DAV transportation network — volunteers			39,684,843					39,684,843				39,684,843
Grants												3,066,666
Windsor Network Grants								542,822				542,822
Columbia Trust			52,800					52,800				52,800
Other grants	162,699	4,000	2,164	171,798		2,050		342,711		4,767	4,781	347,492
State service program				3,946,747				3,946,747				3,946,747
Scholarships			123,061					842,574				842,574
Expenses of national convention								7,696,705				7,696,705
Expenses of national commander and committees	2,229,076	56,732	63,438		169,886	79,575		2,538,305	80,126	301,156	381,282	2,919,597
Printing, mailing, and education	1,926,250							1,926,250				1,926,250
Facilities												7,966,247
Contributed Media and Materials	1,095,512	2,190	15,286		1,107,592	183,480		2,405,969	269,542	654,836	12,007,633	14,477,242
Postage and shipping	738,577	80,052	24,155		647,437	177,703		1,609,073	599,699	258,884	1,825,493	3,433,466
Supplies	88,991	1,487	358		31,124	1,101		123,061	5,500	123,508	129,008	252,069
Insurance	100,152	4,383	2,369		6,312	9,966		123,382		124,515	136,071	259,453
Telephone	674,161		9,678		5,000	2,013		686,852		686,852		686,852
Project costs		4			3,962,566			3,978,806	443,099	620	443,629	4,422,435
Printing of magazine					945,812			945,812				945,812
Cost of mailing materials	68,670	1,879	7,737		71,788	194,689		345,816	40,962,792	1,286,683	42,249,475	42,592,291
Electricity, water, and power	1,866,000							1,866,000				1,866,000
Security service	153,154							153,154				153,154
Depreciation of property and equipment	411,688		251		38,506	7,144		457,989	89,641	876,330	966,971	1,423,960
Legal fees	3,444				3,704	4,811		11,949		187,093	201,664	213,613
Professional fees	11,626	326,467	19,290		1,406,271	19,627		2,110,281		1,180,175	1,299,293	3,409,574
Other	67,938	193	35,156		1,07,797	4,947		216,231	29,118			245,349
Allocations from (to) other departments	1,276,990		19,290		816,692	8,065,529	26,439,676	30,338,177	(24,442,313)	(5,913,864)	(30,358,177)	1,425,524
Total	\$ 47,060,645	\$ 1,612,140	\$ 4,631,740	\$ 4,390,895	\$ 10,839,074	\$ 6,622,401	\$ 34,158,862	\$ 146,313,697	\$ 37,208,161	\$ 9,576,819	\$ 46,782,980	\$ 193,096,677

See notes to financial statements.

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

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#### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 42,539,770
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash contributions	(166,264)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(22,507,892)
Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	(20,741,425)
Depreciation	1,423,960
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	217
Realized investment gains	(16,022,718)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	72,161
Interest and dividends receivable	(16,882)
Solicitation materials	(620,567)
Prepaid expenses	(536,523)
Other assets	(450,846)
Accounts payable	2,835,027
Accrued expenses and other	10,561,006
Other liabilities	313,462
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	101,692
Deferred revenue	2,202,413
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	<u>5,192,497</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>4,179,088</u>

#### CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Payments for property and equipment	(2,676,755)
Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment	5,406
Purchases of investments	(243,814,134)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>239,492,488</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(6,992,995)</u>

NET DECREASE IN CASH (2,813,907)

CASH — Beginning of year 11,019,288

CASH — End of year \$ 8,205,381

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally chartered, not-for-profit service organization. DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. DAV accomplishes this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

- 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 Standards** — In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013, 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 presentation of cash flows.

**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, 2013, are composed of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 995,014	\$ 447,608	547,406
Buildings and improvements	10,752,518	8,087,288	2,665,230
Machinery and other equipment	22,580,606	20,486,285	2,094,321
Construction in process	<u>1,855,349</u>	<u></u>	<u>1,855,349</u>
Total	<u>\$ 36,183,487</u>	<u>\$ 29,021,181</u>	<u>\$ 7,162,306</u>

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of assets, which range from three to 20 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 1,807,763 hours accounted for in 2013, 1,792,450 are for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network. Using a value per hour of \$22.14 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 \$39,684,843. 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.

**Contributed Media and Materials** — DAV produces public service announcements through various mediums (television, digital, social media) of which approximately \$7.6 million was donated through an independent third party. The donated materials represent approximately \$0.3 million. The value of contributed media and materials is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expense.

**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.

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) 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 2013, DAV incurred joint costs of \$56,254,629 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, \$26,439,676 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$29,814,953 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 revenue 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 2013 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are summarized below:

Balance — January 1, 2013	<u>\$ 56,727,454</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	6,581,499
Earnings on invested assets — net	1,741,326
Gain on sale of investments	<u>3,154,162</u>
Total additions	<u>11,476,987</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	5,429,250
Local chapters	2,172,750
State departments	2,127,640
Other expense	<u>28,945</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>9,758,585</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>3,474,095</u>
Balance — December 31, 2013	<u>\$ 61,919,951</u>

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of \$1,741,326 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of \$1,748,961 — net of investment fees paid of \$7,635.

#### 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, 2013, are summarized below:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,741,977	\$ 4,741,977	\$
Corporate Bonds	2,018,641	2,015,900	(2,741)
U.S. Government securities	847,809	847,739	(70)
U.S. Government agency notes	16,538,691	16,517,042	(21,649)
Common stocks	14,215,050	20,080,095	5,865,045
Mutual bond funds	131,021,447	129,664,576	(1,356,871)
Mutual equity funds/ETFs	<u>174,817,446</u>	<u>212,436,683</u>	<u>37,619,237</u>
Total	<u>\$344,201,061</u>	<u>\$386,304,012</u>	<u>\$ 42,102,951</u>

The General fund income from investment — net, \$10,827,377, is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$10,945,052, reduced by investment management and custody fees of \$117,675.

The cost and fair value of life membership fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2013, are summarized below:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 134,236	\$ 134,236	\$
Common stocks	2,468,711	3,494,834	1,026,123
Mutual bond funds	17,664,341	17,495,382	(168,959)
Mutual equity funds/ETFs	<u>31,166,233</u>	<u>38,248,196</u>	<u>7,081,963</u>
Total	<u>\$51,433,521</u>	<u>\$59,372,648</u>	<u>\$ 7,939,127</u>

## 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

DAV did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2013.

DAV's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no significant transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during 2013.

**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for general fund, life fund and pension plan assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2013.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents the DAV's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Commercial paper, categorized as Level 2, is valued using broker quotes that utilize observable market inputs. Commercial paper represents DAV's share in an unsecured promissory note, issued by a corporation, with a fixed maturity of less than one year.

Corporate bonds held are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Common stocks and U.S. Government securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

U.S. Government agency notes are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.



The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2013, 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	\$ 4,741,977	\$	\$ 4,741,977
Corporate Bonds		2,015,900	2,015,900
U.S. Government Agency Notes		16,517,042	16,517,042
U.S. Government securities	847,739		847,739
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	1,997,979		1,997,979
Energy	1,958,266		1,958,266
Finance	2,297,585		2,297,585
Healthcare	3,020,706		3,020,706
Industrials	3,956,707		3,956,707
Materials	594,237		594,237
Consumer staples	2,515,149		2,515,149
Technology	2,765,521		2,765,521
Telecommunication	404,376		404,376
Utilities	569,569		569,569
Total common stocks	20,080,095		20,080,095
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	108,982,785		108,982,785
International fixed-income funds	20,700,027		20,700,027
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	148,503,513		148,503,513
International equity funds	57,834,417		57,834,417
Real estate equity funds	6,080,517		6,080,517
Total mutual funds	342,101,259		342,101,259
Total general fund assets	\$ 367,771,070	\$ 18,532,942	\$ 386,304,012

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2013, 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	\$ 134,236	\$	\$ 134,236
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	355,174		355,174
Energy	341,386		341,386
Finance	397,100		397,100
Healthcare	525,209		525,209
Industrials	683,767		683,767
Materials	102,724		102,724
Consumer staples	441,007		441,007
Technology	480,578		480,578
Telecommunications	69,023		69,023
Utilities	98,866		98,866
Total common stocks	3,494,834		3,494,834
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	14,145,826		14,145,826
International fixed-income funds	3,349,556		3,349,556
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	26,052,007		26,052,007
International equity funds	11,192,325		11,192,325
Real estate equity funds	1,003,864		1,003,864
Total mutual funds	55,743,578		55,743,578
Total life membership fund assets	\$59,372,648	\$	\$59,372,648

## 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 2013, 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 healthcare 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 healthcare 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, 2013. Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
Accumulated benefit obligation	\$ <u>61,951,512</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 71,480,503	
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		\$ 83,943,581
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(57,420,526)</u>	<u>          </u>
Unfunded status recognized	\$ <u>14,059,977</u>	\$ <u>83,943,581</u>

Summarized information of the plans for the year ended December 31, 2013, is as follows:

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 2,746,205	\$ 4,298,825
Interest cost	2,841,166	3,746,156
Expected return on assets	(3,774,643)	
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	1,873,769	1,841,148
Amortization of prior service cost	31,964	(122,991)
Settlement cost	<u>1,804,278</u>	<u>          </u>
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ <u>5,522,739</u>	\$ <u>9,763,138</u>
Components of pension and postretirement benefit changes:		
Amortization of prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 31,964	\$ (122,991)
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	1,873,769	1,841,148
Actuarial net gain during the year	7,201,785	8,111,472
Pension settlement loss	<u>1,804,278</u>	<u>          </u>
Pension and postretirement benefit changes	\$ <u>10,911,796</u>	\$ <u>9,829,629</u>

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension cost at December 31, 2013, are as follows:

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 287,675	\$ (1,070,017)
Net actuarial loss	<u>17,538,351</u>	<u>19,001,664</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 17,826,026</u>	<u>\$ 17,931,647</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 2014 are \$930,656 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 2014 will result in a cost of \$881,262 and gain of \$122,991, respectively.

	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Other Postretirement Benefits</b>
For the year ended December 31, 2013:		
Benefit expense (net periodic benefit cost of \$5,522,739 offset by \$44,676 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 5,478,063	\$ 9,763,138
Actual return on plan assets	8,568,476	
Employer contribution	2,222,078	2,357,366
Plan participants' contributions		254,892
Benefits paid	8,136,409	2,612,258
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:		
For year-end benefit obligation:		
Discount rate	4.50 %	5.00 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.50 %	3.50 %
For annual benefit cost:		
Discount rate	4.00 %	4.25 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.50 %	3.50 %
Expected return on plan assets	7.50 %	N/A

The APBO and related benefit cost are determined through the application of relevant actuarial assumptions. DAV anticipates the increase in its healthcare cost-trend rate to slow from 8% in 2013 to 5% in 2016, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

The DAV expects to contribute \$2.7 million to its pension plan in 2014.

The DAV’s pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2013, is as follows:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Percentage of Plan Assets</b>
Equity based securities	56 %
Fixed-income securities	23
Alternative and Other	18
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>3</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: 38% to 65% total equity based securities (including 3% to 10% in the real estate sector), 22% to 42% total fixed-income securities and 10% to 20% alternative and other funds. Approximately 0% to 10% of the combined investments are to be in money market or other liquid funds (cash requirements).

Pension plan financial assets are recorded at fair value using the measurement techniques outlined in Note 4. The major categories of pension plan financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2013, 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	\$ 1,617,024	\$ _____	\$ 1,617,024
Corporate bonds	_____	4,430,499	4,430,499
U.S. Government Agency Notes	_____	2,684,590	2,684,590
U.S. Government securities	1,481,072	_____	1,481,072
Common stocks:			
Communication	468,312		468,312
Consumer discretionary	416,638		416,638
Energy	762,058		762,058
Finance	1,069,284		1,069,284
Healthcare	1,064,497		1,064,497
Industrials	1,414,590		1,414,590
Materials	133,316		133,316
Consumer staples	412,488		412,488
Real Estate	2,546,376		2,546,376
Technology	1,053,456		1,053,456
Utilities	220,813	_____	220,813
Total common stocks	9,561,828	_____	9,561,828
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds/ETFs	13,094,427		13,094,427
Domestic fixed-income funds	2,024,162		2,024,162
International equity funds	9,908,209		9,908,209
International fixed-income funds	2,304,680		2,304,680
Alternative and Other	10,314,035	_____	10,314,035
Total mutual funds	37,645,513	_____	37,645,513
Total pension plan assets	\$ 50,305,437	\$ 7,115,089	\$ 57,420,526

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:

<b>Fiscal Years Ending</b>	<b>Payments</b>
2014	\$ 3,432,560
2015	5,274,282
2016	5,478,554
2017	3,785,709
2018	4,328,138
2019–2023	21,543,099

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:

<b>Fiscal Years Ending</b>	<b>Gross Benefit Payments</b>	<b>Gross Subsidy Receipts</b>	<b>Net Benefit Payments</b>
2014	\$ 3,488,877	\$ (213,468)	\$ 3,275,409
2015	3,507,225	(249,261)	3,257,964
2016	3,653,427	(273,734)	3,379,693
2017	3,817,378	(306,028)	3,511,350
2018	3,955,265	(342,904)	3,612,361
2019–2023	23,458,656	(2,208,792)	21,249,864

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 2013 were \$2,140,863 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). DAV also provides services to the Foundation, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of 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,

2013, net assets of the Foundation were \$108,022,583. During 2013, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$92,872. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge. Additionally, in 2013, DAV contributed \$52,800 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. In 2013, The Columbia Trust also received \$175,302 from the DAV for a bequest that was designated to assist in meeting transportation and medical needs of veterans.

In 2013, the Foundation distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$45,000 - National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund
- \$15,016 - National Service Office Copier Fund
- \$25,000 - National Service Office Reference Manuals
- \$105,000 - Construction of fraternal merchandise internet store front

At December 31, 2013, the Foundation owed \$61,270 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust** — Some members of DAV's Board of Directors also serve on the Board of Directors for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the Trust). DAV also provides services to the Trust, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of 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, 2013, net assets of the Trust were \$21,037,022. DAV personnel assist the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, DAV charged the Trust \$157,626. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2013, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$43,000 - National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- \$15,000 - Mobile Service Office Program
- \$45,000 - Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program
- \$200,000 - National Transportation Network
- \$700,000 - National Service Officers' Case Management System
- \$165,000 - National Service Officer Programs- Other
- \$3,000,000 - DAV Media Outreach Campaign
- \$26,875 - Assistance to disabled veterans and their families

At December 31, 2013, the Trust owed \$174,036 to DAV, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

**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, 2013, net assets of DAVA were \$7,336,229. 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 \$27,100 in 2013. 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, 2013, DAVA owed approximately \$570,443, for such costs, which is recorded as a receivable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

**Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation** —During 2013, DAV agreed to purchase the DVLMF's commemorative coin inventory at a discounted price with an initial purchase of 5,000 coins at a cost of \$100,000. The remainder of the coins will be purchased in 2014.

## **8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No events have occurred after December 31, 2013 but before April 7, 2014, the date the financials were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Chad, for your service and that very informative report. You have heard the motion. May I have a second to that motion?

MR. JOSEPH P. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2.

MR. PARSETICH: Joe Parsetich, Department of Montana, Chapter 2, would second that motion that we accept that report.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? So ordered.

DAV and Auxiliary members are amongst the most dedicated volunteers in our nation. They give countless hours of compassion and care to our injured and ill veterans. To honor their service and contributions the 2014 George H. Seal Memorial Trophies are being presented to individuals who represent the best of what volunteers mean to our veterans.

The DAV George Seal Award is awarded to Army veteran Ernest L. Flynn. Ernie could have lived an inconsequential life of darkness, filled with anger or sorrow for himself. But that's not Ernie. Rather, he sets an incredibly inspirational example for his fellow veterans.

Ernie was injured when a mortar exploded a few feet from him in Vietnam. But it wasn't until he returned home to Montana that he began to feel the effects. In 1974 he went deaf and blind. Both senses came in and out. By 1977 he was completely blind and partially deaf. Doctors later attributed the injuries to the fatal mortal blast.

A life member of Chapter 10 in Billings, Montana, Ernie gives freely of his time at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center and the clinic in Billings. Always upbeat and positive, he is known for changing other blind, injured and ill veterans' points of view on their limitations and providing hope and guidance to lead them to new, productive paths for life.

He has given more than 12,500 hours over the past 19 years, volunteering as a Veterans' Service Officer, as a member of the VA Visual Impairment Services Team, and as the Assistant Hospital Service Coordinator with the DAV Transportation Network.

If John Kleindienst, our National Director of Voluntary Services could please join me, ladies and gentlemen, sisters and brothers, I am pleased to present the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Ernest Flynn. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Flynn advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. ERNEST FLYNN: Thank you. It is an honor to be presented the George H. Seal Award. Eighteen years ago next month I had retired from working for the VA and the coordinator was known as a "happy hooker" because he had to – he had two – all he had – both his arms were missing. He had two hooks.

So he called me down and he said, "Can you help me for a couple of hours?" And that was, that was in '95. Since that time I've helped six HFCs get settled in their job. And it's been just really a – you don't get any more gratitude than helping these veterans get to their appointments.

A funny thing happened the other day. A veteran called me and wanted a ride. That was Friday. He called me and wanted a ride to the clinic on Monday. And I was thinking about it. And that same veteran I sent his original compensation claim to him in the early '80s and at that time he was a wreck. The poor guy, he couldn't hardly do anything but cry.

And we got him the 100 percent, got him rehabbed, and now, just the other day, I organized a ride for him to our clinic. So that's a good feeling when you can help somebody for 35 years and know you are doing some good. And thank you very much. It's just wonderful to be here. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Ernie, and congratulations, again. This year's DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy winner is Frederica Haymaker, a caring, devoted volunteer at the VA West Los Angeles Medical Center, where she makes an extra effort to help veterans feel dignified even when suffering through injuries or poor health.

A DAV volunteer driver, Freddie knows all the regulars by name and their routes by memory, treating each of her passengers as though she were picking up or dropping off an old friend. She has logged more than 1,000 hours a year over the past four years, constantly looking to provide more and better service.

As the region's driver instructor, Haymaker shares her passion for serving veterans. She has also, whenever needed, stepped in to serve as DAV Transportation Coordinator for West Los Angeles. Please join me in welcoming Freddie Haymaker. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Haymaker advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. FREDERICA HAYMAKER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. HAYMAKER: This is so special and I'm really honored and humbled. And I just want to thank all of you for being here today. We all try to fulfill the promise. And I'm often asked who are we and what do we do. If we all go away from this conference and share that message with our friends and neighbors and families and our fellow veterans we will bring more and more help to all of those who have given so much for us. Thank you, again, so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Freddie.

In October 2007 we announced the creation of the Local Veterans Assistance Program or L-VAP to assist veterans and their dependents in their local communities through a variety of initiatives. Opportunities abound for individuals to empower veterans and their families to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Not all volunteers live in close proximity to a VA medical center or other VA facility and others have special skills or prefer non-traditional volunteerism. L-VAP allows volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families as DAV volunteers. It honors our organization and encourages and recognizes volunteerism.

More than 5,000 volunteers from 35 states have donated over 1.6 million hours of service through L-VAP. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and make a difference.

Volunteer incentives apply to all our programs. L-VAP volunteers are eligible for the same benefits and recognition as others. Youth volunteers who serve through L-VAP will also be eligible to apply for consideration to the DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

L-VAP activities may include Chapter and Department Service Officer work, DAV outreach efforts, and approved fund-raisers. Volunteers can use their time to provide direct assistance to veterans, survivors or families by doing yard work, maintenance, home repairs, or taking veterans on errands.

They can also use special skills to assist veterans or DAV by managing social networking efforts for Chapters, providing classes to enhance the lives of veterans, or other initiatives that provide a direct service.

It is my utmost pleasure to recognize our top DAV state-level departments in the area of L-VAP service. The 2013 L-VAP Division winners are:

Division 1, the Department of Virginia, Past Department Commander John W. King, with 128,173 hours.

Division 2, the Department of Minnesota, Past Department Commander Richard Hartley with 34,219 hours.

Division 3, the Department of Missouri, Past Department Commander Richard Polk, with 15,829 hours.

Division 4, the Department of Connecticut, Past Department Commander Roger Werlich with 12,260 hours.

Division 5, the Department of South Dakota, Past Department Commander Helen Parr, with 808 hours.

We thank all our volunteers in VA hospitals, Transportation Network drivers, and participants of the Local Veterans Assistance Program for their compassionate service to injured and ill veterans.

Thank you for your helping hands and kind hearts. Please join me again in giving them all a big hand for their service. (Applause)

Serving those who put their country above themselves is not just a tradition but a very way of life for some. Each year, with continued support from the Ford Motor Company Fund, DAV rewards a group of dedicated young volunteers with scholarships for higher education for their service to veterans.

The award is named for Jesse Brown, a Marine veteran who was wounded in Vietnam in 1965. His injuries did not stop his life calling of providing service to others. He joined DAV in 1967 and rose through the ranks to the level of Executive Director.

His service and dedication to ill and injured veterans was like a torch that inspired others to follow. In a testament to his steadfast dedication to veterans and his outstanding leadership he was selected by the President of the United States to become the first African American Secretary of Veterans Affairs in 1993. Serving those who put their country above themselves is not just a tradition but a way of life for some, like Jesse Brown.

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program each year honors outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Services programs. These scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have selflessly donated their time and compassion to injured and ill veterans.

This year we have selected eight of the nation's outstanding young volunteers to receive cash awards from the program. This year's top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship goes to Shannon Matthew of Coral Springs, Florida.

Shannon's goal is to continue treating ill and injured veterans by helping rehabilitate them and improve their lives through physical therapy. She hopes to use the \$20,000 scholarship to major in a physical therapy program, with the goal of becoming a licensed physical therapist.

Shannon has volunteered at the Miami VA medical center for four years and has accumulated 565 hours assisting veterans. Her compassion and care knows no limits. She has already helped many become healthy and strong again.

We wish her the very best in her personal goal of continuing to rehabilitate America's heroes through physical therapy. Join me in welcoming Shannon Matthew to the podium for the scholarship presentation. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Shannon Matthew advanced to the podium to receive a ceremonial check, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. SHANNON MATTHEW: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. MATTHEW: I would, first and foremost, like to thank God for giving me this opportunity and for allowing me to volunteer. It has meant – it has been the world to me. I would like to thank my family, my parents who have always supported and encouraged me.

I would like to thank the Miami VA health care system for allowing me to volunteer in the physical therapy department where I learned how to care for our veterans. I would like to thank the DAV for allowing me to pursue my ambitions at the University of Florida and to continue to serve our veterans.

Lastly, I would, I am indebted to our veterans who have elucidated the meaning of being a hero. They gave their lives for us. They sacrificed all that they had for us. And it has been an honor and privilege to serve them. It is my passion and I never want to stop. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Shannon is one of eight distinguished young volunteers to receive a Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each. Let's give them all a big hand. (Applause)

The demographics within DAV's membership ranks are ever-changing. We are, sadly, seeing losses amongst World War II veterans as the needs amongst our Vietnam-era veterans are growing. Meanwhile, we are welcoming home a new generation of warriors who have fought through multiple deployments in two wars.

This all-volunteer force represents a small fraction of the total population. And though they survive horrific injuries, we know the war has changed them and that their needs are great.

Fortunately, we can be proud to announce that DAV continues to do an outstanding job bringing in new member to ensure the legacy of our voice is heard in the nation's capital.

Amazingly, as Barry mentioned, every DAV Department reached its recruiting goal this year. This was the second consecutive year that we achieved that feat. For that, give yourselves a well-earned round of applause. (Applause)

Without further adieu I'd ask National Membership Director Tony Baskerville up here as we recognize our top Departments and recruiters whose contributions have made this tremendous success possible.

For Division 1, our top recruiting Department happens to be the largest Department in the organization. Please give a round of applause for Commander Richard Valdez, DAV Department of California. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Valdez advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER RICHARD VALDEZ: I want to thank all the members of the DAV California delegation that's here and for our Department because I'm merely the recipient of this award for your all hard work. And I'm proud and honored to be a caretaker of this award. And I will always remember all the hard work all of you have done to make us Number 1. California, thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: For Division 2 we honor great recruiting skills of our veterans in the "Land of Lakes." Please give a northerly reception for Commander Robert B. Hartley Jr., DAV Department of Minnesota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Hartley advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: For Division 3, the "Show Me State" has shown us all. Please give a rousing reception for Commander Richard Polk, DAV Department of Missouri. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Polk advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: For Division 4, in a very tough competition the Cornhuskers claimed the prize. Please give a big "Go Big Red" for Commander Virgil Hagel, DAV Department of Nebraska. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Hagel advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: For Division 5, from "Big Sky Country," put your hands together for Commander Helen Parr, DAV Department of South Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Parr advanced to the podium to receive the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER HELEN PARR: Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: One of the primary reasons why DAV has continued to build and maintain its membership so many years is that veterans who experience DAV's free services understand the life-changing value of our organization.

The work of our service officers at every level is amazing, but equally amazing is their ability to communicate the value of membership to the veterans who have benefited from our assistance. The work of National Service Officers has been critical to the health of our membership for many years and is greatly appreciated.

It is important that we recognize the contributions of these professionals and the added passion that they bring that makes people want to be a part of our organization. Therefore, it is with great pride I present the top recruiter from our NSO Corps who, remarkably, recruited 200 veterans to join our ranks.

Ladies and gentlemen, please put your hands together for Daniel Knabe of the DAV National Service Office in Saint Louis, Missouri. (Applause)

Coincidentally, our top recruiter from our fraternal ranks is an active service officer in his community. A Marine – now don't hold that against him (Hoo-rah) – he is on the front lines making sure his fellow veterans receive the benefits they have earned. Last year alone he is credited with recruiting 116 members to join DAV.

Please give a warm reception for the man from Chapter 12 in Beaufort South Carolina, Ron Voegeli. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ron Voegeli advanced to the podium to receive his award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MR. RONALD VOEGELI: Good morning my fellow veterans and guests.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. VOEGELI: I just want to know, want you all to know this is not about the ring. This has not been about a competition. It has been about service to our veterans. And that's been the whole goal. And it just happened to end up being where you get the ring.

So, we need to keep challenging ourselves to go out to help the veterans wherever they are at. I appreciate this very much and thank you very much. And Semper Fi. (Hoo-rah and Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Friends, please remember, when you introduce a veteran to DAV you are providing a great service to them and our organization. You never know who will join until you ask. Please keep up the great work in this area. It is critical to our success.

I would now like to call on Chairman Bradley Barton for the report on 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 9th, 2014, by the Committee Advisors, Brad Barton and Ed Hartman.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Bradley Barton was elected as the chairman and Kevin Grantiere was elected as secretary. The Committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted.

And I now will report to you the one resolution recommended for adoption by the National Convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution Number 182, amend Article XVI, Section 16.3, Subsection A, to read as follows: "Suspension shall remove the member from membership and/or from any office held by him or her for not more than five years."

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws and the first reading of the recommended change to the Constitution and Bylaws.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Brad. We will hear the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at Tuesday's Business Session.

I would now like to call upon Chairman Al Church for the report of the Committee on Finance report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALBERT CHURCH: The National Convention Committee on Finance was called to order on August 9th, 2014, by Committee advisors Chad Richmond and Barry Jesinoski.

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 this Committee and, therefore, none were recommended for adoption.

The Committee then expressed its thanks to the Committee advisors Chad Richmond and Barry Jesinoski 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. Comrade Commander this completes the report on behalf of the Finance Committee. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of the report and ask that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you. You have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 3.

MS. ISA D. SEMPER: Isa (Indistinguishable), Chapter 156, Kentucky, I second the motion.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You have heard the motion. All those who are in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed? So ordered.

I would like to call upon Chairman Al Linden, Past National Commander, for the report on Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights.

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALBERT H. LINDEN JR.: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights was called to order on August 9th, 2014, by the Committee Advisors Joseph A. Violante and Joy Ilem.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Al Linden was elected as chairman and Donald Peake Jr. was elected as the 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 purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolution.

Resolution Number 12 was reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits, opposed; increase – Number 13 was increase disability compensation; Resolution 14 was support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt of longevity retired pay and veterans' disability compensation;

Number 17, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of SVP and DIC; Resolution 18, support legislation to reduce, to provide for service connection for service-disabled conditions resulting from toxic and environmental exposures;

Number 20, support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay; 21, expand POW presumptions; 22, presumptive service connection for tinnitus and hearing loss; 23, support legislation providing that SVP SSB payments not be withheld from veterans' disability compensation programs;

24, support legislation to provide for realistic cost-of-living allowances; 25, support legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for eligibility for government programs; 26, support advanced appropriations for all VA programs;

66, oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and any other federal benefit by VA compensation; Number 68, oppose subjecting compensation to means testing; 71, oppose the permanent rounding-down of COLA as a veterans' benefit;

72, support legislation to clarify that services in the Republic of Vietnam for purposes of benefits be based on exposure to herbicide including service in the waters offshore; 74, oppose any recommendations by any commission to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans;

75, support a change in the regulatory requirements for a temporary total rating; 76, reduce the ten-year rule for dependency in indemnity compensation; 77, provide a temporary total rating for the period that an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

Number 79, support legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of Section 1114R(1) to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities; Number 81, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address the loss of the quality of life;

Number 82, support responsible presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses of the Gulf War veterans; Number 86, support religious – vigorous oversight of adjudication process for service-connection for residuals of military sexual trauma;

Number 80, support interest payments for the VA retroactive awards of one year or more; Number 87, support legislation that would exempt benefits paid to war-time service-disabled veterans from the pay-go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act;

Number 89, oppose attempts to change the basis of the VA rating schedule from average impairment of earning capacity standard; oppose – Number 91, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans' Appeals; 92, support legislation to require the court, U.S. Court of Veterans' Appeals for Claims to decide appellant's assignments of error;

93, support legislation to cap attorneys' fees for benefits, consulting and claims services before the VA; Number 94, mortgage protection life insurance for 100 percent service-connected veterans; 95, support the increase in VA burial allowances for service-connected veterans;

96, amend the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations program; Number 130, amend the law to provide ten-year protection for service-connected disability evaluation; Number 135, oppose any change to the, to redefine service-connection disability or restrict the conditions or circumstances under which it may be established;

Number 136, provide a compensable rating for hearing-impaired veterans required to use a hearing aid; Number 137, consider treatment for a presumptive service connection condition as a claim for VA compensation; Number 160, compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illness linked to their service in the Persian Gulf War;

Number 183, increase the face value of the Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance; 184, increase the grant for automobiles or other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans; 185, support legislation that requires VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by a licensed private health care provider;

186, oppose lump sum payments for service-connected disabilities; 187, support legislation authorizing the presumption of service connection for all radiogenic diseases; Number 188, amend the provision regarding eligibility for automobile adaptive equipment to include any veteran whose service-connection disability inhibits his or her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle;

189, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims; 190, provide an open period to apply for service-connected veterans' insurance; 191, support legislation to reduce premiums for service-disabled veterans' insurance to be more consistent with life expectancy;

192, support meaningful reform in VA's disability claims process; Number 193, support legislation to provide a waiver of premiums for supplemental service-disabled veterans' insurance. Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Legislation and Veterans' Rights. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-referenced resolutions follow:)

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 012**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 013**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE**  
**DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, it is the historical policy of DAV 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 014**  
**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 percent who retire from the Armed Forces on length of service do 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 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 017**  
**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 for which 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 members 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports 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**

### **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, harmful levels of radiation, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 020**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 021**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 022**

### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 023**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

\* \* \*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 024**

### **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 United States 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 025**

##### **SUPPORT 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for purposes of entitlement to benefits or services under other government programs.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 026**

##### **SUPPORT ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, DAV believes that wounded, injured and ill veterans, through their extraordinary sacrifices and service, earned the right to health care, benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); 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; 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 of 2009, a law that requires advance appropriations for VA's three medical care accounts that fund VA's health care programs, which account for approximately 86 percent of VA's total discretionary funding; and

WHEREAS, VA's leadership, employees, and veterans served by VA health care facilities have universally reported that advance appropriations have allowed VA to more efficiently and effectively deliver timely, quality health care to enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the remaining 14 percent of VA's discretionary budget, which includes information technology (IT), medical and prosthetic research, construction and general operating expenses – primarily the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) – could benefit from the timeliness and predictability offered by advance appropriations, particularly when there are budget stalemates, continuing resolutions and sequestration; and

WHEREAS, extending advance appropriations to all of VA's remaining discretionary accounts would promote a more efficient and integrated budget and appropriations process for VA;

WHEREAS, earned mandatory benefits for veterans, their families and survivors, such as disability compensation, DIC and GI Bill payments, also rely on annual appropriations being enacted on time each year, and therefore could be in jeopardy in a government shutdown;

WHEREAS, advance appropriations for VA's mandatory benefit accounts would ensure that benefits checks to veterans, their families and survivors would continue uninterrupted even in the event of a prolonged government shutdown; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to authorize advance appropriations for all of VA's discretionary and mandatory budget, which would extend advance appropriations to include information technology (IT), medical and prosthetic research, major construction, minor construction, state home construction, state cemetery construction grants, general operating expenses (VBA and general administration), the national cemetery administration, the office of inspector general, disability compensation, DIC, GI Bill payments and all other mandatory benefits.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 066**

#### **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 (SSDI) 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 SSDI 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 SSDI benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 068**

#### **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 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, efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate them where the veteran or spouse, or survivor has other income; and

WHEREAS, degrading 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 071**

#### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes permanent rounding down of COLAs for veterans' benefits.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 072**

#### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase "served in the Republic of Vietnam" includes service in the waters offshore.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 074**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, reminds 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 DAV vigorously opposes any recommendations made for the purpose of reducing, adding limitations on, or eliminating benefits for service-connected disabled veterans or their families.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 075**

### **SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING**

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 one month or more; and

WHEREAS, exacerbation of a service-connected disability sometimes makes work activities contraindicated for periods of one month or more; and

WHEREAS, in such instances, the therapeutic course, convalescence, or restriction from work would occur in the home in lieu of hospitalization for one month or more; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 one month or more.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 076**

##### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE 10-YEAR RULE FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, section 1318 (b) (1), title 38, United States Code, provides Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of certain veterans rated 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 caregiver for the veteran, must in many cases limit, or give up, or put careers on hold; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently unfair that the surviving spouse should have this additional burden placed on him or her for 10 years or more before he or she can qualify for DIC when married veterans die; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to reduce this 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 077**

##### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 079**

##### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AWARD SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 080**

### **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 indebtedness to the United States government, in addition to the principal amount of such indebtedness, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 081**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 082**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges that legislation be enacted to extend the presumptive period for service connection for ill-defined and undiagnosed illnesses to a reasonable period.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 086**  
**ESTABLISH SERVICE CONNECTION FOR**  
**RESIDUALS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA**

WHEREAS, DAV 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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the VA has issued a 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 the new regulation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 087**

### **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, veterans suffering from ailments associated with their service in the military 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 089**

### **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 Department of Veterans Affairs (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 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 091**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 092**

### **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 United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) (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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 Congress should enact legislation providing 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. 093**

### **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 a 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 allows 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 094**

### **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, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 095**

### **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 non-service-connected burial allowance and \$300 for non-service-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 non-service-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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 096**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, calls for a reasonable increase to HISA benefits for veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 130**  
**AMEND THE LAW TO 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 135**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine and restrict the conditions under which service connection may be established.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 136**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports VA 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.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 137**

#### **CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE- CONNECTED CONDITION AS A CLAIM FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, many service members have suffered from diseases that are recognized to be presumptive; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from diseases which include many types of cancer, as well as diabetes and other chronic diseases may not be aware that they may be eligible for service connection, even if they are being treated in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility; and

WHEREAS, many VA medical facilities are not currently staffed or equipped to provide appropriate counseling to veterans or their families on how to file a claim for service-connected benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges Congress to enact legislation requiring that treatment by the VA for a condition or disease recognized as presumptively service connected will be considered to be an informal claim for service connection for compensation purposes.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 160**

#### **COMPENSATE PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS SUFFERING FROM ILLNESSES CIRCUMSTANTIALLY LINKED TO THEIR SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR**

WHEREAS, DAV 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 183**

#### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 184**

#### **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 service members in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the amount of the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of lower-priced automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later amendments established grants in amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been adjusted regularly concurrent with increases in the costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant represents about 66 percent of the total average cost of automobiles based on most current available pricing; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 185**

#### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER PRIVATE MEDICAL EVIDENCE SUPPLIED BY A LICENSED PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER**

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 5125, Acceptance of Reports of Private Physician Examinations, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to accept private reports in the adjudication of claims for disability benefits; and



WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration personnel, to include nurse practitioners and physician assistants, of similar or equal backgrounds of their private counterparts are authorized to complete such medical reports for VA adjudication purposes; and

WHEREAS, submission of such private medical records by a claimant, if otherwise adequate for rating purposes, provides claimants with an alternate means to procure evidence in support of their claim, rather than being required to attend a mandatory Compensation and Pension examination; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by a licensed private health care provider to include, but not limited to, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 186**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

\* \* \*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 187**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 188**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 189**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

\*\*\*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 190**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 191**

### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE PREMIUMS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT LIFE EXPECTANCY**

WHEREAS, the United States Government provides life insurance to service members because the increased hazards of military service make them an unacceptable risk for the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, coverage for service members may be continued after service under policies issued or programs overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the extra-hazard costs of insuring veterans in poorer health by reason of service-connected disabilities should be borne by the Government; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to amend section 1922 of title 38, United States Code, to provide that SDVI premiums will be based on current mortality tables.

\* \* \*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 192**

### **SUPPORT MEANINGFUL 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 the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is responsible for processing veterans claims for these benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, the number of claims filed each year is growing, the complexity of claims filed is increasing, the backlog of claims pending is too large, and the accuracy of claims decisions remains too low; and

WHEREAS, VBA's leadership in 2010 determined that it would be necessary to completely and comprehensively rebuild and modernize its claims infrastructure and processes, and established the goal of zero claims pending more than 125 days, and all claims completed to a 98 percent degree of accuracy standard; and

WHEREAS, VBA has reached out to veterans service organizations accredited to represent veterans in the claims process for assistance in reforming its claims processing system, particularly DAV because of our experience and success in representing more than 250,000 veterans each year, and

WHEREAS, VBA has redesigned its personnel training programs, created new quality review teams, developed new employee testing regimes and continuing to review its employee performance standards and overall accountability programs; and

WHEREAS, VBA developed a new Transformation Organizational Model (TOM) that reorganized its claims processing work management system by dividing incoming claims along three tracks based on the complexity of claims; and

WHEREAS, VBA has developed and deployed to all of its regional offices a new IT system for processing claims, the Veterans Benefits Management System (VMBS), which uses electronic files, computer automation and intelligent processing technologies; and

WHEREAS, VBA has made measurable progress reducing the number claims in the "backlog", those pending more than 125 days, which dropped by more than 50% from 611,000 in March 2013 to about 265,000 in August 2014, while also increasing accuracy, which has risen from 90% in January 2013 to 96% in August 2014; and

WHEREAS, there remains much work to be completed and challenges to overcome before it is certain that VBA's current transformation efforts will be fully successful, but there is no rational alternative to supporting VBA in completing its transformation work; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, calls on Congress and VBA to support completion of the current transformation plan, continue closely monitoring and overseeing its progress, and continue to look for opportunities to refine and improve the claims processing system; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation and other policies that will strengthen training, testing and quality control, as well as accountability measures to ensure that VBA leaders and employees develop a corporate culture focused on getting each claim decided right the first time; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to give due deference to private medical evidence that is competent, credible, probative, and otherwise adequate for rating purposes, as well as legislation and policies that encourage the use of private medical evidence, including allowing private physicians to have access to all Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs); and

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress to faithfully implement sections 504 and 505 of Public Law 112-154 in order to protect veterans' due process rights during the claims process; and

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and VBA ensure that all proposals to streamline and automate the claims development and rating process fully protect veterans rights and that automated rating processes, such as simplified notification letters, provide sufficient and specific information to inform veterans and their advocates about the reasons and bases for rating decisions, and

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV calls on Congress and VBA to ensure that sufficient funding is provided to complete the development and implementation of the VBMS, as well as the digital conversion of paper claims files.

\* \* \*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 193**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

\* \* \*

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, AI. May I have a second?

MR. PAUL KOMINSKY: Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2.

MR. KOMINSKY: Paul Kominsky, Adjutant, National Blind Chapter, would like to second that motion.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: 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.

National Adjutant Burgess, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. Join us for fun tonight at 8:00 p.m. in this hall. We'll be treated to swing revival band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. It's going to be a treat. Trust me.

Our next business session will begin Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. We will start off with Committee reports, including the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

We will hear what the Charitable Service Trust is doing to ensure our nation fulfills its promises to those who served, and a report from our State Commanders and Adjutants Association. Then, after introducing the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats we'll receive a report by the National Service Foundation.

On Tuesday afternoon we will hold our final business session and conclude with nominations and elections of our national officers.

All day tomorrow we'll be hosting some very important seminars. Starting off at 9:00 in the morning we will hold the Voluntary Services Seminar in the Grand Ballroom. The Benefits Protection Team will meet here at 9:00 a.m., followed immediately by the Service and Legislative Seminar.

In the afternoon we will have the Women Veterans Seminar and a number of other events to provide information and training.

We are giving away \$30 gift certificates redeemable at the DAV store to five delegates attending the Convention. If your name is called and you are in the hall, please see Membership Director Tony Baskerville up on stage as soon as we adjourn to receive your gift. You must be here to win.

And I will call the names: Mary Patterson from California; Denise Williams from Virginia; Charles Bailey from Virginia; Joseph Staten from Virginia; I'm not from Virginia so, you know, I'm not; James Strickland from Florida. So if you five folks are here, come on up in just a minute and see Tony Baskerville. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Marc. Ladies and gentlemen, sisters and brothers, please rise and I will ask Chaplain Ringo to lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Two quick things. One, as I mentioned yesterday, find the people that have put together this awesome convention and thank them, the people working on the sides. You know, they are working wee hours of the morning. I don't know if you've seen them when you're walking around. They're here at the crack of dawn or before and way into the late of the night. But thank them for doing that.

And then, also, there is a Chaplains' training for all those who would like to attend at 2:30 in Sky View somewhere. (Laughter) Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have so linked our lives one with another that we do affect, for good or ill, the lives of others. So guide us in this work of the DAV that we do here that we do it not for self alone but for the common good of all those who serve.

We ask always to do our best for the veteran and their families. Make us mindful of all those who assist in this work and bless everyone's efforts to help fulfill the promises to all our veterans. Bless us in this work we humbly pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The Convention stands in recess until 8:30 Tuesday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:22 o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, August 10, 2014.)

## Committee on Credentials

**Advisors: Baskerville, Anthony and Dobmeier, Michael**

DISTRICT	MEMEBER NAME	(DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER STATE	NO.
1	Hoey, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Zilka, Michael	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	4
2	Gibney, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Castellano, Richard	Alternate	NEW YORK	23
3	Sloan, Lisa	Delegate	VERMONT	4
	Bosse, Gerard	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	7
4	Sweeney, Donald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Mrosz, John	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	52
5	Greene, Raymond	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
	Freeman, Larry	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	78
6	Pennington, Larry	Delegate	WEST VIRGINIA	28
	Conley, Dennis	Alternate	VIRGINIA	27
7	Rickman, Leroy	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Ayala, Thomas	Alternate	FLORIDA	1
8	Brown, Kathleen	Delegate	TENNESSEE	3
	Johnston, Rebecca	Alternate	TENNESSEE	22
9	Gibson, Linda	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	46
	Bryant, Cleveland	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
10	Peddle, Todd	Delegate	MICHIGAN	129
	Stafford, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	11
11	Stith, Michael	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Hanneman, Dennis	Alternate	OHIO	77
12	Dorman, Roger	Delegate	WISCONSIN	60
	Couture, Kenneth	Alternate	ILLINOIS	42
13	Arambula, Carlos	Delegate	INDIANA	42
	Faulk, Leon	Alternate	KENTUCKY	156
14	Tobin, Warren	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	31
	Karg, Van	Alternate	MINNESOTA	37
15	Dolenz, Thomas	Delegate	MISSOURI	1
	Franklin, Roger	Alternate	NEBRASKA	2
16	Guglielmoni, James	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	144
	Bravo, Jazmin	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	2
17	Reed, Donald	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Hoezee, Dick	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	2
18	Dowd, Timothy	Delegate	NEVADA	13
	Archuleta, Donald	Alternate	ARIZONA	20
19	Pavy, Jonathan	Delegate	WASHINGTON	5
	Deglandon, Linda	Alternate	ALASKA	2
20	Garcia, Judy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Jackson, William	Alternate	TEXAS	20
21	Halford, Jerletta	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Hendrick, Gary	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	9
99	Kaminsky, Paul	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

**Advisors: Varela, Paul and Moos, Chad**

DISTRICT	MEMEBER NAME	(DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER STATE	NO.
1	Tanner, James	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Hogan, John	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Morales, Paul	Delegate	NEW YORK	28
	Tears, Ronald	Alternate	NEW YORK	15
3	Laverdiere, James	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Zibrida, Michael	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Werlich, Ronald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Wischmann, Herman	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Price, Susan	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
	Bielecki, Darlene	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	73
6	Spencer, James	Delegate	VIRGINIA	11
	Cooper, Stephanie	Alternate	D C	3
7	Sanders, Sheila	Delegate	FLORIDA	7
	D'Angelo, Lawrence	Alternate	FLORIDA	94
8	Culver, Laird	Delegate	ALABAMA	9
	Miller, Arthur	Alternate	ALABAMA	87
9	Wilner, Brian	Delegate	GEORGIA	18
	Huggins, Bobby	Alternate	GEORGIA	55
10	Pruitt, Steven	Delegate	MICHIGAN	2
	Lattimer, Rodney	Alternate	MICHIGAN	94
11	Smith, Eugene	Delegate	OHIO	1
	Bilinovich, David	Alternate	OHIO	72
12	Peters, Edward	Delegate	ILLINOIS	34
	Walkowski, Kevin	Alternate	WISCONSIN	34
13	Fivecoate, Gerald	Delegate	INDIANA	28
	Ross, Walter	Alternate	INDIANA	42
14	Vandrovec, Michael	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	1
	Saunders, Edward	Alternate	MONTANA	10
15	Gile, Kenneth	Delegate	KANSAS	4
	Truman, Laurence	Alternate	MISSOURI	67
16	Raba, Mariana	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Brink, Richard	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	35
17	Prescott, Gary	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Weber, Eugene	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	6
18	Ford, Karl	Delegate	ARIZONA	1
	Hobbs, Kris	Alternate	ARIZONA	18
19	Dennis, Don	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Barton, Stan	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Gonzalez-Belen, Victor	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Nawara, John	Alternate	TEXAS	233
21	Vance, Craig	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	66
	Edwards-Luckey, LaShaun	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	7
99	Lester, Ronnie	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Kaminsky, Paul	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights

**Advisors: Ilem, Joy and Violante, Joseph**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MEMEBER NAME</b>	<b>(DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE)</b>	<b>CHAPTER STATE</b>	<b>NO.</b>
1	Dubey, Paul	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
	Gerety, Philip	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Braswell, Nelson	Delegate	NEW YORK	23
	Martir, Philip	Alternate	NEW YORK	23
3	Schatz, Richard	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	De Blois, Bernice	Alternate	MAINE	6
4	Applegate, Walter	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	24
	Bernier, Barry	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	10
5	Chaney, Nathan	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
	Galiyas, Joshua	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
6	Fisher, Joann	Delegate	D C	14
	Patterson, John	Alternate	MARYLAND	36
7	Linden, Albert	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Posada, Eduardo	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Humphries, Gerald	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	11
	Courter, John	Alternate	LOUISIANA	30
9	Siegel, Paul	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	67
	Tyson, Leroy	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	20
10	Reeves, Edward	Delegate	MICHIGAN	130
	Boozer, J	Alternate	MICHIGAN	20
11	Connelly, Leo	Delegate	OHIO	2
	Parker, John	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Labelle, Al	Delegate	WISCONSIN	57
	Aaron, Mark	Alternate	ILLINOIS	1
13	Peek, Donald	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Purcell, Ralph	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Van Emmerik, Eric	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Killinger, Becky	Alternate	MINNESOTA	39
15	Janecek, Paul	Delegate	IOWA	2
	Bergquist, Franklin	Alternate	KANSAS	4
16	Valdez, Richard	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	12
	Flores, Mario	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	Mitchell, Edward	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Bartlett, Eric	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	3
18	Salomonson, Michael	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Parocua, Ramiro	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Walker, Darrell	Delegate	ALASKA	2
	Bassett, Shelby	Alternate	WASHINGTON	47
20	Squyres, Robert	Delegate	TEXAS	139
	Hardaway, Lincoln	Alternate	TEXAS	128
21	Pandos, Ronald	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Marsack, Richard	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	39
99	Brooks, Charles	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1



## Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

### Advisors: Barton, Bradley and Hartman, Edward

DISTRICT	MEMEBER NAME	(DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER STATE	NO.
1	Kooyman, Kenneth	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	57
	Epps, David	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	88
2	Robinson, Richard	Delegate	NEW YORK	15
	Krulder, Dennis	Alternate	NEW YORK	95
3	Fournier, Richard	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Denisewich, Raymond	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	1
4	Kopley, James	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	41
	Lardizzzone, Paul	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Kelly, Lawrence	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
	Stopyra, Gary	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	78
6	Robinson, Lisa	Delegate	MARYLAND	33
	Martinez, Alexis	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	1
7	Reed, Gregory	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Brown, Gilbert	Alternate	FLORIDA	84
8	Bailey, Carl	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Sensat, Davis	Alternate	LOUISIANA	17
9	Bish, Rodney	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	43
	Grindstaff, David	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	57
10	Dempster, Thomas	Delegate	MICHIGAN	114
	Gonzales, Beth	Alternate	MICHIGAN	102
11	Bertschy, Robert	Delegate	OHIO	47
	Alexander, Phillip	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Helgeson, Rodney	Delegate	WISCONSIN	27
	Urso, Vincent	Alternate	ILLINOIS	36
13	Kubala, Paul	Delegate	KENTUCKY	6
	Bratcher, Thomas	Alternate	INDIANA	27
14	Grantier, Kevin	Delegate	MONTANA	3
	Berndt, Scott	Alternate	MINNESOTA	39
15	Oliver, Jennifer	Delegate	IOWA	20
	Pilkington, H.	Alternate	KANSAS	5
16	O'Brien, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Stoddard, Sandra	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	48
17	Grieb, Andrew	Delegate	COLORADO	21
	Timmerman, Timothy	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	9
18	Dolan, Bill	Delegate	NEVADA	15
	Jeter, Barbara	Alternate	ARIZONA	8
19	Wade, Craig	Alternate	ALASKA	3
20	Clark, Michelle	Delegate	TEXAS	14
	Roman, Bonnie	Alternate	TEXAS	114
21	Hall, Daniel	Delegate	ARKANSAS	30
	Rende, Christopher	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	88
99	O'Connell, Dennis	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Committee on Finance

**Advisors: Jesinoski, Barry and Richmond, Charles**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MEMEBER NAME</b>	<b>(DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE)</b>	<b>CHAPTER STATE</b>	<b>NO.</b>
1	Follis, James	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	85
	Camnick, John	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Day, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	28
	Gonzalez, Jose	Alternate	NEW YORK	92
3	Smith, David	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	3
	Boisvert, Ernest	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	12
4	Church, Albert	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Clynch, James	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	12
5	DeSanti, Carmen	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	21
	Blow, Samuel	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
6	Rodriguez, Angel	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	7
	Vaughn, Brian	Alternate	D C	3
7	Bristol, Fred	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Tyson, Wallace	Alternate	FLORIDA	11
8	Patterson, Richard	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Carver, Johnnie	Alternate	TENNESSEE	94
9	Jimmerson, Burl	Delegate	GEORGIA	33
	Causey, John	Alternate	GEORGIA	1
10	Dempsey, James	Delegate	MICHIGAN	13
	Gallagher, Roger	Alternate	MICHIGAN	7
11	Williams, Frank	Delegate	OHIO	3
	Bailey, James	Alternate	OHIO	117
12	Resner, Norman	Delegate	ILLINOIS	42
	Polk, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	19
13	Forbes, Betty	Delegate	KENTUCKY	1
	Cannon, Rosa	Alternate	KENTUCKY	1
14	Parr, Helen	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Muilenburg, Harold	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	11
15	Bjork, Nancy	Delegate	NEBRASKA	2
	Thornburg, Audie	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Bogan, James	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Ganitch, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Hogue, Richard	Delegate	COLORADO	21
	Sandoval, Donaciano	Alternate	COLORADO	2
18	Linton, Thomas	Delegate	ARIZONA	1
	Morris, Kenneth	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Janus, Wanda	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Nelson, Jeanie	Alternate	WASHINGTON	46
20	Foxx, Janie	Delegate	TEXAS	128
	Garcia, Jose	Alternate	TEXAS	114
21	Kershaw, Mackenzie	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	7
	White, Fred	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	7

## Committee on Employment

**Advisors: Hall, Jeffrey and Soto, Danny**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MEMEBER NAME</b>	<b>(DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE)</b>	<b>CHAPTER STATE</b>	<b>NO.</b>
1	Fitzgerald, David	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	90
	Leonard, Patrick	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Lee, Tony	Delegate	NEW YORK	126
	Rivera, Israel	Alternate	NEW YORK	118
3	Boisvert, Ernest	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	Reilly, Ron	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
4	Wright, Konae	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Watts, Michael	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	5
5	Darcangelo, Vincent	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
	Smith, Catherine	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
6	Bishop, William	Delegate	MARYLAND	33
	Cromwell, Alvin	Alternate	VIRGINIA	26
7	Johnson, Jack	Delegate	FLORIDA	150
	Kise, Dale	Alternate	FLORIDA	94
8	Windham, Raybon	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	11
	Hicks, Harold	Alternate	ALABAMA	26
9	Beddard, Charles	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	37
	McKoy, Willis	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	1
10	Wells, Douglas	Delegate	MICHIGAN	114
	Hughes, Albert	Alternate	MICHIGAN	1
11	Marcum, Kenneth	Delegate	OHIO	89
	Cunningham, Aaron	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Arens, Robert	Delegate	ILLINOIS	36
	Hoeft, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
13	Rollins, George	Delegate	KENTUCKY	171
	Thacker, Charles	Alternate	KENTUCKY	171
14	Erickson, Robert	Delegate	MINNESOTA	2
	Fugere, Robert	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	1
15	Hicks, Kenneth	Delegate	MISSOURI	2
	Hagel, Virgil	Alternate	NEBRASKA	21
16	Hansel, Ronald	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	22
	Hicks, Charles	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	5
17	Schow, Terry	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Smith, Wendy	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	5
18	Lemons, Richard	Delegate	ARIZONA	2
	Ginnery, Kenneth	Alternate	ARIZONA	20
19	Middleton, Bill	Delegate	WASHINGTON	2
	Webb, Michael	Alternate	WASHINGTON	18
20	Hooks, Walter	Delegate	TEXAS	20
	Stewart, Teresa	Alternate	TEXAS	14
21	Donovan, John	Delegate	ARKANSAS	10
	Stake, Charles	Alternate	ARKANSAS	57

## Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

**Advisors: Atizado, Adrian and Baumann, William**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>MEMEBER NAME</b>	<b>(DELEGATE &amp; ALTERNATE)</b>	<b>CHAPTER STATE</b>	<b>NO.</b>
1	Walsh, Richard	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Wisotsky, Daniel	Delegate	NEW YORK	118
	Zayas, Israel	Alternate	NEW YORK	118
3	Nicodemus, Robert	Delegate	VERMONT	3
	Tracey, James	Alternate	MAINE	11
4	Kelly, Timothy	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	19
	Wright, Konae	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Cason, Gregory	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
	Hassinger, Jason	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
6	Jacobs, Milton	Delegate	VIRGINIA	21
	Hurley, Dennis	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	56
7	Lewis, Herbert	Delegate	FLORIDA	13
	Plescia, Frank	Alternate	FLORIDA	133
8	Royer, Silva	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	5
	Davis, Carroll	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Long, Larry	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
	DeBramaletta, Mattie	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
10	Lamphere, Layton	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Barenbrugge, Ricky	Alternate	MICHIGAN	19
11	Hutchinson, Raymond	Delegate	OHIO	63
	Kimmerly, Samuel	Alternate	OHIO	71
12	Camacho, Miguel	Delegate	ILLINOIS	16
	Schuenke, Michael	Alternate	WISCONSIN	3
13	Baker, Jerome	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	Faulk, Isa	Alternate	KENTUCKY	156
14	Wilson, Ritchie	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Weiss, Richard	Alternate	MINNESOTA	22
15	Dillard, Clifford	Delegate	KANSAS	4
	Everitt, Robert	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Johnson, Kirk	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Lara, Starlyn	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Larsen, Penny	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Gutzmer, George	Alternate	UTAH	8
18	Walker, Richard	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Burks, William	Alternate	ARIZONA	2
19	Cousino, Thomas	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Phillips, Nathan	Alternate	WASHINGTON	46
20	Garcia, Jose	Delegate	TEXAS	14
	Montgomery, Lillie	Alternate	TEXAS	128
21	Horsley, Charles	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	63
	Wekenmann, Paul	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	88
99	Burgess, William	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Hogan, James	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Committee on Nomination of National Officers

**Advisors: Marbes, Richard and Murphy, Eugene**

DISTRICT	MEMEBER NAME	(DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER STATE	NO.
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Bowers, Alan	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	108
	Brittain, Howard	Alternate	NEW YORK	135
3	Jernigan, Shawn	Delegate	MAINE	6
	Kanelos, George	Alternate	MAINE	19
4	LoSauro, Salvatore	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	15
	William, Donald	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	27
5	Noel, Kevin	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	8
	Falk, Jonathan	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	8
6	Marquez, Idalis	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	16
	Dawson, Michael	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	14
7	Joyner, Dennis	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Wolfe, Kenneth	Alternate	FLORIDA	101
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Kalk, Edward	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Walls, Thomas	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
	Henry, Danny	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	20
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Morey, Christopher	Alternate	MICHIGAN	14
11	Lenhart, Joseph	Delegate	OHIO	73
	May, David	Alternate	OHIO	38
12	Weber, Thomas	Delegate	WISCONSIN	17
	Reynolds, Alfred	Alternate	ILLINOIS	17
13	Ewing, Lee	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Mullins, Arthur	Alternate	KENTUCKY	171
14	Litzinger, Joseph	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Ogle, William	Delegate	NEBRASKA	14
	Peterson, Robert	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Powers, Frederick	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	20
	Vandiver, Edward	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	6
17	Lucus, Gary	Delegate	WYOMING	11
	Maughan, Frank	Alternate	UTAH	4
18	Cox, Ronald	Delegate	ARIZONA	26
	Mullalley, Thomas	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Royse, Sarah	Delegate	OREGON	5
	Stewart, Douglas	Alternate	IDAHO	6
20	Spence, Percy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Paquette, Roland	Alternate	TEXAS	20
21	Hammons, Dennis	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	61
	Helton, Vernon	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	63
99	Martino, Anthony	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Livingston, Terry	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

## Columbia Trust Advisory Board

DISTRICT	MEMEBER NAME	(DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER STATE	NO.
1	Mooney, Leo	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	33
	Costa, Joseph	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	56
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	108
	Day, Donald	Alternate	NEW YORK	28
3	Schatz, Richard	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	Demers, Normand	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Kopley, James	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	41
5	Cudworth, Robert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
6	Marquez, Idalis	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	16
	Madison, Cynthia	Alternate	VIRGINIA	27
7	Marshall, Andy	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Anderson, Robert	Alternate	FLORIDA	4
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
9	Truscello, Michael	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	51
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Dempster, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Uetterling, David	Delegate	OHIO	36
12	Thompson, Dennis	Delegate	ILLINOIS	103
13	Ewing, Lee	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Huff, James	Alternate	KENTUCKY	4
14	Grantier, Kevin	Delegate	MONTANA	3
	Saunders, Edward	Alternate	MONTANA	10
15	Gerke, David	Delegate	MISSOURI	2
16	Steinbaugh, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Addyman, Robert	Delegate	COLORADO	7
18	Anton, William	Delegate	NEVADA	13
19	Beale, Pamela	Delegate	ALASKA	7
	Marker, Brigitte	Alternate	OREGON	12
20	Delgado, Robert	Delegate	TEXAS	233
21	Hedgecock, Timothy	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	56

## National Executive Committee

DISTRICT	MEMEBER NAME	(DELEGATE & ALTERNATE)	CHAPTER STATE	NO.
1	Hogan, John	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Finnerty, Robert	Delegate	NEW YORK	118
	Wisnesky, Chester	Alternate	NEW YORK	182
3	Reilly, Ron	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
	Fournier, Richard	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Kelly, Timothy	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	19
	Kopley, James	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	41
5	Burlikowski, Albert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
	Kelly, Lawrence	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
6	Harris, Bennie	Delegate	D C	3
	Marquez, Idalis	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	16
7	Markiewicz, John	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Tolfa, Richard	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Wenthe, Kevin	Delegate	LOUISIANA	20
	Sensat, Davis	Alternate	LOUISIANA	17
9	Evans, Harmon	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
	Prosser, Carroll	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	30
10	Lee, Rolly	Delegate	MICHIGAN	129
	Pruitt, Steven	Alternate	MICHIGAN	2
11	Morton, Herman	Delegate	OHIO	1
	Bertschy, Robert	Alternate	OHIO	47
12	Helgeson, Rodney	Delegate	WISCONSIN	27
	Weber, Thomas	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
13	Huff, James	Delegate	KENTUCKY	4
	Duke, Timothy	Alternate	KENTUCKY	89
14	Parsetich, Joseph	Delegate	MONTANA	2
	Grantier, Kevin	Alternate	MONTANA	3
15	Brader, David	Delegate	KANSAS	5
	Bay, Jerry	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Contreras, Daniel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	99
	Steinbaugh, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Lucus, Gary	Delegate	WYOMING	11
	Maughan, Frank	Alternate	UTAH	4
18	Stewart, Johnny	Delegate	ARIZONA	2
	Treadway, Johnie	Alternate	ARIZONA	2
19	Lyon, Fay	Delegate	WASHINGTON	46
	Royse, Sarah	Alternate	OREGON	11
20	Johniken, Teresa	Delegate	TEXAS	139
	Spence, Percy	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Oliver, Danny	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88
	Hammons, Dennis	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	61

## **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SECOND BUSINESS SESSION**

**August 12, 2014**

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 93rd National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada on Tuesday morning, August 12, 2014, and was called to order at 8:32 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Joseph W. Johnston.

COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: The Convention will please come to order.

(Whereupon, the audience failed to completely come to order.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: There must be some Marines back there. That's all I can say. As a reminder, to everyone, please turn off your cellular phones and other portable devices. Sisters and brothers, please with join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance to the flag of our country.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I would like to now call on Chaplain Ringo to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you now after several days of great work and good times with one another. We are truly blessed to live in such freedom and abundance.

We are grateful, humbled and honored to be here to represent our organization and do this work, our part, to make sure that the promises made to veterans are fulfilled. We express appreciation, again, for all those behind the scenes that make all this possible and look so seamless.

We ask Your blessing and healing hand to be with those who have had medical issues while here, those from Ohio and others. Strengthen them and their families. We pray for Your Spirit to continue to be with us as our Committees now share their reports. We thank You for their diligence and dedication. This we do humbly pray in the Name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Please be seated. I would like to remind you that in order to be heard as a delegate 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 that they represent.

At this time I would like to call on the Credentials Committee Chairman Warren Tobin for his report.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the Credentials Committee met this morning in Sky View 1 at Bally's Las Vegas. The roll call showed 1,221 delegates and 48 alternates have registered, which includes 50 Departments and 443 Chapters registered. There are 40 National Officers and 9 Past National Commanders currently registered for a total of 8,309 votes.

This partial report is for informational purposes only and it reflects the registration at the close of business at 6:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11th, 2014. This completes the final report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Warren. This is a reminder the registration will indeed close this morning at 10:00 a.m.

I would like to call upon the Chairman Brad Barton, and Past National Commander, for the final report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. Brad. Well, I guess we won't do that.

How about Chairman Terry Schow to come up for the report on Employment? (Laughter) Hey, I guess there is just no interest this morning. I could do a tap dance for you here. (Applause)

(Whereupon, there were calls from the audience for "Lady Gaga.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Maybe I could do a song for you, too, but I'm not putting on that dress again. (Laughter)

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TERRY SCHOW: Can everybody see me okay? Before I start my remarks I would like to thank the DAV leadership for its wisdom in establishing the emphasis on employment and the new Employment Committee. I think that's a great step. Thank you for that leadership.



The National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on August 9th by the Committee chair advisors Jeff Hall and Danny Soto. The first order of business was to elect a Convention Committee chairman. Terry Schow as elected chairman and Jeff Hall was selected 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.

First is Number 44, protect veterans from employment discrimination when seeking health care for service-connected conditions; Number 45, support disabled-veteran-owned businesses; Number 46, support outreach and employment to women veterans; Number 47, support veteran preference in public employment; Number 48, eliminate the 12-year rule to request VA voc-rehab benefits under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended; Number 49, provide adequate funding and permanency and/or training programs; Number 50, support legislation enhancing government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; Number 51, oppose using D-VOP LVR to work on public assistance programs; Number 52, increase staffing levels for the VA voc-rehab and employment service; Number 53, monitor activities of the Mandatory Transition GPS Program; Number 114, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled; Number 118, support legislation to exclude from gross income the discharge of student loan indebtedness of a veteran rated permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities;

Number 150, support legislation to provide reasonable transition period for all service-disabled veteran-owned businesses to retain their federal protection status following the death of a disabled veteran; Number 174, abolish the VA annual requirement of submitting the VAF 2140140 Employment Questionnaire by veterans that have established service-connected claims for individual employability, as well as require the burden of establishing whether or not the veteran is employed to be wholly on the VA and the IRS; Number 179, eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouse for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38 of the United States Code; Number 225, support licensure and certification of active duty service personnel; Number 226, support fraud prevention controls over service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses programs; Number 227, transfer the Veterans' Employment Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs; Number 228, support verification improvements for veteran businesses within the VA.

I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The afore-mentioned resolutions follow:)

\* \* \*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 044**

### **PROTECT VETERANS FROM EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WHEN SEEKING HEALTH CARE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS**

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, USERRA 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 (VA) health care system or a private provider for service-connected veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges Congress to extend protection under USERRA to encompass treatment of service-connected disabilities at VA health care facilities or other private health care facilities.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 045**  
**SUPPORT SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-  
OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, the program of contracts for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) on a preferential basis should be of a great assistance to SDVOSBs that hire disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, we are aware of problems involving the non-payment of contracts; and

WHEREAS, when these SDVOSBs complain about reduced payments, the threat of rejection from future contracts, and/or the threat of being put out of business; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks and strongly supports the immediate payment of all completed SDVOSB contracts that are unpaid for more than one year, the expeditious payment of all unpaid completed SDVOSB contracts, and an investigation of the inappropriate tactics used against our comrades by an independent prosecutor.

\* \* \*

**RESOLUTION NO. 046**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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. 047**  
**SUPPORT VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

WHEREAS, DAV 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment; enforcement provisions and increased accountability for veterans' hiring compliance; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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. 048**

##### **ELIMINATE 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, DAV 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 Department of Veterans Affairs (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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 049**

##### **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 assistance programs, and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

\* \* \*

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 050**

##### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING GOVERNMENT-WIDE GOAL FOR PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESSES 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 has the Center for Veterans Enterprise, 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](http://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, requires 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 051**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges Congress to monitor DVOPS/LVERS or audit results ensuring focus on assisting veterans.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 052**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 053**  
**MONITOR ACTIVITIES OF THE MANDATORY**  
**TRANSITION GPS 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), now known as the Transition GPS program, be established and maintained; and

WHEREAS, the transition from military service to civilian life is very difficult for many veterans who must overcome obstacles to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, the transition program, now Transition GPS program, was created to help our separating service members successfully transition to the civilian workforce, start a business, or pursue training or higher education and is now mandatory for active duty personnel, except under certain circumstances as specified in Public Law 112-56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act; and

WHEREAS, participation by DAV and other veterans service organizations in the Transition GPS program is essential to service members to gain a full understanding of entitlements and free assistance and representation available upon discharge from military service; and

WHEREAS, the Transition GPS program expands the previous TAP and DTAP workshops to 5-7 days (or longer in some instances) aimed to strengthen, standardize, and expand counseling and guidance for service members as they are separating from military service while transforming the military's approach to education, training, and credentialing for service members, and

WHEREAS, the Transition GPS program, and the encompassed TAP and DTAP workshops, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges Congress to monitor the review of Transition GPS program, its workshops, training methodology, and delivery of services; the collection and analysis of course critiques; and to ensure the inclusion of DAV and other veteran service organizations in workshop, in order to confirm the program is meeting its objective and follow-up with participants to determine if they have found gainful employment.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 114**

##### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 118**

##### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT A VETERAN RATED AS PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED DUE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES FROM FEDERAL TAXES ON FORGIVENESS OF STUDENT LOAN INDEBTEDNESS**

WHEREAS, veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities are entitled under existing laws to have the principal of their outstanding federally insured student loans forgiven; and

WHEREAS, these veterans are not among those exempted from paying taxes on the amount of the student loan debt that is forgiven; and

WHEREAS, these disabled veterans are placed at a significant economic disadvantage based on the limitations imposed upon them by the wounds, illnesses and injuries incurred during the performance of their military duties, placing an unreasonable burden on them and their families to pay taxes on forgiven federal loans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports the enactment of legislation that would exempt from taxes the amount forgiven for federal student loans to veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled

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#### **RESOLUTION NO. 150**

##### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 174**

### **ELIMINATE ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE BY VETERANS IN RECEIPT OF INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY BENEFITS**

WHEREAS, veterans receiving individual unemployability (IU) must complete the required VAF 21-4140-1 (employment verification questionnaire) fully and accurately on an annual basis, and return the form to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) office within 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the veteran is required to turn in the VAF 21-4140-1 annually for up to 20 years; and

WHEREAS, if veterans do not return the form within 60 days, their benefits are reduced; and

WHEREAS, it would provide a great justice to the disabled veterans of this nation who are currently in receipt of IU to not have the burden of submitting to the VA a VAF 21-4140-1 on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, a majority of such veterans are incapacitated in some way; and

WHEREAS, this impedes such veterans from filing paperwork appropriately as the veteran's age and disabilities progress through the years; and

WHEREAS, the VA, as well as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are better equipped to communicate employment verification of veterans via agency to agency as opposed to veteran to VA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges VA to amend its policy on employment questionnaire submission so that veterans in receipt of IU benefits are relieved of this burden.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 179**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 225**  
**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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 226**  
**SUPPORT FRAUD PREVENTION CONTROLS OVER SERVICE-  
DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program (SDVOSB), designed to steer \$4 billion in government contracts to businesses owned by service-disabled veterans, has allowed over \$90 million to be fraudulently awarded to ineligible companies; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration failed to properly check applicants before awarding contracts and failed to take action on service-disabled veterans' complaints of abuse; and

WHEREAS, testimony presented by the United States Government Accountability Office identified millions of dollars of SDVOSB contracts awarded to ineligible firms; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks and strongly supports the investigation, prevention, and monitoring controls and to ensure that fraud is aggressively prosecuted or companies are suspended, debarred, or otherwise held accountable.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 227**  
**TRANSFER THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
SERVICE TOTHE 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 (DOL'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 VA 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, recommends that Congress transfer the entire staff and funding of Veterans Employment and Training Service from the DOL to the VA and that it should be appropriately funded and administered by an Under Secretary for said organization.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 228**  
**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 DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, recommends VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the Department's Veterans First Contracting Program.

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COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You have heard the motion. May I have a second? Mic 2.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LINDEN: Al Linden, Delegate, Gator 90, Florida, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: 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. Thank you very much, Terry.

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT CHAIRMAN SCHOW: Thank you.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Terry.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We will now hear our final report from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman Bradley Barton. And we won't hear that report. (Laughter)

I would now like to call upon Chairman Kirk Johnson for the report on Committees on Hospital and Voluntary Services. Is Kirk here?

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KIRK JOHNSON: Right behind you.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All right.

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Good morning.  
(Response of "Good morning.")

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services was called to order on August 9th, 2014, by the Committee Advisors William Baumann and Adrian Atizado. The first order of business was the election of Committee chairman and a secretary. I, Kirk Johnson, was elected as chairman and Jerome Baker 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 resolutions. Number 35, support legislation to require the president, vice president and members of Congress to receive health care exclusively from the VA; (Applause) Number 36, support enhancement of medical services through modernization of VA health care infrastructure; 37, support state veteran home programs; 38, support legislation to extend eligibility of qualifying veteran adult child for CHAMP-VA; 39, support program improvements and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs; 40, support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans; Oppose privatization of VA health care services and programs— that was Number 41; 42, support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for caregivers of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras; 43, ensure timely access to quality VA health care and medical services; 54, adequately fund and sustain the successful readjustment counseling service of the VA and its highly effective Vet Center program; 107, support amending of Title 38, U.S. Code to provide dental care to all enrolled veterans within the VA health care system; 109, support Congressional funding for the creation of VA Rehabilitative Special Event Office; 145, oppose means testing service-connected veterans for VA health care; 148, seek VA funded research into birth defects and other conditions of child of male Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; 141, education and employ dual primary care provider policy; 162, support top priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA health care system; 163, improve VA purchased care program; 165, support a Congressionally-authorized Alzheimer's Disease demonstration project; 166, improve the care and benefits for veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental hazard; 180, ensure that all personnel involved with the assessment and training of

blind and visually-impaired veterans with electronic equipment pursue training; 181, expand and improve the VA transportation benefits and services; 198, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care copayment costs to service-connected disabled veterans; 199, support sufficient funding for VA prosthetics and sensory aids, services, and timely delivery of prosthetic items; 200, support legislation to establish a comprehensive program for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation; 201, support humane, consistent pain management programs in the veterans' health care system; 202, support enhanced treatment of military sexual trauma; 203, support sustained sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans; 204, support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from post-deployment mental health challenges and other service-connected conditions; 205, support consistent, reasonable access for service and guide dogs in VA facilities; 206, support VA medical and prosthetic research programs; 207, to support the rights and benefits earned by Native Americans and Alaska Native veterans; 208, oppose third-party payments for service-connected disabilities; 209, enhance long-term health care to service-connected disabled veterans; 210, urge Congress and the Administration must assure full implementation of legislation to guarantee sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care programs; 211, support legislation to authorize scholarships for new mental health practitioners in exchange for agreements to serve veterans in VA facilities; 212, support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductible for service-connected disabled veterans and increase and sustain beneficiary travel reimbursement rates; 213, support full funding and resources for poly-trauma units at VA medical centers; 214, oppose recommendations that eligible military retired veterans be prohibited from receiving health care at both DoD and VA facilities; 215, support sufficient resources for VA to improve health care for veterans living in rural and remote areas; 216, improve reimbursement policies for non-VA emergency health care services for enrolled veterans; 217, enhance CHAMP-VA services; 218, support legislation to improve VA program designed to prevent and treat substance use disorders in veterans; 219, require a veteran's attending VA physician to provide a medical opinion with regard to a claim for VA disability compensation benefits when requested; 220, support the provisions of comprehensive VA health care services to enrolled veterans; 221, support consistent reasonable access for power-driven mobility devices; 222, reduce VA medication co-pay equal to or less than no lower charged by private sector commercial outlets; 223, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the George H. Seal Memorial Award program; 224, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program; 232, extend appreciation to the VA Southern Nevada Health Care System for the success of the 93rd National Convention.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services. On the 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:)

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 035**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 036**

### **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, 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 outmoded 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, VA has internally identified needs for more than \$50 billion in capital facilities improvements and new construction through its Strategic Capital Infrastructure Program; and

WHEREAS, when enacted the fiscal year 2014 VA Major and Minor Construction appropriations act would provide \$1.4 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 in VA's ten-year capital plan; and

WHEREAS, as of 2013, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced nearly one million 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 million individuals from earlier service periods; and

WHEREAS, given VA's expected continuing costs for new major medical facility construction, consolidation and modernization, VA may revise its construction policy to further 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, hundreds of leased VA community-based outpatient clinics are in jeopardy due to a change in Congressional budget rules that clouds the future of this cost-effective approach to veterans health care, and in fact may deny that care; and

WHEREAS, the VA's primary mission is to meet the needs of ill 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 DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges VA to continue its efforts to request adequate funding in future budgets to ensure at minimum that VA fulfills the intent of its strategic capital planning initiative; 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 primary and 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 DAV urges Congress to continue to provide appropriated funding sufficient to fulfill the needs for infrastructure identified through the strategic capital planning process.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 037**

### **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, all of whom are 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, VA is also authorized to enter into provider agreements with State Veterans Homes to pay 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, 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, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports sufficient funding for the State Home Construction Grant Program; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to provide States greater flexibility in providing long term supports and services to veterans at State Veterans Homes; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 038**

### **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, dependent 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 dependent is enrolled in an accredited school as a full-time student until the age of 23, or marries, or is a stepchild who no longer lives in the 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 039**

### **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, and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) 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 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 March 2014, VA reported that of the 1,791,420 separated OEF/OIF/OND veterans, 1,057,760 have obtained VA health care since fiscal year 2002, a total of 593,583 unique patients have received a diagnosis of a mental disorder and 324,204 of the enrolled OEF/OIF/OND veterans were diagnosed with PTSD (not including PTSD data from VA's Vet Centers, those not enrolled in VA health care, or those only diagnosed with an adjustment reaction); and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year (FY) 2013, more than 1.4 million veterans received specialized mental health care from the VA, a number that has steadily risen from 927,052 in FY 2006; and

WHEREAS, VA provides 49,315 outpatient mental health appointments a day, and since FY 2009 VA outpatient mental health visits have increased from 14 million a year to more than 18 million in FY 2013; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, under scrutiny for failure to provide timely care for veterans needing mental health services, the VA announced, in June 2013, that it met its goal of increasing mental health staff by 1,900, and hired 1,607 clinicians in addition to hiring another 2,005 clinicians to fill existing vacancies and has hired 318 new peer specialists toward the goal of 800 peer specialists by December 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, VA has improved access to mental health services at its 820 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 has established 67 new Vet Centers since 2008 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 (DoD) 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 concern in the military services and veteran population, but especially among wartime service members and veterans, with an average of 22 veterans a day committing suicide; and

WHEREAS, DoD and VA are responsible for screening and evaluating all service members returning from deployments and ensuring they understand what services are available for post-deployment readjustment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports program improvements, data collection and reporting on suicide rates among service members and veterans, improved outreach through general media for stigma reduction and

suicide prevention; sufficient staffing to meet demand for mental health services; and enhanced resources for VA mental health programs, including Vet Centers, to achieve readjustment of new war veterans and continued effective mental health care for all enrolled veterans needing such services.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 040**  
**SUPPORT ENHANCED MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**AND BENEFITS FOR WOMEN VETERANS**

WHEREAS, there are over 2.2 million women veterans comprising 10 percent of all veterans nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the number of women veterans using Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care has doubled in the last decade, with over 50% of women veterans of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan having used VA services at least once; and

WHEREAS, with over 78 percent of the new women veteran users of VA care being under the age of 40 and thus of child-bearing age, their needs represent 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 reports and VA's own task force on women veterans 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, women veterans have been shown to have more complex health needs than men, with many reporting that certain services are difficult to obtain or health care personnel do not fully understand or seem unprepared to deal with women's 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks to ensure the provision of health care services and specialized programs, 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 male 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, periodically review, adjust and improve its women's health programs, and seek innovative methods to address barriers to care, thereby better ensuring women veterans receive the quality treatment and specialized services they so rightly deserve.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 041**  
**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 129 of 162 medical schools for physician education, and in 40 other health professions represented through affiliations agreements with more than 1,800 colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, through these relationships, VA provides 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 diluted or abandoned; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014<sup>13</sup>, 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, through local, regional or national contracting, or via individual or group vouchers for health care provided by others at VA expense; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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 DAV that such efforts will not be supported.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 042**  
**SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE**  
**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, injured and ill veterans must shoulder a great and lifelong burden as home and institutional caregivers and attendants, often giving up or severely restricting their employment, future financial security, 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 ill loved one; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of such caregivers, the burden of direct care would fall on DoD and VA facilities or other institutions, at significantly higher financial cost and a reduced quality of life for these 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 wounded, injured and ill 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 veteran and 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 or made ill by military service to our nation; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV calls for 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 043**

### **ENSURE TIMELY ACCESS TO QUALITY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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. 054**

### **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, the Veterans Administration 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 Department of Veterans Affairs (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 United States 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, commends the work of the Readjustment Counseling Service and of its Vet Centers of the VA, and encourages the Vet Centers to maintain their level of excellence in caring for combat veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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. 107**

### **SUPPORT DENTAL CARE FOR ALL ENROLLED VETERANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, DAV 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 diminish the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, VA maintains oral and dental programs within its health care system; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1712, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 109**

### **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 (VHA), 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to create an office within the VHA 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 VHA.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 145**

### **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 care from 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 148**

### **URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF CHILDREN OF MALE VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE**

WHEREAS, research studies reviewed by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) have not shown that there are increased rates of birth defects among children of male Vietnam veterans, except for spina bifida, where it found a "limited/suggested" association between paternal exposure to the herbicides used in Vietnam or to dioxin, and a higher risk of spina bifida among their children; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that exposure to herbicide and its contaminants can induce epigenetic changes that passes from parent to offspring in animal models; and

WHEREAS, the IOM has found that the available epidemiologic studies are of insufficient quality, consistency, or statistical power to permit a conclusion regarding the presence or absence of an association with birth defects (other than spina bifida) as well as childhood cancer (including acute myeloid leukemia) in offspring of exposed people; and

WHEREAS, to resolve questions regarding paternally transmitted effects to their offspring, the IOM continues to recommend that laboratory research be conducted to characterize herbicide's and its contaminants' potential for inducing epigenetic modifications, studies on paternal exposure in the absence of maternal exposure, and reviewing systematically defined clinical health conditions that are manifested later in the offspring's lives and other high quality research; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct comprehensive research, including those recommended by the IOM, to determine the level of association between herbicide exposure and birth defects and other conditions of children of male Vietnam veterans.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 149**

### **APPLY A CONSISTENT COORDINATED CARE POLICY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR TRAVELING VETERANS**

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans temporarily split their principal residence between two locations; and

WHEREAS, coordination and continuity of care are core features of high quality primary care and has been shown to have significant benefits, including lower rates of hospitalization and lower mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policy defining how patients are assigned to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) primary care providers states that, in general, each veteran receiving VA primary care must be assigned a single primary care provider within the VA health care system; and

WHEREAS, under this policy, veterans who spend a significant part of the year living between two regions and who have complex health care needs requiring close ongoing care management may have primary care providers assigned at more than one facility; and

WHEREAS, some service-connected veterans who would otherwise be eligible for a second VA primary care provider are being denied this critical service; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected veterans are unaware of this policy and are not being educated by their VA provider that they can be evaluated to determine eligibility for a second VA primary care provider to better coordinate execution of the veteran's health care plan between two VA facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges the VHA to consistently apply the established Primary Care Standards nationwide, educate veterans who live in multiple regions about this policy and add VA rated service-connected disabilities as one of the critical factors used in determining the need of a dual primary care provider.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 162**

### **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, DAV 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 163**

### **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, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) and sharing agreements with the Department of Defense and medical affiliates; and

WHEREAS, over 75 percent of disabled veterans enrolled in the VA health care system plan 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 in the non-VA purchased care program is a disincentive for private providers to care for service-connected disabled veterans; 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 are authorized to receive such care; and

WHEREAS, in general, the quality of care from private providers and a veteran's continuity of care are not monitored, and the care received does not become part of a veteran's electronic health record; and

WHEREAS, in general, 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 Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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 DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 165**

### **SUPPORT NEW MODELS OF CARE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS WITH DEMENTIA**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) faces a large and growing number of veterans with dementia, including Alzheimer's Disease and other organic disease of the brain, in more than 550,000 veterans, including over 300,000 enrolled in VA health care; and

WHEREAS, dementia is a chronic and incurable condition, costing VA three times more than the average patient; and

WHEREAS, dementia impairs key executive functions, such as memory and cognition, including language, insight, judgment, ability to plan, and diminishes the ability for self-care, triggers behavioral and psychological problems, and creates a heavy burden on caregivers; and

WHEREAS, dementia is difficult to diagnose and is often missed by clinicians, creating gaps in care; and

WHEREAS, VA's failure to provide necessary supports to family caregivers of dementia patients damages their psychosocial well-being; and

WHEREAS, through demonstration projects, VA has developed effective new models of dementia care that are capable of providing integrated care across health care settings, but these projects may be phased out due to lack of VA leadership and resources; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges VA to increase support and resources for effective initiatives to improve dementia care for veterans; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to implement in VA facilities nationwide its best models of integrated dementia care based on proven demonstration projects, to ensure patient-

centered, high quality and cost-effective care is provided to the growing number of veterans suffering from dementia.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 166**

### **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 cold and other adverse weather conditions, mustard gas, herbicides, pesticides, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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 individuals served in the armed forces of the United States; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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 DAV 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, and that the biomedical research and development programs of the Department are fully addressing their needs.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 180**

### **REQUIRE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFF WHO WORK TO REHABILITATE BLINDED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has established training and assessment protocols for blind and visually impaired veterans and provides them assistive technology training; and

WHEREAS, the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) does not possess a specialty or certification for technology; and

WHEREAS, staff and supervisors within Blind Rehabilitation Service acknowledge that they are unprepared and unable to remain abreast of evolutionary advances in assistive technology for the blind; and

WHEREAS, enhancements of electronic assistive devices are continuously introduced; and

WHEREAS, blind and visually impaired veterans utilize assistive technology to accomplish tasks in manual skills, living skills, orientation-mobility, computing, and basic quality of life needs; and

WHEREAS, any individual within Blind Rehabilitation Service that either provides training or assesses visually impaired veterans must be knowledgeable on the capabilities of such devices; and  
WHEREAS, presently Blind Rehabilitation Service, ACVREP, and social workers follow no national standard for minimum technical knowledge; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges that the VA Blind Rehabilitation Service ensure that all personnel involved with the assessment and training of blind and visually impaired veterans receive regular training in the form of continuing education credits, or achieve independent certification on technological solutions and adaptive aides.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 181**

### **PROVIDE EASY AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

WHEREAS, because of service-connected disabilities, many disabled veterans face mobility challenges when attempting to access Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, VA is currently authorized to transport any person for any purposes to any location in connection with vocational rehabilitation, counseling, and for the purpose of VA examination, treatment, or care; however, transportation programs offered through VA do not meet all the transportation needs of service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Veteran Transportation Program has three components to accomplish its mission to improve the quality of life for veterans by increasing access to health care through integrated and cost-effective transportation solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) is intended to provide veterans with convenient and timely access to transportation services and to overcome barriers to receiving VA health care and services, and in particular to increase transportation options for veterans who need specialized forms of transportation to VA facilities; and

WHEREAS, wide variations in the eligibility for VTS transportation across the VA health care system is not consistent with overcoming barriers to receiving health care provided or purchased by VA to service-connected veterans; and

WHEREAS, the VA Beneficiary Travel program is not available to all service-connected disabled veterans with mobility challenges and confusion among local VA facilities due to vague policies for using special-mode transportation, such as a wheelchair van, is reflected in lower than expected utilization; and

WHEREAS, the VA Highly Rural Transportation Grant program provides grants to assist only veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to VA medical centers and to otherwise assist in providing transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA lacks a consistent and comprehensive transportation policy for all service-connected disabled veterans across all established VA transportation and travel programs, benefits and services; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges the VA to operate an effective and efficient transportation program for all service-connected veterans and to simplify access to transportation benefits and services to receive timely and high quality VA health care, benefits and services.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 198**

### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEALTH CARE CO-PAYMENT COSTS 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, copayments 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 copayments, 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service connected disabled veterans.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 199**

### **SUPPORT SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROSTHETICS AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE AND TIMELY DELIVERY OF PROSTHETIC ITEMS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has operated a nationwide prosthetics and sensory aids program, organized as Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS), for more than a half century; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of veterans need VA's life-changing PSAS care and services, and obtain a variety of items including prosthetic limbs, custom wheelchairs, orthotic items, eyeglasses, hearing aids, a variety of implantable surgical devices and supplies—a need that continues to rise due to the aging of the veteran population and grievous injuries in war veterans, past and present; and

WHEREAS, costs associated with PSAS have more than doubled over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, VA provides care to approximately 42,000 veterans with limb loss, and as of December 2013, the total number of major amputations due to battle injuries in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn was 1,558; and

WHEREAS, in many cases prosthetic items are a truly individualized extension of the body and can impact all aspects of veterans' lives; and

WHEREAS, VA must maintain flexibility in ordering and delivering a variety of state-of-the-art prosthetic aids to meet the unique needs of wounded, ill and injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, PSAS is in the midst of a reformation and reorganization of its procurement policies, procedures and administrative processes, intended to improve its purchasing power and leverage its position in the prosthetic, orthotic and medical device marketplace; and

WHEREAS, changes in procurement practices have negatively affected the timely delivery of prosthetic, orthotic and other items to many veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA should be reducing bureaucratic policies and developing a streamlined, faster and more simplified process for procuring prosthetic items, while ensuring appropriately trained



prosthetic representatives and rehabilitation specialists are available to maintain VA's strong connection between veterans and clinical components of prosthetic care and services; and

WHEREAS, VA must rededicate itself to becoming a leader in prosthetic care by providing cutting-edge services and items to help injured, ill and wounded veterans fully regain mobility and achieve maximum independence in their activities of daily living, and in sports activities such as running, cycling, skiing, rock climbing and other physical exercises if they so choose, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks to ensure PSAS is provided sufficient funding from Congress and the Administration enabling the program to deliver high quality prosthetic items to all enrolled veterans needing such items and the specialized corresponding care and support; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV urges VA to fulfill its goal of maximum recovery and independent living for our highest priority veterans, to adopt procurement policies and other practices that accelerate the timely delivery of, and responsive maintenance and repair of, all prosthetic items and that take fully and fairly into account the unique needs of severely injured and wounded veterans.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 200**

### **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 that 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 the Department of Defense (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 existing gaps in knowledge 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 military 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 201**

### **SUPPORT HUMANE, CONSISTENT PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, pain is one of the most prevalent reasons individuals, including wounded, injured and ill veterans, seek health care; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of veterans suffer from traumatic amputations and other severe injuries incurred during military service, while others suffer from a host of painful organic diseases and disabling conditions; and

WHEREAS, chronic pain is closely linked with depression and other mental health challenges, including suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, over a decade ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established a new national health policy adding pain as the "fifth vital sign" in patients, along with blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2001, VA established and formalized a National Pain Management program for the purpose of promoting greater public awareness, training and educating health professional students, VA providers and their staffs, and veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, millions of veterans enrolled in VA health care have been aided by VA's efforts to better manage pain, while reducing the use of opioids and other drugs in the treatment of chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, VA's pain management program has been emulated in other public and private health care settings nationwide; and

WHEREAS, over the past six years, VA has adopted a patient-centered and holistic approach to delivering health care, in order to maintain and improve the health and quality of life of veterans; and

WHEREAS, in some VA locations, patients with chronic pain who have been prescribed pain medication over long periods have been denied further access to prescriptions for pain; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities and all prescribers are subject to the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, as amended; and

WHEREAS, due to the effects of the Controlled Substances Act, as amended, some veterans have had their pain medication prescriptions managed in such a way that creates great anxiety and sometimes produces ill effects of withdrawal because of the Act's 30-day limit on Schedule II drug prescriptions, and VA prescribing policies and practices that may fail to re-supply them on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, pain management programs should be concerned uppermost about both patient safety and humane treatment to reduce pain and its underlying causes, with or without narcotics; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate psychological counseling and transition to suitable alternatives to controlled substances, including Schedule II controlled medications, veterans can suffer physical and mental anguish needlessly and thereby are not receiving patient-centered, holistic care; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada August 9-12, 2014, urges VA to redouble its efforts to conduct a uniform national pain management program, to ensure that veterans with chronic pain who have used prescribed pain medications over long histories are managed in a patient-centered environment, with balanced regard for both patient safety and humane alternatives to the use of controlled substances, and while under VA care receive their prescribed medications in a timely fashion; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages VA at all levels to monitor local pain management efforts and resolve any conflicts between the effects of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 and VA prescribing policies and procedures, to ensure they are compliant with VA's national pain management policy and guidelines, and consistent with the intent of this resolution.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 202**  
**SUPPORT ENHANCED TREATMENT**  
**FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA**

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Department of Defense's Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) annual report on sexual assault in the military showed that that 5,061 reports of sexual assault involving one or more service members as either the victim or alleged suspect were received across the military services, a 50 percent increase from the 3,374 reports in FY 2012; and

WHEREAS, SAPRO estimates that approximately 89 percent of all sexual assaults go unreported, approximating 26,000 sexual assaults each year in the military services; and

WHEREAS, the continued prevalence of sexual assault in the military is alarming and often results in lingering physical, emotional or chronic psychological symptoms in assault victims; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 percent of women and over 1 percent of men enrolled in the VA health care system report they had experienced military sexual trauma (MST); and

WHEREAS, MST-related outpatient treatment encounters total nearly 900,000 each year in the VA; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides specialized residential and outpatient counseling programs and evidence-based treatments for MST survivors; and

WHEREAS, based on VA clinical determinations, some veterans are referred to VA medical facilities other than their local facilities or closest Veterans Integrated Service Network to receive the specialized care they need; and

WHEREAS, VA's current policy in beneficiary travel permits reimbursement to a veteran only from a veteran's home of record to the nearest VA facility by road mileage, whether or not that facility possesses the expertise needed for a particular type of care, including inpatient and residential treatment for MST-related needs; and

WHEREAS, if a VA clinician determines an MST survivor needs specialized care from a VA MST inpatient facility, VA's beneficiary travel policy may serve to obstruct access to that resource, or force an MST survivor to self-pay all travel costs in order to gain access to these specialized services; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based treatment practices known to successfully treat veterans with MST-related mental health conditions are available but not systemically used by all providers treating these patients ; and

WHEREAS, although VA offers MST-related training, and has produced clinical practice guidelines and formulated evidence-based treatments, VA does not mandate that its mental health providers who treat MST survivors complete specialized training or undergo a certification process to ensure they are qualified to treat such patients; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014 calls on VA to ensure all MST survivors gain open access to the specialized treatment programs and services they need to fully recover from sexual trauma that occurred in military service; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to change beneficiary travel policies to meet the specialized clinical needs of veterans receiving MST-related treatment; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV urges VA to continually improve its MST treatment programs, ensure dissemination of MST evidence-based clinical practice guidelines throughout the VA health care system, and develop a formal mandatory certification process for mental health providers who treat MST survivors.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 203**  
**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 the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) serves less than half of the homeless veteran population, making the over 2,100

community-based homeless programs necessary to fill the gaps as they collaborate with federal, state, and local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, other federal, state, and local public agencies—notably housing agencies and health departments—need to improve coordination with VA to address affordable housing, health-care, and supportive services needs of these vulnerable veterans; and

WHEREAS, with greater numbers of women serving in military deployments, and with women veterans being more likely to have experienced sexual assault than women in the general population, and who are more likely than male veterans to be single parents, new and more comprehensive housing and child care services are needed; and

WHEREAS, more than 240,000 veterans who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness in 2012 were served by VA; a 21 percent increase since 2011, in part reflecting the increased capacity of the VA homeless assistance 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 the 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 after the VA Secretary's November 2009 plan to end homelessness in five years was announced, which 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges Congress to sustain sufficient funding to continue to support VA's five-year initiative to eliminate homelessness among veterans and strengthen the capacity of the VA Homeless Veterans program to include: increasing its mental health and substance-use disorder programs' capacity, providing vision and dental care services to homeless veterans as required by law, incorporating child care for veterans in homeless programs where possible, and improving 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 204**  
**SUPPORT PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL 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, underemployment 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish appropriate 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, when appropriate, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 205**

### **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 VA 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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...

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 206**

### **SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, to restore the wounds and injuries, to maintain the health of veterans of prior conflicts, and to develop new treatments for veterans wounded and injured in today's and future conflicts, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program provides a vital service and investment for veterans; and

WHEREAS, funded VA researchers are studying injuries and illnesses emanating from war, such as traumatic brain injury, burns, paralysis and amputations, and illnesses and diseases that disproportionately appear in the wartime veteran population, such as toxic environmental exposures, numerous organic illnesses, and post-traumatic stress disorder and other associated mental health sequelae of war; and

WHEREAS, VA researchers have been recognized by multiple awards of Nobel Prizes, Lasker Awards (the "American Nobel Prize"), and many other public and private emblems of achievement, for elevating the standards of health care not only for wounded and injured veterans but for people all around the world, including publication of tens of thousands of research developments in peer-reviewed medical literature; and

WHEREAS, VA researchers contribute directly to the health of veterans by serving as clinical providers in VA health care facilities, and carry out important faculty and attending duties to sustain VA's affiliations with the nation's schools of health professions, thereby elevating the standards of health care for all; and

WHEREAS, VA research is conducted only after rigorous scientific peer review, supervised by institutional review boards, and only in conformance with the Common Rule and other ethical and humanitarian constraints to ensure informed consent and safety of all research volunteers, and the efficacy of approved research projects; and

WHEREAS, VA's clinician-scientists in VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, who constitute the world's foremost scientists working in this field, invent and adapt specialized prosthetic, orthotic and other appliances, supports and treatments, using numerous groundbreaking technologies, to improve the lives of countless numbers of severely disabled veterans, including many members of DAV; and

WHEREAS, the annual VA Medical and Prosthetic Research appropriation constitutes less than one-tenth of one percent of VA's health care budget, but research funding has been subjected to proposed reductions, and its annual appropriation fails even to account for uncontrollable research inflation; and

WHEREAS, an independent report to VA and Congress has identified almost \$800 million in repairs, restorations and replacements that are needed for VA's research laboratories, some of which involve life and safety risks for VA employees and veteran volunteers, but neither VA nor Congress has provided designated funding to address these needs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, strongly supports VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program as a vital investment in the future affecting wounded, injured and ill veterans, and urges VA and Congress to adequately fund this program (including its infrastructure deficits) so that it may continue its remarkable traditions in helping veterans recover and rehabilitate, to improve the quality of their lives.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 207**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 208**

### **OPPOSE RECOVERY OF THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES**

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 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 by veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes any legislation that would require VA to recover third-party payments for the care and treatment of a veteran's service-connected disabilities.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 209**

### **ENHANCE LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, historically the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) occupied a leadership position in fostering many long-term services and supports (LTSS) 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 LTSS settings; and

WHEREAS, there is also a subset of service-connected veterans with chronic and terminal illnesses who need LTSS and will need institutional placements; and

WHEREAS, the number of veterans seeking LTSS has 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 LTSS 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 LTSS; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Public Law 106-117, significantly enhanced VA's non-institutional LTSS 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 LTSS to any veteran for a service-connected disability and to any veteran who is service connected 70 percent or greater; and

WHEREAS, unresolved LTSS 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 LTSS, thereby relegating LTSS to a "second tier" of health care service and expectations within the VA system; and

WHEREAS, the success of non-institutional and home-based LTSS is critically dependent on the ability of veterans' caregivers, whether they be family or friends, to assist in their care; and

WHEREAS, VA LTSS, especially home and community-based programs, are not uniformly available in all VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the present state of VA's LTSS 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 LTSS may avail themselves of State home facilities to consider all options for their provision; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to expand the comprehensive program of LTSS for service-connected disabled veterans irrespective of their disability ratings, and urges VA, in conjunction with key stakeholders, including other federal agencies and the States, to develop a strategic LTSS plan to invigorate and re-engineer VA-operated, purchased, and subsidized LTSS.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 210**

### **URGE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO ASSURE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE SUFFICIENT, TIMELY AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, DAV believes that wounded, injured and ill 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 of 2009, a law that requires advance appropriations for VA's three medical care accounts that fund VA's health care programs; and

WHEREAS, VA's leadership, employees, and veterans served by VA health care facilities have universally reported that advance appropriations have allowed VA to more efficiently and effectively deliver timely, quality health care to enrolled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 111-81 required GAO to study and report to Congress and the public on VA's budget submissions in fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2013, including an evaluation of VA's budget estimates compared to the forecasts made by VA's internal actuarial model; and

WHEREAS, in the first two years, GAO reported significant findings of unjustified, questionable changes VA made during the internal budget development process; 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, continues to call on Congress and VA to fully and faithfully implement Public Law 111-81, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports legislation to permanently extend the GAO study and reporting requirements that were included in the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 211**

### **SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR COMMITMENTS TO SERVE VETERANS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS 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 the Department of Veterans Affairs' (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 see 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 wounded, injured and ill veterans; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of VA 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 212**

### **SUPPORT REPEAL OF BENEFICIARY TRAVEL ALLOWANCE 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 reimburse transportation expenses for certain service-connected veterans for VA examination, medical treatment, or care; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 110-387 required VA to permanently reduce to \$3.00 the applicable 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 currently receive a flat rate of 41.5 cents per mile for all transportation effective November 17, 2008; and

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans eligible for beneficiary transportation reimbursements should not be required 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 VA facilities for covered purposes; and

WHEREAS, after analyzing and adopting the findings of an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) report on operating costs 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 by a federal employee is 55 cents per mile; and

WHEREAS, VA continues to maintain that increasing veterans' beneficiary travel reimbursement 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 need 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 access until their needs may become critical, resulting in higher health care costs and poorer health outcomes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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 DAV urges VA to make provision 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 213**

### **SUPPORT FULL FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR POLYTRAUMA UNITS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Polytrauma System of Care (PSC) is the largest integrated system of care dedicated to the medical and rehabilitation needs of veterans and service members with combat and non-combat related traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and polytrauma; and

WHEREAS, catastrophically injured veterans are treated at five Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) located in Tampa, Richmond, Minneapolis, San Antonio and Palo Alto, for intensive care and long-term restoration and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, 23 specialized rehabilitation programs offering continued medical care and rehabilitation, designated as polytrauma network sites (PNS) in each VISN, are located in Boston, San Juan, Syracuse, Bronx, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Augusta, Lexington, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Hines, St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, Tucson, Denver, Seattle, and West Los Angeles, as well as being co-located within the PRCs in Richmond, Tampa, Minneapolis, Palo Alto, and San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, veterans spend long periods at PRCs recovering from their injuries and receiving patient-centered care in these specialized polytrauma centers and polytrauma network sites; and

WHEREAS, this specialized care is extraordinarily expensive and complex, often addressing complications from multiple amputations, TBI, burns, multiple shell fragment wounds, and other catastrophic injuries; and

WHEREAS, since VA's current nursing home capacity is primarily designed to serve elderly veterans, VA must make every effort to create an age-appropriate environment for younger veterans that recognizes their different psychosocial needs; and

WHEREAS, having the support of their families and friends is an integral part of these veterans' treatment and recovery process; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 214**

### **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 DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DoD or the VA health care systems.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 215**

### **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 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 over 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 therefore should be empowered by Congress to award grants from designated rural appropriations to selected providers in those circumstances where providing direct VA care is impracticable; 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, fully supports the right of rural veterans to be served by VA, including through rural health grants in certain circumstances, 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; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 216**

### **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 non-service-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 non-service-connected disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability, or any condition of a veteran whose disability rating is 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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 DAV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 217**

### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to make the CHAMPVA program more comprehensive, including dental and vision care, institutional and home-based long-term care, and eliminate the co-payments beneficiaries are required to pay out of pocket and 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 DAV supports the CITI program and urges VA Medical Center directors to make that program available to CHAMPVA beneficiaries when resources are available.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 218**

### **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 is a major health problem for many Americans, including 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 of the respondents 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, veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) are at risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and a wide array of other medical and psychological conditions, which may be associated with veterans' increased use of substances; and

WHEREAS, a study of VA health care users shows that more than 11 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans have been diagnosed with an alcohol use disorder, a drug use disorder, or both, and VA data show that almost 22 percent of OEF/OIF/OND veterans with PTSD also have a substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, VA offers few integrated treatment programs that would work to address both the substance use disorder and co-occurring 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 that ranges from detoxification to rehabilitation in order to effectively treat substance use disorders; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 219**

### **REQUIRE A VETERAN'S ATTENDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) PHYSICIAN TO PROVIDE A MEDICAL OPINION WITH REGARD TO A CLAIM FOR VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, section 5103A of title 38, United States Code, requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist a veteran by providing a medical examination and opinion when necessary to make a decision on a claim for disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, section 17.38 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, requires Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care providers, under specified circumstances, to provide statements and medical opinions on conditions, employability and degree of disability; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook 1605.1 provides that veterans may request written statements from VHA health care providers regarding their medical conditions, and medical opinions for submission in support of their claims for VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, according to this Handbook, when a VA health care provider is the individual's attending physician, but chooses not to provide an opinion or statement, such physician must refer the veteran's request to another health care provider to obtain the opinion or statement; and

WHEREAS, VHA Directive 2008-071 reversed and vacated the Handbook policy; and

WHEREAS, this directive only requires a statement of current medical status and holds that 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, Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs) are designed for easy use and provide a format for documenting medical evidence that aids Veterans Benefits Administration rating specialists in making decisions on claims; and

WHEREAS, VA works to become a provider of choice for enrolled veterans through a comprehensive medical benefits package; and

WHEREAS, through education, training, and experience, VA physicians gain special insight into the veterans' experience and specialized knowledge of the diseases and disabilities common to military service; and

WHEREAS, when VA physicians refuse to provide statements or opinions for veteran patients, those denials are inconsistent with the goal of the VHA to provide comprehensive care and place a serious burden on veterans who may not be able to afford a private medical opinion; and

WHEREAS, while VHA Directive 2013-002 permits VHA clinicians to complete DBQs on behalf of veterans, the Directive also refers to VHA Directive 2008-071, and thus may defeat the purpose of using DBQs for opinions within VA; and

WHEREAS, given these conflicting policies, VA lacks a consistent approach to providing supportive opinions to aid veterans in presenting their disability claims; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges VA to develop and implement a consistent policy requiring VA health care practitioners to provide medical statements or opinions when requested by veterans in conjunction with claims for VA benefits.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 220**

### **SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ENROLLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of DAV 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 DAV 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 quality primary care and gender-specific services necessary to meet the needs of a growing population of women veterans;
- Provide all supplies, prosthetic devices, and medications, including 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes certainty to clearly defined VA health care services for enrolled veterans.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 221**

### **SUPPORT CONSISTENT REASONABLE ACCESS FOR POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES**

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans face daily challenges with mobility as a result of their military service; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mobility, circulatory, respiratory, or neurological disabilities use many kinds of devices for mobility; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of power-driven mobility devices that assist individuals with mobility and the individual's access to public places is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended in 2010; and

WHEREAS, said regulations allowing access with wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices are not widely known and can present difficulties for individuals seeking access to public areas; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy is not clear on whether or not it permits power-driven mobility devices in its facilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DAV in National Convention, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges that VA carry out its policies to permit reasonable access to VA facilities by veterans using a power-driven mobility device consistently throughout the system,

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 222**

### **REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICATION CO-PAYMENTS EQUAL TO, OR LESS THAN, THE LOWEST CHARGED BY PRIVATE SECTOR COMMERCIAL OUTLETS**

WHEREAS, DAV 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 half of VA’s current charges; 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 (VCS) 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 VCS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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, in the case of over-the-counter medications, Congress should prohibit VA from charging medication copayments that exceed the retail cost of these drugs sold in VCS retail stores.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 223**

### **ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES FOR THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARD PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, 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 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, DAV solicits every VA Voluntary Service Program Manager to nominate one deserving member of 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 DAV in the National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service Program Manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving member of 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 224**

### **ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES FOR THE JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, DAV created the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program 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 scholarship program will award a total of \$75,000 in 2014 to eight 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, 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 DAV in the National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 232**

### **EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 93RD DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended by VA medical personnel to the delegates and guests of the 93rd 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 immediate 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; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 93rd 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 9-12, 2014, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 93rd National Convention and for contributing to the overall success of this Convention.

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COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Kirk. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Chapter 73, second.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You heard the motion. In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to be read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? So ordered. Thank you, Kirk.

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: You're welcome.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We will now try the Constitution and Bylaws. Third time is a charm.

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: I didn't realize I was so popular. (Laughter) Comrade Commander and delegates, I will now proceed with the second reading of the proposed change to the Constitution and Bylaws, which is recommended for adoption. In the interest of time, again, I will read only the number and the purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 182, amend Article XVI, Section 16.3, Subsection A, to read as follows:

"Suspension shall remove the member from membership and/or from any office held by him or her for not more than five years."

Comrade Commander, on behalf of the Committee I move that the Committee recommendation be accepted and that the resolution be adopted and the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(Whereupon, the above-referenced resolution follows:)

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COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Brad. You have heard the motion. Do I hear a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: California, Chapter 73, second the motion.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; all opposed? So ordered.

Thank you, Brad.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I would now like to call upon Chairman Michael Vandrovec for the report on the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL VANDROVEC: Thank you, Commander. Good morning, delegates.

(Response of "Good morning.")

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VANDROVEC: The National Convention Committee on General Resolutions and Membership was called to order on August 9th, 2014, by the Committee Advisors Paul Varela and Chad Moos.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention chairperson and secretary. Michael Vandrovec, Chapter 1, North Dakota, District 14, was elected chairman. Sheila Sanders, Chapter 1, District 7, Florida, was secretary.

The Committee then proceeded to review resolutions submitted. I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption for this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions. Number 27, support adequate funding for all VA programs; Number 28, encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and vote; Number 97, extend military commissary and exchange privileges and space-available air traffic to 30 percent or higher service-connected disabled veterans separated from service prior to October 1949; Number 98, seek immediate release of Americans who may still be held captive following World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, (indistinguishable) any remains of Americans who died during these wars; Number 99, oppose any authorization to the use of armed forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent; Number 100, support joint POW and MIA accounting command; Number 101; condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States; Number 103, support construction of courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims; Number 104, support construction of a memorial to commemorate the sacrifice of American disabled veterans; Number 194, extend space-available air traffic aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans; support POW – Number 196, support former POW slave labor claims against Japanese firms; Number 197, support the move to renew prisoner-of-war/missing-in-action discussions; I skipped 195? Sorry. 195, extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents; 197, support move to renew prisoner-of-war/missing-in-action discussions; 229, appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 93rd National Convention; Number 230, appreciation to Bally's Hotel for the success of the 93rd National Convention; Number 231, appreciation to National Commander Johnston W. Johnston. And according to tradition I will read the Resolution Number 231, Appreciation to National Commander Johnston, in its entirety. Resolution 231, Expression of Appreciation to National Commander Joseph Johnston:

"WHEREAS, DAV National Commander Joseph 'Ranger Joe' Johnston, of Williamsburg, Ohio, served this nation with distinction, first as an enlisted service member of the U.S. Army in 1966, then ascended to the officer ranks, attaining the rank of Colonel before his retirement in 1992; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Johnston served his military career as an Army Ranger, Paratrooper, which his service includes member of the 101 Airborne Division, 1st Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Infantry Division, and 82nd Airborne Division, 7 U.S. Corps and Joint Chiefs of Staffs; served both in Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars; and

"WHEREAS, despite being severely disabled due to service-connected disabilities Commander Johnston presided, making significant contributions to his fellow wounded, injured and ill veterans, not only leveraging his military experience but also his private sector experience of 20 years in management and finance;

"WHEREAS, he earned a master's degree in business and executive management from Central University and the Army's Command and General Staff College; during the past 15 years he has been the 'go-to' person for fiscal and operational management of Greater Cincinnati Behavior Health, the largest social service organization in the Cincinnati, Tri-State Metropolitan area;

"WHEREAS, served as Chief of Operations Officer; and

"WHEREAS, in 2011 was recognized with the Second Act Award, an award to recognize Cincinnati business professionals who have taken new paths after leaving their first successful careers; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Johnston, a life member of DAV Chapter 73 of Williamsburg, Ohio, held nearly every position within that state and was recognized by the State of Ohio as an inductee into their own Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2007;

"WHEREAS, our members unanimously elected him to our organization's highest office, National Commander, at our 2013 National Convention in Orlando, Florida;

"WHEREAS, he has brought to his office warmth, integrity, conduct worthy of emulation, encouraging the stature of the office of National Commander;

"WHEREAS, our members hold special, deep respect, admiration and affection for Commander Johnston, desire to convey to him our heartfelt gratitude for his valuable assistance to disabled veterans, his ongoing support to our organization, and his impeccable execution of duties as the National Commander;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the DAV National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9 through the 12th, 2014, express its members heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Johnston for his sacrifices, selfless service, professionalism, and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans and the families of the disabled American veterans; and

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the DAV also salutes and extends our sincere appreciation to Commander Johnston's wife, Vicki Lynn, and family for their steadfast support and sacrifices during this year as the DAV National Commander."

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions and Membership. On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 027**

#### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 028**

#### **ENCOURAGE ALL DISABLED VETERANS TO BECOME REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTE**

WHEREAS, members of DAV 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 DAV 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 DAV Departments, Chapters, and members are encouraged to ensure that all veterans and their family members are able to get to polling locations to vote.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 097**

#### **EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, disabled active duty 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 098**

#### **SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, THE VIETNAM WAR, THE PERSIAN GULF WAR, AND OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO DIED DURING THESE WARS**

WHEREAS, the members of DAV 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 73,000 unaccounted for following World War II, some 7,500 from the Korean War, over 1,600 in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War, two from the Persian Gulf War and two from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, who have not been forgotten; and

WHEREAS, DAV 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, DAV 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, urges the United States 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 SRV 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.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 099**

### **OPPOSE ANY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMED CONSENT**

WHEREAS, those who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces make personal sacrifices to maintain our national security; and

WHEREAS, members of the Armed Forces should be accorded special respect and the gratitude of us for whom they serve; and

WHEREAS, their willingness to sacrifice and relinquish their liberty does not surrender their natural right to determine what shall be done with their own bodies and their right to personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, it is unethical and a trespass against the person to use service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and consent; and

WHEREAS, our Government has in the past used military members as human guinea pigs to test the effects of harmful and injurious substances on the body; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 100**

### **SUPPORT FOR JOINT PRISONER-OF-WAR/MISSING- IN-ACTION ACCOUNTING COMMAND**

WHEREAS, members of DAV have long been deeply committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting for United States personnel still held captive, missing and unaccounted for from all of our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, personnel and funding for the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (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 United States 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 United States Navy vessels for underwater operations; and

WHEREAS, the United States 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, remains steadfast in its commitment to the goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all United States 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 JPAC, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification 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 JPAC, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory to enable reaching the identification goals set forth in the Defense Authorization Bill.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 101**  
**CONDEMN PUBLIC DESECRATION OF**  
**THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, the United States 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, goes on record as condemning any individual or group who shall at any time publicly and willfully desecrate the flag of the United States.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 103**  
**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 DAV in Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 104**  
**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, DAV 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 DAV; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 194**

#### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 195**

#### **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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 196**

#### **SUPPORT FORMER PRISONER-OF-WAR SLAVE LABOR CLAIMS AGAINST JAPANESE FIRMS**

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the Government of Japan through its Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki offered an official apology to American POWs for their abuse, misuse, pain, and suffering caused by Imperial Japan; and



WHEREAS, in September 2010, the Government of Japan reinforced its apology by initiating a visitation program for former POWs to visit Japan, to return to the sites of their imprisonment, and to receive the apology directly from senior Japanese government officials; and

WHEREAS, the United States owes much to these soldiers, sailors, Marines, and air men, the majority of whom fought in the early heroic battles of World War II in the Philippines, on Wake Island, Guam, Java, and in the Sunda Strait; and

WHEREAS, the American POWs of Imperial Japan were forced into slave labor throughout the Japanese Empire in the most unjust, brutal, and inhumane conditions; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports and commends the efforts of the American POWs of Japan to reclaim their dignity and attain full justice from the Government of Japan and those Japanese private companies that enslaved them; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV insists the Government of Japan provide and publicize an official transcript in English and Japanese of the Government's 2009 apology to the American POWs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV insists Congress and the Administration work with all parties involved to ensure the continuation of the POW visitation program to Japan, that it be expanded to include family members and descendants, and funds be provided for a dedicated program of research, documentation, exchange, and education; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DAV works with all parties involved in persuading the private Japanese companies that benefited from POW slave labor during WWII, especially those companies now doing business in the United States, to follow the Japanese government's lead in acknowledging their use and abuse of American POW labor and join with the Japanese government to create a fund for remembrance, research, documentation, exchange, and education on the POW experience in the Pacific and its lessons for war and peace.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 197**

### **SUPPORT MOVE TO RENEW PRISONER-OF-WAR/MISSING IN ACTION DISCUSSIONS**

WHEREAS, DAV 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, DAV 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 on a humanitarian basis with Prisoner of War/Missing in Action accounting cooperation; and

WHEREAS, DAV also recognizes the lead time required between renewing bilateral discussions and restoring actual operations; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, supports renewing direct bilateral humanitarian talks with the DPRK regime for the purpose of restoring agreements and processes required to account as fully as possible for unreturned Korean War veterans.

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 229**

### **APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the success of the 93rd DAV National Convention convened in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, depends on the total cooperation, collaboration 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, Mr. Richard Walker; 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 DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, 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 Orlando, Florida, 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 Richard Walker, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 230**

#### **APPRECIATION TO BALLY'S HOTEL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 93RD NATIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the excellent service and ambience of the Bally's Hotel contributed greatly to the success of the 93rd 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 93rd 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 9-12, 2014, expresses its deepest appreciation for the Bally's Hotel and to its entire staff for their friendly, personalized attention which helped make the 93rd National Convention a resounding success.

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### **RESOLUTION NO. 231**

#### **EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH JOHNSTON**

WHEREAS, DAV National Commander Joseph "Ranger Joe" Johnston, of Williamsburg, Ohio, served our nation with distinction, first as an enlisted service member of the U.S. Army in 1966, then ascended through the officer ranks, attaining the rank of Colonel before his retirement in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Commander Johnston served his military career as an Army Ranger and paratrooper, which included service as a member of the 101st Airborne Division, 1st Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 2d Infantry Division, 82d Airborne Division, 7th U.S. Corps and Joint Chiefs of Staff and served in both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars; and

WHEREAS, despite being severely disabled due to service connected disabilities, Commander Johnston persisted, making significant contributions to his fellow wounded, injured and ill veterans by not only leveraging his military experience, but also his private sector experience of 20 years in management and finance; and

WHEREAS, he earned a Master's degree in Business and Executive Management from Central Michigan University and the Army's Command and General Staff College, and during the past 15 years has been the go-to person for the fiscal and operational management of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, the largest social service organization in the Cincinnati tri-state metropolitan area, where served as Chief Operations Officer; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, he was recognized with a Second Act Award, an award to recognize Cincinnati business professionals who have taken new paths after leaving their successful first careers; and

WHEREAS, Commander Johnston, a life member of DAV Chapter 63 in Williamsburg, Ohio, held nearly every position within the State and was recognized by the State of Ohio as an inductee into their own Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007; and

WHEREAS, our members unanimously elected him to our organization's highest office, National Commander, at our 2013 National Convention in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, he brought to this esteemed office warmth, integrity, and conduct worthy of emulation, enhancing the stature of the office of National Commander; and

WHEREAS, our members hold especially deep respect, admiration, and affection for Commander Johnston and desire to convey to him their heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable assistance to disabled veterans, his obliging support to our organization, and his impeccable execution of the duties of National Commander; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 9-12, 2014, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Johnston for his sacrifices, selfless service, professionalism and dedication to his fellow wounded, ill and injured veterans, their families and the DAV; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV also salutes and extends our sincerest appreciation to Commander Johnston's wife Vicki Lynn and their family, for their steadfast support and sacrifices during his year as DAV's National Commander.

\* \* \*

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. THOMAS DEMPSTER: Thomas Dempster, Chapter 114, Department of Michigan, seconds the motion to accept the –

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish read?

MR. PARSETICH: Comrade Commander, Mic 1.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 1.

MR. PARSETICH: Joe Parsetich, Commander for the Department of Montana, Chapter 2, would request that Resolution Number 64 be read in its entirety.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We will do that now.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VANDROVEC: Resolution Number 64, Department of Montana DAV Resolution 2014-1, counts America's military veterans in a national census.

"WHEREAS, to support its veterans, VA must know how many veterans it has;

"WHEREAS, the U.S. now has three generations of veterans covering about a 75-year age span, Number I and World War II veterans/Korean to Vietnam/Persian War Gulf – Persian Gulf War, three, Iraq/Afghanistan;

"WHEREAS, U.S. women veterans' population increases;

"WHEREAS, U.S. Constitution requires accounting America's population every ten years;

"WHEREAS, the Census Bureau in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget can presently ask a wide variety of questions on the census;

"WHEREAS, 1930, the year 1930 federal census was the last census in which the Census Bureau went door-to-door to count veterans of every household or dwelling it could find;

"WHEREAS, beginning in 1940 census the Census Bureau used sample sizing to count veterans on the census long form, sent to about 17 percent of American households; short form sent to the remainder of households, if not then or presently does not include veteran status information;

"WHEREAS, beginning 2005 Census Bureau used American community survey to send to only 295,000 households annually to estimate veterans' population;

"WHEREAS, Department of Defense begins tabulating military discharges in mid-1970s;

"WHEREAS, the Department of Veteran Affairs, VA, provides care and services for veterans;

"WHEREAS, VA business services on veterans' population within the geographical areas may historically undercount in sparsely populated rural areas;

"WHEREAS, VA national census on veterans' analysis and statistics does not physically count veterans but gathers credible data where it can, using statistic modeling and actuary science to estimate U.S. military veterans' population;

"WHEREAS, VA's Year 2014/2020 Strategic Plan only estimates veterans' populations;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Department of Montana DAV at Convention assembled in Billings, Montana, the 5th through the 7th of June, 2014, seeks federal legislation to include counting American military veterans on the Census Bureau short and long forms for Year 2020 national census and all census thereafter.

"Signed by Joel Barashki Commander."

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye; opposed? So moved.

The General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award is presented to the Department that closes the year with the largest increase in new members. This year's award recipient has taken this trophy home for the past six consecutive years. The Department of Texas takes top honors. (Applause) Commander

Timothy M. Lindsey, Department of Texas, will receive this award on behalf of his state's great continued efforts.

(Whereupon, Commander Lindsey advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER TIMOTHY W. LINDSEY: Comrades, every day you are asked to do the difficult things, to service to our veterans. And every day, as U.S. veterans, you always deliver the impossible. So God bless you. God bless Texas. And God bless the DAV. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the Department that completes the year with the highest full percentage of fully-paid life members over goal. This year's winner is the Department of Nebraska, represented by Department Commander Roger Franklin. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Franklin advanced to the podium to accept the award, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

COMMANDER ROGER FRANKLIN: On behalf of the Department of Nebraska, Past Commander Virgil Hagel, thank you for all your hard work and I'm proud to accept this award. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Past National Commander Dick Marbes has long been a champion for his fellow veterans and their families. And the DAV Charitable Service Trust is fortunate to have him serving as Chairman.

In 1955, the Wisconsin native enlisted in the United States Air Force and served as an airborne radio operator. While assigned to medical evacuation and troop carrier squadrons in France and Germany Dick was himself evacuated to the United States following an injury that resulted in the amputation of his leg. He was subsequently retired due to service-connected disability in 1958.

Dick is a life member and Chapter Service Officer for Chapter 3 in Green Bay. He has held the most appointed and elected positions within that Chapter, including Chapter Commander. In 1978, Mr. Marbes' fellow Wisconsin veterans honored his service to veterans, naming him Wisconsin Disabled Veteran of the Year.

In 1987, after many years in the printing industry, Dick decided to pursue his passion for helping ill and injured veterans full-time. Since then he has served in many capacities at the Chapter, Department and National level, including serving as the DAV National Commander from 1993 to 1994.

Dick remains steadfast in his commitment to veterans and serves as a role model for America's ill and injured heroes beginning the road to recover. Sisters and brothers, please join me in welcoming the Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust, Dick Marbes. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you, Commander Johnston for that kind introduction. And let me also extend the DAV Charitable Service Trust's gratitude to National Adjutant Burgess, our National Officers, and delegates and our guests.

As chairperson, let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They are Vice Chairman Marc Burgess from Kentucky, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum of Florida, and our Directors: National Commander Joe Johnston of Ohio; 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.

A lot has happened since I stood before you at last year's Convention. A partial government shutdown threatened veterans' benefits and funding of the VA. A systematic crisis of access within the VA then threatened care for veterans in Phoenix and beyond. And, undoubtedly, the past year has been a difficult one for veterans as many lost hope in the system that promised to protect them.

Veterans need support now more than ever. And the Trust has remained steadfast in its commitment to our nation's heroes, filling the gaps in crucial services that help veterans who need it most. Where others step back, the Trust stepped up.

The Trust complements DAV's services to veterans by funding programs that are essential to assisting the men and women who served on their road to recovery. These are programs that fall beyond the scope of VA but provide important services to ill and injured veterans in need.

But the Trust cannot do this alone. Through the Combined Federal Campaign, other workplace giving programs such as the United Way, corporate matching gift programs, corporations and foundations, bequests and trusts, and individual donors across America, the Trust can fulfill our promises to the men and women who served.

It is through these organizations and individuals who understand the importance of helping veterans on their road to recovery that the Trust is able to help make life-changing services possible.

In 2013, these gifts totaled more than \$8.8 million, allowing the DAV Charitable Service Trust to devote nearly \$6.7 million toward rehabilitative services, crisis outreach, employment assistance, and much more.

For another year, The Trust has illustrated how fiscal responsibility maximizes the impact of our assistance. More than 97 cents out of every dollar the Trust received went directly to programs that support veterans and their families, ensuring that donations went where they were needed the most. (Applause)

This commitment to fiscal accountability resulted in another exciting milestone in 2013. And I am proud to announce that the Trust received a coveted four-star rating for “sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency” by Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest independent charity evaluator. (Applause)

This distinction is one that DAV members and donors, alike, can be proud of. Of the more than 7,000 charities evaluated by Charity Navigator, only 31 percent receive this high rating. (Applause)

Nearly 70 organizations received essential funding for programs that support the men and women who served and their families. And I am excited to tell you about some of these life-changing programs.

DAV Auxiliary’s DAVA 4 Kids provides transportation for children of fallen or injured veterans to Camp Corral, a week-long experience where kids are free to be kids, far away from the day-to-day challenges that they may face because of a parent’s service and sacrifice. The Trust’s donation helps ensure children who face barriers due to the cost of transportation are able to experience this one-of-a-kind summer camp.

The Trust also supports veterans by ensuring DAV is able to provide its renowned claims assistance. The Trust helps fund the sophisticated case management system that communicates within the VA’s electronic claims system, enabling DAV to continue serving hundreds of thousands of veterans and survivors at no cost to them.

Last year the Trust made a grant to the Veterans’ Legal Clinic at Harvard University to fund the hiring of a public interest lawyer dedicated to the various legal problems that disabled veterans face each and every day. We were quite grateful and proud that Harvard Law School, an iconic figure in the legal field, recognized its partnership with DAV by naming the new position the “DAV Charitable Service Trust Law Fellow.”

As DAV’s involvement with Harvard Law School matured, it became evident that the two institutions share many values. Both are committed to absolute excellence in pursuit of their respective missions. Both place a priority on providing service, free service, to ill and injured veterans and their families. And, perhaps just as important, both realize that non-lawyers and lawyers alike have a role to play in empowering veterans to lead fulfilling lives.

It is somewhat ironic that Harvard Law School – arguably the most exclusive law school in the nation – has welcomed DAV, long known for its skepticism about the role of lawyers in the veterans’ community. Harvard has acknowledged our point of view and invited DAV personnel to address the law students.

DAV’s General Counsel has participated in a moot court at Harvard. The DAV-Harvard relationship allows for two venerable institutions working together for the benefit of veterans.

To show our commitment to this valuable partnership, the Board of Directors of the Trust recently voted to provide the core funding for the Veterans’ Legal Clinic for the next four years.

Funding will support direct legal services for veterans in areas outside of services already rendered by DAV and will include representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans’ Claims; assistance with estate planning; discharge upgrade cases; and Massachusetts state benefit appeals claims; and representation on predatory student lending and low income taxpayer issues.

To that end, our total grant to Harvard will be \$1 million. Harvard has assured us of our continued opportunity to make DAV’s philosophy and mission known to Harvard’s law students, students who are bound to play an important role in the institutions that affect veterans for decades to come.

In addition, I am proud to announce that each year Harvard will sponsor on its campus a lecture series called the “DAV Distinguished Speaker Series at Harvard Law School.” The first such lecture will take place this year, appropriately, on Veterans’ Day. We are proud of our relationship with Harvard and know that you are, as well.

Supporting core DAV services is just a small fraction of the programs aided by the Trust. A variety of initiatives and services are assisted in carrying out their missions each year through the Trust.

There are other diverse therapeutic and rehabilitation – rehabilitative initiatives that help ill and injured veterans on the road to recovery. These programs are essential to the transition back to the civilian world, yet fall outside the scope of VA-funded care.

Sports rehabilitation alleviates stress, reduces dependency on pain and depression medication, and increases confidence, which correlates to higher achievement in education and employment. Most importantly, it can provide an overall higher quality of life.

In 2013 the Trust supported Disabled Sports USA Far West in California. This initiative provides rehabilitative sports and camps for service members and veterans who sustained injuries while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Trust recognizes that the benefits of rehabilitative therapy can also help the veterans' biggest supporters – their kids. The Trust's backing of Defending the Blue Line helps fund vouchers that enable children of service members to play hockey in Minnesota.

Animal-assisted therapy – excuse me – another type of rehabilitative treatment, and it has been long heralded as a great asset for ill and injured veterans. Last year the Trust helped fund Patriot PAWS Service Dogs which provides service dogs for ill and injured veterans throughout Texas in need of mobile or emotional assistance at no cost to them.

Helping veterans achieve a higher quality of life through these therapy programs is important for the Trust. However, basic needs and essential care will always remain a focus as well.

Government agencies and nonprofits such as the Trust have made eliminating veteran homelessness a priority and I am happy to say it continues to decline. However, one veteran without a place to call home is one too many. And that is why the Trust continues to support the programs (Applause) – that is why the Trust continues to support programs across the nation that combat this injustice.

In Oregon, Ohio, Texas and Nebraska the Trust supported organizations that aided homeless veterans and their families by providing shelter, medical treatment and social services. One of those great organizations supported by the Trust isn't far from National Headquarters. The Trust helped Cincinnati-based Center for Respite Care, Inc., provide care for homeless veterans that aid them on the path toward self-sufficiency.

Another basic need the Trust helps connect veterans with is nutrition. With support from the Trust, National Relief Charities provided food boxes to veteran elders on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The Trust also supports initiatives that provide medical needs unmet by the VA. One of these great programs is New-View Oklahoma's "Veteran Independence through Adaptive Living Services." The Trust's funding helps support veterans adapting to visual impairments.

In Idaho the Trust helped Boise's Friends in Action, an organization that exemplifies veterans helping veterans. Through support from the Trust Friends in Action provided training and support to service members and veterans serving as volunteer caregivers to fellow veterans.

There is another area that the Trust supports that is equally important to DAV. Both recognize that the journey from injury to recovery is not complete until a veteran is able to find meaning in his or her life. For those who are able, that means getting back to work to care for their families. As the nation winds down from more than a decade of war, thousands are making the transition from military to civilian life.

As you heard earlier in the week, DAV recently created an Employment Department to help combat veteran unemployment. The Trust continues to do its part and support initiatives that help veterans obtain meaningful employment and technical training.

One of those wonderful organizations is Thresholds, which supports Chicago veterans facing the challenges of substance abuse or mental illness through education, job training, and career placement. Talking about these programs is one thing but visualizing what they mean to veterans shows the true value of the Trust.

Since before PTSD was recognized, DAV has led the charge to get invisible injuries the recognition they need so veterans can get the support and care required to cope with life after military service.

Therapy comes in many forms and DAV's Charitable Service Trust has partnered with another organization that helps provide therapy in a truly special way. Please join me as we take a look, a closer look at Guitars for Vets.

(Whereupon, the video "Guitars for Vets" was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the Guitars for Vets' Executive Director Mr. Eric Weinstein and the founder Patrick Nettlestein. (Applause)

MR. ERIC WEINSTEIN: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. WEINSTEIN: My name is Eric Weinstein and I am the national executive director for Guitars for Vets. And on behalf of the 150 volunteer employees Guitars for Vets has and the thousands of

veterans we have worked with over the past couple of years, I want to say “thank you” for inviting us to join you here today and for the generous support the DAV has shown for our mission.

As you saw in the video we just played, Guitars for Vets was born in 2007 and grew out of a relationship between this man, Patrick Nettlestein, and a Vietnam-era Marine named Dan who wanted to learn to play guitar. Now, Dan didn't think he could learn to make music because he struggled daily with the lasting effects of his experience in combat.

But after a very short time a wonderful thing began to happen for Dan. He began experiencing feelings of joy. And, as my esteemed colleague describes it, creating music gave Dan moments of serenity. It gave him a sense of accomplishment. Dan didn't feel as isolated. He began to feel as if he was part of something larger. And felt compelled to share that experience with others.

Our mission today, which is to share the healing power of music, really evolved out of those early experiences between Patrick and Dan. Today our company operates in over 40 chapters in 20 different states. And the structure of our program is very simple.

Each veteran coming to our program receives ten free guitar lessons over the course of ten weeks and at the end of those lessons a brand-new acoustic guitar with all of the accessories one would need to enjoy that instrument. (Applause) Thank you.

Since our founding we have given away over 2,000 guitars. And to put that in perspective, that's equivalent to roughly one guitar for every person in this room and then some. (Applause) Thank you.

Each year we work tirelessly to increase the number of veterans who we are serving through our program. And this year is no different. And, frankly, our ability to advance our mission is limited only by our available resources. And that's why we are honored to participate at events like this that help raise awareness for our company and allow us to talk to folks about how to get involved with Guitars for Vets.

Obviously, financial contributions are always welcome but donations of things like time and old guitars are equally as important.

Let me just leave you with one thought. One old guitar that is probably resigned to living under your bed right now collecting dust could be reborn into a Guitars for Vets practice guitar that offers hope and brings joy to dozens of deserving veterans.

If you want to learn more about Guitars for Vets and what we do, Patrick and I will be out in the exhibit area throughout the day. I thank you again for your time. We appreciate your support and God bless. (Applause)

**CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES:**  
Thank you, Eric. Your presentation gives us a meaningful glimpse of the many powerful ways the DAV Charitable Service Trust is making a difference in the lives of veterans.

There are hundreds of organizations that are doing an excellent job of serving our veterans every day. There are so many more that the Trust would love to support. But that is not possible without your help.

Simply suggesting the Trust as a deserving beneficiary for gifts through United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns is one critical way you can be an ambassador for fellow veterans. Shopping from AmazonSmile.com and selecting the Trust as your beneficiary is an effortless way to make a big difference while shopping online.

Before I close, let me reiterate that our work is far from over and that the active role you play in communicating the message of the DAV Charitable Service Trust is urgent.

As I end my report, I thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our brothers and sisters who sacrificed in our defense.

And let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the administrator of the Trust Bridgette Shaffer, and her very dedicated and hard-working staff back at the National Headquarters for all they do to allow our Board of Directors to complete our mission.

On behalf of the Trust and its beneficiaries I salute your devoted partnership and thank you for standing up for veterans.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to make this presentation and to recognize the outstanding services and support provided by the Trust's grant recipients. This concludes my report. Thank you all very much. (Applause)

# Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the Years  
Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, 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 financial statements of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

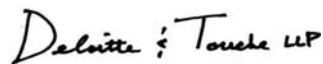
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 7, 2014

## DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013	2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,806,648	\$ 435,191
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	52,688	19,864
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	22	250,000
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE — Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$403,005 in 2013 and \$443,270 in 2012	356,681	353,202
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	27,324	13,930
INVESTMENTS — Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of \$7,666,341 and \$6,993,417 in 2013 and 2012, respectively	23,420,279	20,089,853
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS	45,362	
TOTAL	<u>\$25,709,004</u>	<u>\$21,162,040</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable — DAV	\$ 174,036	\$ 211,686
Accounts payable — other	3,808	1,104
Annuity payment liability	<u>4,494,138</u>	<u>4,526,630</u>
Total liabilities	4,671,982	4,739,420
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>21,037,022</u>	<u>16,422,620</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$25,709,004</u>	<u>\$21,162,040</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST**

## **STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>		
Contributions — net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$447,638 in 2013 and \$440,387 in 2012	\$ 3,785,810	\$ 3,830,605
Contributions of charitable gift annuities — net	233,932	184,066
Bequests	4,807,320	812,947
Interest and dividend income — net	266,954	174,502
Gain on sale of investment securities	<u>770,161</u>	<u>486,635</u>
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b><u>9,864,177</u></b>	<b><u>5,488,755</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Program services	6,690,557	4,060,894
Management and general	81,612	77,487
Fundraising	<u>106,108</u>	<u>146,426</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b><u>6,878,277</u></b>	<b><u>4,284,807</u></b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>2,985,900</b>	<b>1,203,948</b>
<b>CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS</b>	<b><u>1,628,502</u></b>	<b><u>369,227</u></b>
<b>CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,614,402</b>	<b>1,573,175</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year</b>	<b><u>16,422,620</u></b>	<b><u>14,849,445</u></b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 21,037,022</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 16,422,620</u></b>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

## STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013			2012				
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:								
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 6,588,833	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,588,833	\$ 3,961,548	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,961,548
Grant proposal processing	48,788			48,788	54,981			54,981
Administrative charges		32,525	80,814	113,339		36,655	109,454	146,109
Travel	2,991	17,417		20,408		15,016		15,016
Advertising	22,117	1,474	5,898	29,489	21,741	1,449	5,798	28,988
Printing, postage and supplies	5,660	5,685	6,003	17,348	5,526	5,526	18,397	29,449
Legal fees			6,840	6,840			6,840	6,840
Professional fees	16,653	16,653		33,306	14,586	14,586		29,172
Project Costs	3,200			3,200				-
Insurance	1,835	1,835		3,670	1,794	1,794		3,588
Other expenses	480	6,023	6,553	13,056	718	2,461	5,937	9,116
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,690,557	\$ 81,612	\$ 106,108	\$ 6,878,277	\$ 4,060,894	\$ 77,487	\$ 146,426	\$ 4,284,807

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013	2012
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 4,614,402	\$ 1,573,175
Noncash contributions	(26,357)	(15,828)
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(1,628,502)	(369,227)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(770,161)	(486,635)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	(32,824)	11,866
Accounts receivable	249,978	(250,000)
Campaigns' pledges receivable	(3,479)	51,883
Prepaid expenses and other	(13,394)	9,575
Accounts payable — DAV and other	(34,946)	(25,100)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,354,717</u>	<u>499,709</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(29,489,844)	(32,590,220)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	28,584,438	31,698,520
Additions to software development in process	(45,362)	
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(950,768)</u>	<u>(891,700)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from contributions reserved for investment subject to annuity agreement	808,423	864,434
Payments to annuitants	(840,915)	(825,073)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>(32,492)</u>	<u>39,361</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,371,457	(352,630)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>435,191</u>	<u>787,821</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 1,806,648</u>	<u>\$ 435,191</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, 2013 AND 2012

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### 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 single purpose of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. To carry out this responsibility, the Trust supports physical and psychological rehabilitation programs; enhances research and mobility for veterans with amputations and spinal cord injuries; benefits aging veterans; aids and shelters homeless veterans; and evaluates and addresses the needs of veterans wounded in recent wars and conflicts and their caregivers.

### 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 October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013, 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 presentation of cash flows.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** — The Trust considers all highly liquid 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 \$3,423 and \$1,925 in 2013 and 2012, 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.

**Accounts Receivable** — In 2012, a receivable for \$250,000 was recorded for a contribution made to the Trust but had not been received until after December 31, 2012.

**Revenue Recognition** — 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. The Trust also evaluates pledges receivable for any amounts to be specifically reserved. Pledges receivable of \$356,681 are expected to be received in 2014. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MFVSOA during 2013 and 2012, 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 \$209,465 and \$205,608 in 2013 and 2012, respectively, for excess income recognized by MFVSOA in 2012 and 2011.

**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 \$26,357 in 2013 and \$15,828 in 2012.

**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 as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) 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, 2013 and 2012, are summarized below:

<b>2013</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 774,368	\$ 774,368	\$ -
U.S. government agency notes	7,504,669	7,460,520	(44,149)
Commercial paper	349,580	349,545	(35)
Corporate bonds	2,961,644	2,875,747	(85,897)
U.S. government securities	1,070,234	1,068,557	(1,677)
Common stocks	6,198,158	8,329,349	2,131,191
Mutual funds	1,703,694	2,562,193	858,499
Total	<u>\$20,562,347</u>	<u>\$23,420,279</u>	<u>\$2,857,932</u>

<b>2012</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,291,254	\$ 1,291,254	\$ -
U.S. government agency notes	5,825,324	5,838,087	12,763
Commercial paper	678,224	678,975	751
U.S. government securities	3,634,568	3,649,881	15,313
Common stocks	5,392,262	6,254,472	862,210
Mutual funds	2,038,791	2,377,184	338,393
Total	<u>\$18,860,423</u>	<u>\$20,089,853</u>	<u>\$1,229,430</u>

Interest and dividend income — net is \$266,954 and \$174,502 for 2013 and 2012, respectively. The year 2013 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$322,445 less \$55,491 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2012 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$229,741 less \$55,239 for investment management and custody fees.

#### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Trust did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2013 or 2012.

The Trust's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no significant transfers during 2013 and 2012.



**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Cash and cash equivalents are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents the Trust's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

U.S. government agency notes and corporate bonds are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Commercial paper, categorized as Level 2, is valued using broker quotes that utilize observable market inputs. Commercial paper represents the Trust's share in an unsecured promissory note, issued by a corporation, with a fixed maturity of less than one year.

U.S. government securities and common stocks held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of the Trust's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, are as follows:

2013 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	\$ 774,368	\$ -	\$ 774,368
U.S. government agency notes		7,460,520	7,460,520
Commercial paper		349,545	349,545
Corporate bonds		2,875,747	2,875,747
U.S. government securities	1,068,557		1,068,557
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	1,225,450		1,225,450
Energy	509,830		509,830
Finance	1,444,480		1,444,480
Healthcare	1,133,216		1,133,216
Industrials	2,229,788		2,229,788
Materials	117,250		117,250
Consumer staples	392,464		392,464
Technology	1,019,576		1,019,576
Telecommunication	257,295		257,295
	<u>8,329,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,329,349</u>
Total common stocks			
	<u>8,329,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,329,349</u>
Mutual funds —			
Domestic equity funds	2,562,193	-	2,562,193
	<u>2,562,193</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,562,193</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 12,734,467</u>	<u>\$ 10,685,812</u>	<u>\$ 23,420,279</u>

2012 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	\$ 1,291,254	\$ -	\$ 1,291,254
U.S. government agency notes		5,838,087	5,838,087
Commercial paper		678,975	678,975
U.S. government securities	3,649,881		3,649,881
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	1,192,875		1,192,875
Energy	562,874		562,874
Finance	830,683		830,683
Healthcare	497,241		497,241
Industrials	752,472		752,472
Materials	259,333		259,333
Consumer staples	495,780		495,780
Technology	1,509,365		1,509,365
Utilities	153,849		153,849
Total common stocks	6,254,472	-	6,254,472
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	2,336,307		2,336,307
Fixed-income funds	40,877		40,877
Total mutual funds	2,377,184	-	2,377,184
Total assets	\$ 13,572,791	\$ 6,517,062	\$ 20,089,853

## 5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2013 and 2012, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) personnel assisted the Trust on a limited basis in administering its business operations, fundraising, and grant programs. For these personnel services, the Trust reimbursed DAV \$157,626 and \$201,091, in 2013 and 2012, respectively. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, the Trust owed DAV \$174,036 and \$211,686, respectively. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2013 and 2012, the Trust granted \$740,000 and \$650,000, respectively, to the DAV National Service Foundation, Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

In 2013 and 2012, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2013	2012
National Transportation Network	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Mobile Service Office Program	15,000	265,000
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	43,000	53,000
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	45,000	45,000
DAV Media Outreach Campaigns	3,000,000	-
National Service Officers' Case Management System	700,000	-
National Service Officer Programs - Other	165,000	-
Disaster relief efforts	-	225,000
DAV "Just B Kids" Scholarship	-	100,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	26,875	41,640

In performing the duties of their positions, DAV's National Commander and National Adjutant serve on the Board of Directors of the Trust. In performing the duties of their positions as a Trust Board of Director, some members also serve on the DAV National Service Foundation Board of Directors.

## 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 \$233,932 and \$184,066 for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, are net of \$360,892 and \$357,519, 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, 2013 and 2012.

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 \$6,030,014 and \$5,589,788 as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

From 2010 through 2012, the Trust was required by Tennessee statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in Tennessee. Due to changes in Tennessee statutes, in 2013 the Trust was able to merge Tennessee obligations in the above reserve account. As of December 31, 2012, the fair market value for the segregated Tennessee reserve account was \$80,879 and the account was invested in accordance with applicable Tennessee statutes and regulations at that time.

In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California. The fair market value for the California reserve account is \$1,636,327 and \$1,322,750 as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The minimum required balance of the segregated accounts for California donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California statutes and regulations.

The Trust also maintains the minimum amount of unrestricted net assets as required by any state for the acceptance of charitable gift annuities, which is \$1,000,000. The total unrestricted net assets that are subject to state statutes or regulations (calculated as the reserve funds (investments), less the annuity payment liability) amounted to \$3,166,348 and \$2,466,787 as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

## **7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No events have occurred after December 31, 2013, but before April 7, 2014, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Dick. May I have a motion to accept that very impressive report?

MR. AL LABELLE: Commander, Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2.

MR. LABELLE: Al Labelle, Chapter 57, Wisconsin, proud home of Chairman Marbes, seconds that report. (Laughter)

MR. JOHN HANSON: Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2.

MR. HANSON: John Hanson, Department of Nevada, Reno 1, seconds.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? So moved. Will you please welcome Brenda Reed of Florida, the newly-elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2014-2015, Brenda. (Applause)

MS. BRENDA REED: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. REED: I knew you were out there somewhere. National Commander Johnston, National Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates and guests, I am proud to have been elected the President of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2014-2015.

We pledge to continue our support of the National Organization through our sponsorship of the State Commanders and Adjutants Orientation, a program which just completed its 17th year, the Mid-Winter Sports (sic) Conference, and the Winter Sports Clinic. I am pleased to announce that we have elevated our support to the Winter Sports Clinic to the Silver Level. Again, we look forward to another productive year in the DAV.

I would like at this time to read into the record our officers and committees for the coming year. I am not going to reintroduce myself. Vice President, Dennis Krulder from New York.

Our Executive Committee: Teresa Johniken, Texas; Brigitte Marker, Oregon; Danny Oliver, Oklahoma; Warren Tobin, North Dakota; Mike "Mad Dog" Sater, Maryland; Brian Wilner, Georgia. Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Tannenbaum from Florida. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Rita Alberegg, Virginia. Judge Advocate is Jimmy Stewart from South Carolina. Chaplain, Paul Siegel, South Carolina. Assistant Chaplain, John King, Virginia. Sergeant-at-Arms: Faye Lyon, Washington. Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, William Robinson, South Carolina. Our Audit Committee: Allan McCroskey, Virginia; Katie Brown, Tennessee; Robert Burchee, Ohio; Jim Bogan, California. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Carl Bailey, Alabama; Rod Olin, North Dakota; Lisa Sloan, Vermont. Resolutions Committee: Wanda Janus, Oregon; George Kanelos, Maine; Joann Fisher, District of Columbia. Special Projects: Laird Culver, Alabama; Jim Dempsey, Michigan; Cynthia Madison, Virginia; George Gutzmer, Utah.

Would National Commander Johnston and National Adjutant Burgess please join me to receive a presentation?

(Whereupon, Commander Johnston and Adjutant Burgess joined Ms Reed at the podium.)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Oh, you have checks.

MS. REED: Yes, we have money. (Laughter) On behalf of the 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 Chad Richmond and a second check for \$1,500. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Reed presented Commander Johnston and Adjutant Burgess with the two checks, at which time an official photograph was taken.)

MS. REED: Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I'm almost afraid to do this. (Laughter) Please join with me in welcoming incoming the Imperial Golden Rodent Michael O'Brien (Boo), Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Al Sorrentino and the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats. (Boo)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats entered the room and advanced to the podium amid booing.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER ALBERT SORRENTINO: I'm glad you showed us some love. (Boo) I don't think that's good enough. We want some love. (Boo) Thank you. (Laughter) National Commander Joe Johnston, National Adjutant Marc Burgess, National staff, DAV members, thank you for having us. (Boo) I guess the National Commander just booed me. I don't think he wants his check. (Laughter)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ARTHUR H. WILSON: I'll take it.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: It's a pleasure to be here this morning with all of you as DAV-ers. This is a milestone with the Trench Rats at this Convention. The general body

yesterday approved our Bylaws that now we are definite have the same Bylaws as the National DAV. Thank you so much. (Applause)

We have strived to bring our organizations together. Please excuse me this morning. We had an incident in the back that really disturbed me with one of our members so I am a little nervous but we're going to take care of that situation.

Through the years, the six years that I've been the Imperial REG, it is so important to me that I am part of the DAV. It's in my heart that we have an organization like our National staff, our National NSOs, our members that strive to keep us, our organization, together, but, most of all, to protect our benefits. That means a lot to me and all of you.

Every day we make people realize who we are, that we're disabled veterans, and the main purpose in our lives is to take care of our families, our spouses and each other.

About three months ago I got a phone call for one of our members saying that his grandchild was in a coma that was bitten by a mosquito. The National organization of the Trench Rats donated money to that family because that's what we are. We are brothers, comrades, and that's what we stand for. (Applause)

At our Department Convention in Florida the VAVS Chairman came to me and said, "Al, I need to know how to raise money." I called upon the Trench Rats, the Sector of Florida, to show her how it was done. In ten minutes we raised – we raised out of our own pockets over \$1,000. (Applause) Not only that but the Rats in Florida continue to support our Department. And I'd like to recognize the Department of Florida. Are there any rats in the house?

(Whereupon, Trench Rat members from Florida cheered.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: I also would like to recognize the Department of New York where I was born. Are there any rats in the house?

(Whereupon, Trench Rat members from New York cheered.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Oh, must be a few. (Laughter) And I just visited, about a month-and-a-half ago, Puerto Rico. Are you in the house?

(Whereupon, Trench Rat members from Puerto Rico cheered.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: All right, I understand. (Laughter) But not only do we take care of business all over the nation, our rats continue to work in hospitals, supporting veterans in their programs because that's where it is needed.

Please, and I know all of you do it, never forget who we are – the proud organization of men and women who sacrificed their lives to continue to support today – the grassroots of our organizations are here today. God bless you all. (Applause)

Last year we had a member of the Imperial Rodents that passed away, Oz Patterson. We are giving \$100 in his name to the Memorial Fund.

And a very – the next check that means a lot to me and all of you, that we need to continue to support for years and years to come, our Service Foundation that means so much to us, that provides us with (indistinguishable) and benefits and protection. We are the National Order of Trench Rats. Commander Joe Johnston, I know you don't want it because when I came up here he was going like this – we would like to give the National Headquarters and the Foundation \$4,000. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Al.

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Now I'd like to introduce the Incoming-Imperial Golden Rodent Michael O'Brien for some words. (Booing)

INCOMING-IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT MICHAEL O'BRIEN: I believe California is in the house.

(Whereupon, the California delegation cheered.)

INCOMING-IMPERIAL GOLDEN RODENT O'BRIEN: All right. I am proud and humbled for the election of this year for 2014-15 to represent this group. We've done a lot of work over the last year-18 months, and there is a lot of work ahead of us. And I'm just really happy to be here and be part of it and it will get better. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thanks, Mike and Al. Appreciate that generous donation. What happened to the music?

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The president of the National Service Foundation is no stranger to anyone here. Art Wilson has devoted nearly a half-century of service to our organization and is the architect of the modern DAV.

A Massachusetts native, Art enlisted in the United States Air Force in September of 1962. (Applause) He served as a runway construction specialist in Vietnam, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Taiwan from 1964 to 1966. Shortly after his discharge he was admitted to a VA medical center

for major surgery and began his storied career as a DAV National Service Officer trainee in Atlanta, Georgia.

He is known best for the dramatic recovery and strategic vision he provided the organization over the course of 19 years that he served as National Adjutant. The unique combination of professionalism, skill and dedication he showed DAV is now focused on the National Service Foundation.

Sisters and brothers, please give a warm welcome to one of our favorite veterans, Art Wilson. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Commander Johnston, for that very nice introduction and those very kind words. Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates, friends, guests, and everyone who cares about disabled veterans.

Let me begin my report this morning by introducing the DAV National Service Foundation Board of Directors: Vice President, Marc Burgess; Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Joyner; and our Directors are National Commander Joseph Johnston; Sal Tornatore from New York; Alan Bowers, from Massachusetts; Dan Contreras from California; and Ex-Officio member and DAV Board of Directors Chairman Larry Polzin.

As you have no doubt gleaned from the early reports at this Convention, prior to my time on this podium, you can tell that this has been one year for the books. Our resilience and our passion for caring for the ill and injured veterans has been put to the very test within these past few months as we faced one bureaucratic roadblock after another.

Veterans and their families were challenged. And DAV was challenged. And I'm proud to stand here now and realize that the National Service Foundation has played a role in the solution.

When the government shutdown forced the VA's doors to close this past October, our National Service Officers were there to keep serving veterans every day. Our volunteer drivers were on the scene day-in and day-out to ensure that we were doing all that we could to get veterans to health care that they desperately needed.

Still, we all know the challenges that we face will only continue to increase as the population of veterans grows larger and larger and as many of us from the earlier conflicts rely upon the VA for continued health care.

The National Service Foundation is here to safeguard that lifetime care for injured and ill veterans. We do so by extending critical service to veterans in need today and to ensure that DAV services are available for veterans tomorrow.

I am thankful for everyone who has helped raise more than \$1.9 million in donations and bequests for this urgent message in 2013. Your tremendous generosity, paired with prudent investment strategy, has allowed the Foundation to end its most successful year to date with more than \$108 million in net assets – a \$13.7 million increase over 2012. The Foundation was also able to devote 91 cents – 91 cents – of every dollar on program services. (Applause)

The National Service Foundation helps to address some of the most pressing needs of veterans and their families. Your gifts to the Foundation go toward creating a stable financial future to ensure DAV's services continue; and supporting DAV's daily work, including transportation for veterans to VA appointments, disability claims work, and other services as needed.

We all share this obligation to fulfill America's promise to her veterans. And your gifts to the Foundation make all of that possible. Your generous giving efforts and corps of our talented National Service Officers and have the tools that they need to serve veterans and their families. (sic) Our NSOs represented more than 330,000 benefit claims in 2013 and continue to achieve more victories for veterans than any other veterans' organization.

Through your support veterans have free advocacy and representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims.

We are also able to aid veterans through the Columbia Trust, which has provided nearly \$1.6 million in 2013 to support programs like the National Transportation Network, our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department Service Programs, and various other local and state service initiatives. (Applause) Well deserved. Give it a round of applause. (Applause)

And each dollar that you and your Chapter or your Department donates to the Trust is matched, as you know, by the National Organization of DAV, doubling the impact of your gifts.

The National Order of Trench Rats' Legislative Fund ended the year with more than \$215,000 in assets. And it is with great pleasure that I present Commander Johnston with a check for \$7,772



earned through this special fund last year. This generous gift has been designated exclusively for the support of the DAV Legislative Program.

(Whereupon, President Wilson presented Commander Johnston with a check from the National Order of Trench Rats Fund, followed by a round of applause.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: If you look through the Foundation's 2013 Annual Report you will see that we have had a terrific year. We are fortunate to have continued – I'm sorry, we are committed to individuals and organizations dedicated to our cause who continue to express their devotion through the gifts to the Foundation in 2013.

We believe that such commendable generosity deserves equal recognition. This year seventeen benefactors have earned a place or a higher position in our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors, located at our offices in Washington, D.C.

In many cases these distinguished contributions are gifts from individuals and family foundations. Others represent the valued partnership of esteemed corporations and organizations.

Now I would like to take just a moment to recognize the outstanding contributions of DAV Chapters and Departments that gave either \$1,000 or more during 2013: the 92nd Buffalo Chapter 20, Department of South Carolina; the Adam Klein Chapter Number 3, Department of North Dakota; the Billerica Chapter 47 in the Department of Massachusetts; Colonel Donald G. Cook Chapter 5, the Department of Vermont; Gate City Chapter 7, Department of New Hampshire; the Hammond Chapter Number 17 in Department of Indiana.

Departments and Chapters like these inspire us with their dedication and their generosity and they drive the Foundation's mission forward by safeguarding veterans today and on into the future.

In addition to the model efforts of these Chapters and Departments, I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the individuals, couples, families, foundations, companies and other organizations who earned special recognition in 2013.

One hundred benefactors took their place on the Honor Roll of Benefactors or attained a National Service Foundation commendation for this year. And 47 Chapters and Departments earned Certificates of Commitment during the past year. And congratulations to you all and thank you so very much. (Applause)

As you review your copy of the 2013 Annual Report, I encourage you to look through the names of those from your state who made a gift of \$100 or more to their fund this year. And if you have donated during the past year, let me say "thank you." You keep the spirit of service alive and well. And your generosity means the world to me and to all the veterans we serve, and their families.

Now, I'm eager to recognize National Service Director Jim Marszalek and his elite corps of National Service Officers whose daily pursuit of excellence has impacted the lives of countless veterans and their families. They are the best in the business. There is no contest there.

Gifts made in honor of our NSOs extend their legacy of service far into the future, creating a financial strength that will support the DAV mission for years and years to come. The Pacesetting Performance Award recognizes the National Service Officer in each division who has the largest cumulative total contributions made in his or her name. Jim, would you help me honor these most terrific National Service Officers. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Service Director James Marszalek advanced to assist President Wilson.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Are you ready? Division 1, National Service Officer Darrel "Brandon" McKinney of Togus, Maine, with a total of \$7,953. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Darrell "Brandon" McKinney of Togus, Maine.)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Do you want to say something? You've got a second.

MR. DARRELL "BRANDON" MCKINNEY: I've got a second. I'd like to thank Maine Department: George Kanelos, Rich Fournier, Gary Burns, Ron Brodeur. Also I'd be remiss if I left out my support staff: Sonja Caswell and Kathy Hadet. We have the best team in Maine. And I'd just like to say "thank you." (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Brandon. Division 2, National Service Officer Fred A. White Jr., of Muskogee, Oklahoma, who is credited with \$3,118. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Fred A. White Jr. of Muskogee, Oklahoma.)

MR. FRED A. WHITE JR.: I would just like to thank the entire Department of Oklahoma for their support and the support staff and the National Service Officers at the Muskogee National Service Office. Thank you, everyone. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 3 – and there is no surprise here – National Service Officer Len Harris of Saint Louis, Missouri, with a whopping grand total of \$76,688. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Leonard K. Harris of Saint Louis, Missouri.)

MR. LEONARD K. HARRIS: Thank you very much. This is a great honor once again for me to accept this. My name might be on it but I'd like to recognize the hardest working Department that I've ever had the opportunity to work with, the Department of Missouri, if they would stand. (Applause)

I really, truly appreciate all the support that all the Chapters and my office. The National Service Officers work hard every year for us to try to win this award. And I truly appreciate all the efforts and the hard work we do all throughout the year. Thanks. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Great job.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: And Division 4, National Service Officer Nicholas Bernardi of Newark, New Jersey, office with a total of \$14,462. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Nicholas Bernardi of Newark, New Jersey.)

MR. NICHOLAS BERNARDI: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. BERNARDI: It's an honor and definitely a privilege to receive such a prestigious award. I just want to thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: And Division 5, National Service Felicia P. Weston of Waco, Texas, with a total of \$6,795. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Award was presented to Felicia P. Weston of Waco, Texas.)

MS. FELICIA P. WESTON: Thank you. And I'd just like to thank the Department of Texas. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Please join me once again in thanking all of these wonderful NSOs. Thank you. (Applause) I think you already know this but these men and women are at the very heart of DAV. And they have a key role in carrying out the Foundation's mission. They spend every day on the front lines making sure that America keeps its promise to you, me and all of our fellow veterans.

We all share the same mission. And I hope that you are as inspired as I am by the generosity of our fellow veterans. Now I want to charge you and your Chapters and Departments with being part of that cause.

For many of us, this is a way to honor our friends, our brothers and our sisters, and to commemorate the fallen. This is where we show our support for the men and women who sacrificed themselves for the good of the nation through the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, the Columbia Trust, or the Trench Rats Fund, as you specify.

The barometer is now up, anxiously awaiting your donations. To kick off at this time of giving I'm pleased to acknowledge a contribution from the Oak Cliff, Texas, Chapter Number 32 of \$500, and the Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner Law Firm of \$150,000. (Applause)

Now, let's – let's get this barometer really going, right now.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT REYNOLDS: PNC Reynolds on behalf of the Moral Rearmament League. We would like to make a donation in the amount of \$2,000 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Appreciate it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, everyone. On behalf of the National Blind Chapter and all of our officers we make a donation to the National Service Foundation for \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: If I may steal the mic for a few seconds, the National Blind Chapter – no pun intended – hopes to see you all on October 5th in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the dedication of the Memorial for us. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, Art, it's nice to see you again. On behalf of the Blue Bonnet Chapter 20 in Fort Worth, Texas, we would like to present \$500 to the Disabled Veteran LIFE Memorial Perpetual Fund. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. LINDEN: Al Linden, Department of Florida, gives \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Al.

MR. THOMAS DOLENZ: Good morning. Tom Dolenz, Commander, Department of Missouri, I have a check for \$25,000 to the National Service Foundation in honor of NSO Len Harris.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Wow. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. DOLENZ: I'm not done yet. Also from Chapter 1, Saint Louis, Missouri, I have a check for \$5,000 for the National Service Foundation in honor of Len Harris. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Wow. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. DOLENZ: Thank you.

MR. CARL WILLIAM RIEGER: Good morning. My name is Bill Rieger. I am the commander of Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri. We'd like to make a \$15,000 donation to the National Service Foundation in honor of Len Harris. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. PHILIP A. FIUMARA JR.: Philip A. Fiumara Junior, Chapter 76, Pittsburgh, want to make a \$1,000 donation to the National Foundation. Just take a little bit of the money out of the money you have to pay your taxes with, donate it to the DAV and you get credit for it. (Applause)

MR. ROBERT A. BRANDT: Bob Brandt, DAV Chapter 32, Tulsa, Oklahoma, PDC, Department of Oklahoma, I've got a \$150 donation in the name of both my father and my mother, Rolfe and Jean Brandt, World War II Army disabled veterans, a \$100 donation in the name of my brother Rick, a Vietnam-era disabled veteran, and \$100 in my own name for a total of \$500 donation to the Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the Department of California's disabled veterans I want to present a check for \$10,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the California Rehabilitation Foundation we'd like to make a donation of \$10,000. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Department of Puerto Rico I have two checks, one for the National Service Foundation, \$500, another for the Columbia Trust, \$200. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, everybody. On behalf of the Dick Cosgriff Chapter 2 I'd like to present \$2,000 for the DAV Columbia Trust Fund. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. LEE THOMAS: Good morning, sir. Good morning. Lee Thomas, Chapter 2, California, Dick Cosgriff, donates \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MRS. MARY BENCIVENGA: On behalf of Ocean County Memorial Chapter 24, New Jersey, the commander, Phil Hartram, I present Columbia Trust with \$100 and National Service Foundation with \$100. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RICHARD PATTERSON: Rick Patterson, Arnold Byers Chapter 45, Alabama, I'd like to make this donation in memory of my childhood best friend, Henry J. Servant, killed in Vietnam in March of '68, \$100. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of West Dallas Chapter Number 19 of the Wisconsin Department I'd like to present a check for \$1,000. This brings our total contributions to date to over \$10,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Past Department Commanders, Department of Delaware, I'd like to present \$200 to the National Service Foundation.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. KEVIN C. JOHNSON: On behalf of myself, Past State Commander K.C. Johnson, Department of Wisconsin, I would like to donate \$100 to the Charitable Trust Fund in memory and honor of our great Past National Commander Dick Marbes. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'd like to donate \$1,700 for the Department of Wisconsin, home of the Green Bay Packers. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. That was to the National Service Foundation. Sorry. (Laughter)

MS. BRIGITTE MARKER: Good afternoon or morning, whatever it is. I would like to donate \$100 to the National Service Foundation from my family. Thank you very much. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. MARKER: Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Department of Massachusetts, in honor of Art Wilson, our native son, I would like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation and \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. STACY T. MOSLEY JR.: I'm Conrad "Stacy" Mosley from Big D Chapter 57, Dallas, Texas. We would like to present a check for \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. ALBERT BURLIKOWSKI: Good morning, brothers and sisters. My name is Al Burlikowski. I'm the NEC for the Fifth District. I have two donations. The one, the first one is \$500 in the memory of our Chapter PDC Nick (Indistinguishable), also known as the Godfather. And I have a personal check, also, for \$200 for the Charitable Trust. Have a good day. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Department of Louisiana we'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. HELEN PARR: Good morning. I'm Helen Parr. I'm the commander for the great State of South Dakota. At this time I would like to give \$112 to the National Service Foundation from District 14. (Applause) I would also like to give \$500 from the Department of South Dakota for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the historic 92nd Buffalo Chapter 20 South Carolina we'd like to give the National Service Foundation \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, sir.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the Department of North Carolina we would like to present to the National Service Foundation \$1,000.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Well, thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. DOROTHY M. PRIDMORE: Good morning. Good morning. In memory of my father, Herman Pridmore, for the National Service Foundation, I'm donating \$150 in the memory of his name. I'm from Georgia, District 9. My name is Dottie Pridmore and I'm from Chapter 90, Snellville. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. RODERICK S. OLIN: Good morning. I'm Rod Olin, Department Commander, Department Commander North Dakota. On behalf of the Department of North Dakota I have a check for \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. Our Chapter 3 in Bismarck, North Dakota has donated \$3,000 to the Columbia Trust and \$3,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. OLIN: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Commander Ron Greene from the Department of Pennsylvania we'd like to make a \$1,000 contribution to the National Service Foundation and a personal contribution as a proud member of Chapter 1, Pennsylvania, the second oldest Chapter in the nation, a personal contribution of \$250 to the National Service Foundation.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause) Hi, Shane.

MR. SHANE LIERMANN: Good morning. On behalf of DAV Arlington-Fairfax Chapter 10 in Northern Virginia we have a \$1,000 donation in honor of the NSO office in Roanoke, Virginia. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. I'd like to present this check for \$5,000 to the Columbia Trust Fund from Colorado Chapter Number 7, Murphy-Borelli-Klumker. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. LINDA RANSOM: Good morning. I am Linda Ransom from the Department of Idaho and we'd like to present a check to the National Service Foundation for \$350. Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'm from the State of California, Chapter 13, Camp Kearney. I'd like to make a donation of \$500 to the van replacement fund. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. CHAD RICHMOND: Chad Richmond, PDC, Department of Alabama, and on behalf of all the PDCs in Alabama we'd like to give the National Service Foundation \$100 in memory of PDC Charles Fischer. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Chad.

MR. TOM SADLER: Good morning, sir. Tom Sadler. We have four donations. The first two are from Andy Nomland, Chapter 2, Grand Forks, North Dakota, \$1,000 to the Service Foundation; the second one is to the winter sports program for \$1,000. The next two are from my wife and I, National Service Foundation for \$100 and to the Columbia Trust for \$100. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. LINDA S. MINGO: Good morning. My name is Linda Mingo with the Ohio Chapter 63 but on behalf of my former Chapter, South Carolina Chapter 51, I am presenting a \$500 check in honor of First Junior Vice Commander Moses McIntosh. (Applause) Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. CHRIS CHANEY: Chris Chaney, the assistant supervisor for the Roanoke office, I have a \$3,000 donation from an assistant employee for our work on his claim in honor of the NSO office. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JAMES A. PROCUNIER: Good morning. Jim Procunier, commander, Department of Virginia, on behalf of the Department of Virginia, a thousand dollar pledge from the Department, a thousand dollars from myself to the National Service Foundation, and another thousand to the Columbia Trust from me. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. Thank you. Good morning, sir.

MR. JOHN E. ROSE: Good morning. John Rose, the commander for the State of Colorado. We welcome you there next year. From the majestic Rockies we present a check to the National Service Foundation for \$5,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Very generous.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. JAMES R. DEMPSEY: Good morning. Jim Dempsey, Department commander for Michigan, along with our executive secretary, Robert Gaillard. We have a check here for \$500 from the Department to be split between the National Service Foundation and the Columbia Trust Fund.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. DONALD DAY: I'm Donald Day. I'm commander of the Department of New York. This first check is in memory of PDC Bill Novak. He is also past president of the Commanders and Adjutants Association and it is for \$100. (Applause) This is to the National Service Foundation for \$1,000. (Applause) And we have a check for the Columbia Trust for \$5,000. (Applause)

MR. HAROLD E. WEBSTER: Good morning, everyone. I'm Harold E. Webster, commander, Department of Maryland. The Department of Maryland pledges \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust Fund. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Harold.

MS. BERNICE DeBLOIS: I'm Bernice DeBlois, commander of Chapter 6, JFK out of Bangor, Maine, lobster country. I'd like to present the National Service Foundation with \$500.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Oh, thank you.

MS. DeBLOIS: You're welcome. (Applause)

MR. DONALD V. ARCHULETA: Good morning. I'm Don Archuleta, department adjutant, Department of Arizona. On behalf of our commander, Ron Cox, and all the members of the great State of Arizona please accept our \$2,000 donation to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GEORGE KANELOS: The Department of Maine, Commander George Kanelos. We have two checks, one from the Department of \$1,000 and one from Chapter 1 for \$500, the Foundation. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the Department of Ohio we have two checks this morning. The first is to the Charitable Service Trust in the amount of \$5,000 from the members of the Department. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: And the second one from the Department of Ohio is for the National Service Foundation for \$5,000, also from the Department, the membership of the Department of Ohio. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT J. ARENS JR.: Good morning. Robert Arens, Department of Illinois commander. On behalf of Illinois Department a check for \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. NORMAN J. RESNER: Good morning. Norm Resner from the Department of Illinois, I have a check from Chapter 16 for a thousand dollars for the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RESNER: You're welcome.

MR. RICHARD W. SCHATZ: Good morning, President Wilson.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. SCHATZ: Commander Johnston, Adjutant Burgess, Richard W. Schatz, PDC, commander of Poisson-Cournoyer-Carpenter-Bacon Chapter 12, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, I am proud to introduce to you our combat veteran from Vietnam and our treasurer, Mr. Ernest Boisvert, to make our chapter presentation.

MR. ERNEST S. BOISVERT: Mr. Wilson, we, our Chapter would like to donate \$500 to the National Service Foundation and \$500 to the Columbia Trust.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause) Thank you. Step right in there.

MR. RONALD RILEY: Ron Riley from the State of New Hampshire would like to donate \$500 to the Columbia Trust and \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: This is my last official act as the NEC for the Sixth District. The District has asked me to donate \$5,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Last year I attended the funeral of Past National Commander Claude L. Callegary. The National Adjutant and Mr. Augustine asked us to represent them. We went there and we gave a – we had a memorial for them.

And the family was gracious and said that all donations should be sent to the DAV. So I told them that I would make my donation at the National Convention. So in honor of Past National Commander Claude L. Callegary I wish to donate \$1,000. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. Hi, Al.

MR. ALBERT REYNOLDS: Al Reynolds, Department of Illinois, I would like to present a check from Eric and Marilyn Huckabee for \$1,000 for the Service Foundation. I also got a check for \$5,000 for Macon County Chapter 17 of the Department of Illinois which I believe that brings us to about \$95,000 that we – through the times.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. JEFF ROBINSON: Good morning. Jeff Robinson from Chapter 17, (indistinguishable), on behalf of Chapter 17 (indistinguishable) we'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. CHARLES HICKS: Charles Hicks, Department of California, Los Angeles Chapter 5, a personal donation to all three for \$100 each. (Applause)

MR. JOHN DODGE: Good morning, John Dodge, Chapter 46, (indistinguishable), Massachusetts. DAV Chapter 46 in Massachusetts received a bequest from the will of our member Paul Packenin. Paul recognized the good works of the DAV and we, the members of Chapter 46, recognize the good works of the National Service Foundation. Please accept this \$10,000 in Paul Packenin's name. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. RICHARD WILSON: Rich Wilson, Chapter Commander, South Dakota, the first check I have is from our Chapter honoring Eric Van Emerick, our National Service Officer, in the amount of \$250. The check Number 2 is from Gene and Eldine Murphy in honor of, memory, Roger Andall in the amount of \$100. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: That's very nice. (Applause)

MR. JUAN LOZANO-NIEVES: Good morning. Juan Lozano, department adjutant, Department of Puerto Rico, \$100 behalf of Chapter 7 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Department of Arkansas would like to present a check for \$2,500 to the Columbia Trust and a check for \$2,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. FRANK WILLIAMS: Frank Williams, past commander, past adjutant, (indistinguishable) Capital City 3, I have a check for the National Service Foundation. And before Joe Johnston, Ranger Joe, tells me to get the puck out of here, we have a presentation. (Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the members of the wounded warrior hockey team, which is a benefit of this Foundation, I want to present you with one of our pucks.

(Whereupon, Commander Johnston accepted the puck from the member, followed by a round of applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Chapter 7, Anchorage, Alaska, Earl Valentine Commander, I would like to present the National Service Trust with a check for a thousand dollars. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Larry.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning and aloha from Hawaii. The Department of Hawaii would like to present to the National Foundation, the National Service Foundation a check for \$500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: And the second check to the Columbia Trust for \$500. (Applause) Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you.

MR. CLARENCE A. MEIER: Clarence Meier, Chapter 11, Salina, Kansas, donates a check of \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. LISA SLOAN: I'm Lisa Sloan, State commander for Vermont. I have several checks in equal amounts for both the National Service Foundation and the Columbia Trust: from Chapter 3, \$100; Chapter 4, \$25; Chapter 5, \$200; Chapter 22, \$500; and the Department of Vermont, \$500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you so much.

MS. SILVA E. ROYER: Good morning. I'm Silva Royer, I'm the commander of the Department of Mississippi, and on behalf of my Department I'd like to donate \$1,000. (Applause)

MR. DEAN MYRICK: Hello. I'm Dean Myrick and on behalf of Chapter 2 of Athens, Georgia, I'd like to present \$100 to the Columbia Trust. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BOOKER: Good morning. I'm Commander Booker, William E. Tate Chapter Number 1, this great State of Georgia, and we'd like make a presentation of \$2,000 to the National Service Trust Fund. (Applause)

MR. JAMEL HAAN: Jamel Haan, United States Marine, ooo-rah. (Hoo-rah) In memory of all those who gave their lives on 23rd October 1983 in Beirut, Lebanon, from all services, those who got wounded and those who are alive, and my son who came back from Afghanistan, I give \$100 to Charitable Trust Fund, with pride and honor. Sir, join me. I need a picture taken.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Who is taking a picture?

MR. HAAN: Kevin, where are you? Kevin, where are you?

MR. CARLOS LOPEZ: Carlos Lopez, Department – Chapter 233, Department of Texas, \$500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JOHN PARKER: John Parker, retired National Service Officer, currently with the state executive board, Department of Ohio, wishes to present the Foundation a check for \$250 on behalf of the Blind Chapter and \$100 to the National Guild of Attorneys-in-Fact. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS A. JOYNER: Money bags. (Laughter) Art, it pleases me – I'm Dennis Joyner, past national commander – to make a personal donation of \$500 in memory of my father, Rue Joyner and my mother Dwella Joyner, who she just passed away this past November.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Hello, Art. How are you? Art, on behalf of – I'd like to make a personal donation on behalf of my wife, third junior vice of the Auxiliary and – national third junior vice – and myself, \$50 for the Service Foundation and \$50 for the Charitable Trust. Thank you, sir. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good to see you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Same here. You're looking good, also.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. BURL JIMMERSON: Burl Jimmerson from the great State of Georgia, Department commander, I want to pledge \$1,000 to the National Service Fund and \$1,000 to the Columbia Trust. And we're also the home of our first junior vice, Moses McIntosh. (Applause)

MS. CHARLOTTE STONE: Charlotte Stone from North Carolina, Wilmington, Chapter 11, a donation of \$100 from my Chapter 11 and also a donation from myself for \$100. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. LABELLE: I'm Al Labelle, legislative director for Wisconsin. Two years ago at the National Convention the Department was led by then-Commander John L. Frederickson. Sadly, last February John passed from cancer that proved more aggressive than anticipated.

John was a very strong veterans' advocate with much influence in the state capital and in the halls of congress. He is sorely missed. I would like at this time to present a personal check of \$500 to the National Service Foundation in memory of John L. Frederickson. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. LABELLE: Thank you.

MR. ALLAN L. McCROSKEY: Just prior to the National Convention last year my wife passed away and I gave a \$500 donation – \$500 donation to the Service Foundation in her name. And I am upping that now with another \$500. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Just tell us who you are real quick.

MR. McCROSKEY: I'm Allan McCroskey, PDC in Virginia.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. JOHN CARVER: Good morning. I'm John Carver, commander of the Department of Tennessee. I'd like to make three pledges: \$2,500 to the National Service Foundation, \$2,500 to the Columbia Trust and \$5,000 to the Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ALAN W BOWERS: On behalf of my comrade John Cammick of Athol, Massachusetts, Chapter 46, I give to the National Service Foundation a donation of \$100 in the thanks of Past National Commander Alan Bowers. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Speaking of the devil.



PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BOWERS: Yes. And thanks to John Cammick for that \$100. Art, I had a conversation with my accountant and Terry says write a check for a grand, National Service Foundation.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the veterans of Oklahoma, the Department of Oklahoma donates a thousand dollars to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Here is a \$100 donation for my four departed brothers that have served. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Chapter 11, Department of Mississippi, donates this thousand dollars in honor Gerald E. Humphries 30-year retiree for the DAV.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Tell us who you are? (Laughter)  
Good morning, sir.

MR. CLARENCE BROWN: My name is Clarence Brown. I'd like to give \$250 in name of the 11th Airborne Association, Mid-Atlantic. I want everyone to know that we are still alive. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. LARRY E. PENNINGTON SR.: Comrade Wilson, Larry Pennington, Department of West "By God" Virginia. We'd like to make a donation, a pledge, I mean, for the Columbia Trust of a thousand dollars.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. PENNINGTON: And for all you Alabama fans, go Mountaineers. (Laughter)

MR. JESUS G. CORTEZ JR.: Jesse Cortez from (indistinguishable), Texas. I want to donate – from our Chapter 169, from Victoria, Texas, I want to donate \$100. And also I'm the contact coordinator for the (indistinguishable) Riders where we do funeral escorts. I am contacted to do funeral escort to the family. And I want to donate \$100 from the (indistinguishable) Riders.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much, Jesse.

MR. CORTEZ: Thank you.

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: There is one more.

MS. SHANDA TAYLOR-BOYD: Hi, everybody. First of all, just let me apologize because I was preparing for this yesterday and I knew we were going to forget the check so we just had to run back upstairs to get the money. So, I am Shanda Taylor-Boyd.

I am so excited because this is the year of my decade of TBI survival. And I just want to thank all of you (Applause) for all of your love and all of your support and all of your faith in me. So I just want to dedicate my donation to all of you guys. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT WILSON: Well, thank you all very much. I want to take just a personal privilege here for just a second and make a donation in the name of Jerry Steelman, a very close and dear friend of mine who was a National Service Officer with me many years ago – he became our Deputy National Service Director, Director of Voluntary Services, and a lifelong supporter of the Disabled American Veterans – who passed away this spring. Thank you all so much for your generosity and support. It means so much to the legacy of our organization and the legacy of those that we honor by giving. Commander Johnston that completes my report. Thank you all very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I thank all of you for your generosity.

# Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, and  
Independent Auditors' Report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of  
Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

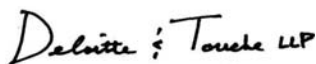
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 7, 2014

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013	2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,748,555	\$ 1,344,919
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	6	92
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	11,179	7,324
INVENTORY	294,428	207,083
PREPAID EXPENSES	21,123	8,839
INVESTMENTS	106,036,681	92,757,846
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN PROCESS	45,362	
TOTAL	<u>\$ 108,157,334</u>	<u>\$ 94,326,103</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV	\$ 61,270	\$ 137,774
Due to DAV Legislative Program	7,772	8,117
Other liabilities	<u>65,709</u>	<u>90,839</u>
Total liabilities	<u>134,751</u>	<u>236,730</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	17,896,101	15,478,811
The Columbia Trust	1,283,799	1,810,199
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	29,803,962	28,914,803
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>8,284,685</u>	<u>3,828,516</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>57,268,547</u>	<u>50,032,329</u>
Temporarily restricted:		
The Columbia Trust and Other	42,881,470	40,226,791
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>7,657,272</u>	<u>3,614,959</u>
Total temporarily restricted	<u>50,538,742</u>	<u>43,841,750</u>
Permanently restricted	<u>215,294</u>	<u>215,294</u>
Total net assets	<u>108,022,583</u>	<u>94,089,373</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 108,157,334</u>	<u>\$ 94,326,103</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION**

## **STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012**

	2013			2012		
	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)
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES:</b>						
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 889,159	\$ 1,020,902	\$ -	\$ 1,089,849	\$ 907,450	\$ -
Revenues:						
Interest and dividend income — net	1,617,107	1,515,208		1,609,199	1,492,191	
Gain on sale of investment securities	1,188,350	1,142,030		206,456	182,449	
Sales of fraternal items	916,542			945,560		
Total revenues	3,721,999	2,657,238	-	2,761,215	1,674,640	-
Net assets released from restrictions	1,023,461	(1,023,461)		909,605	(909,605)	
Total public support and revenues	5,634,619	2,654,679	-	4,760,669	1,672,485	-
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
Program expenses:						
Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,580,083			1,291,436		
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organization	197,788			226,430		
Costs of fraternal items sold	666,263			657,433		
Other program expenses	139,765			305,266		
Total program expenses	2,583,899	-	-	2,480,565	-	-
Management and general expenses	163,353			163,506		
Fundraising expenses	107,318			103,119		
Total expenses	2,854,570	-	-	2,747,190	-	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	2,780,049	2,654,679	-	2,013,479	1,672,485	-
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	4,456,169	4,042,313		3,257,998	3,004,377	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	7,236,218	6,696,992	-	5,271,477	4,676,862	-
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	50,032,329	43,841,750	215,294	44,760,852	39,164,888	215,294
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$57,268,547	\$50,538,742	\$215,294	\$50,032,329	\$43,841,750	\$215,294

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013			2012		
	Management and			Management and		
	Program	General	Fundraising	Program	General	Fundraising
EXPENSES:						
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 1,745,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,469,372	\$ -	\$ -
Costs of fraternal items sold	666,263			657,433		
Grant proposal processing	30,223			47,182		
Administrative charges		30,223	32,426		47,182	40,954
Travel		20,550			18,989	
Postage and shipping	98,448	4,442	32,822	115,485	6,983	26,970
Printing, stationery and supplies	194	31,824	31,097	4	15,307	24,439
Advertising	41,317			39,831		
Legal fees			6,840			6,840
Professional fees		29,798			29,414	
Project costs				150,000		
Insurance		3,559			3,064	
Registration fees		90	4,133		15	3,916
Awards		8,587			8,379	
Miscellaneous	1,934	34,280		1,258	34,173	
TOTAL	<u>\$2,583,899</u>	<u>\$163,353</u>	<u>\$107,318</u>	<u>\$2,480,565</u>	<u>\$163,506</u>	<u>\$103,119</u>
						<u>\$2,747,190</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

	2013	2012
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 13,933,210	\$ 9,948,339
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(8,498,482)	(6,262,375)
Gain on sale of investment securities	(2,330,380)	(388,905)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	86	(47)
Accounts receivable	(3,855)	(1,675)
Inventory	(87,345)	43,699
Prepaid expenses	(12,284)	(5,657)
Due to DAV	(76,504)	19,596
Due to DAV Legislative Program	(345)	1,292
Other liabilities	(25,130)	17,464
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,898,971</u>	<u>3,371,731</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(32,252,348)	(22,555,858)
Proceeds from sale of investments	29,802,375	19,977,014
Additions to software development in process	(45,362)	
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,495,335)</u>	<u>(2,578,844)</u>
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	403,636	792,887
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>1,344,919</u>	<u>552,032</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 1,748,555</u>	<u>\$ 1,344,919</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, 2013 AND 2012

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### 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 Standards** — In October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013, 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 the Foundation's presentation of cash flows.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** — The Foundation considers all liquid 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 \$3,230 and \$1,778 in 2013 and 2012, 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 purchased 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 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, 2013 and 2012, had the following activity:

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 889,159	\$ 1,089,849
Revenues:		
Interest and dividend income — net	1,617,107	1,609,199
Gain on sale of investment securities	1,188,350	206,456
Sale of fraternal items	<u>916,542</u>	<u>945,560</u>
Total public support and revenues	<u>4,611,158</u>	<u>3,851,064</u>
Expenses:		
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	197,788	226,430
Cost of fraternal items sold	666,263	657,433
Other program expenses	169,987	852,448
Management and general	163,353	163,506
Fundraising	<u>107,318</u>	<u>103,119</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,304,709</u>	<u>2,002,936</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>4,456,169</u>	<u>3,257,998</u>
Total change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund	<u>\$ 7,762,618</u>	<u>\$ 5,106,126</u>

For 2013 and 2012, the Board has designated \$1,283,799 and \$1,810,199, 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 \$526,400 in 2013 and an increase of \$165,351 in 2012. No unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments is designated to The Columbia Trust's net assets from the unrestricted general fund.

**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 2013 and 2012, The Columbia Trust received \$52,800 and \$88,725, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV. In 2013 and 2012, The Columbia Trust received \$740,000 and \$650,000, respectively, from CST to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2013 and 2012, The Columbia Trust also received \$175,302 and \$80,000, respectively, from the DAV for funds designated to assist in meeting the transportation and medical needs of veterans.

As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, The Columbia Trust held \$224,830 and \$924,375, 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 \$7,772 and \$8,117 in 2013 and 2012, 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 as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Use of Estimates** — The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (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.

### 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) as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, are summarized below:

<b>2013</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,220,436	\$ 2,220,436	\$ -
Common stock	5,890,793	8,251,454	2,360,661
Fixed-income mutual funds	36,456,978	36,171,290	(285,688)
Equity mutual funds	<u>45,526,517</u>	<u>59,393,501</u>	<u>13,866,984</u>
Total	<u>\$90,094,724</u>	<u>\$ 106,036,681</u>	<u>\$ 15,941,957</u>
<b>2012</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,777,786	\$ 3,777,786	\$ -
Common stock	6,867,383	7,857,506	990,123
Fixed-income mutual funds	35,223,628	37,256,180	2,032,552
Equity mutual funds	<u>39,445,574</u>	<u>43,866,374</u>	<u>4,420,800</u>
Total	<u>\$85,314,371</u>	<u>\$ 92,757,846</u>	<u>\$ 7,443,475</u>

Interest and dividend income - net is \$3,132,315 and \$3,101,390 for 2013 and 2012, respectively. The year 2013 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$3,154,636 less \$22,321 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2012 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$3,121,512 less \$20,122 for investment management and custody fees.

#### **4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Foundation did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are observable and significant (Level 2) and unobservable and significant (Level 3) to the overall fair value measurement during 2013 or 2012.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no significant transfers during 2013 or 2012.

**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Cash and cash equivalents are categorized as Level 1, and are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents the Foundation's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Common stock securities held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of general fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, are as follows:

2013	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
<b>Asset Category</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 2,220,436	\$ -	\$ 2,220,436
Common stock:			
Consumer discretionary	834,806		834,806
Energy	804,497		804,497
Finance	921,314		921,314
Healthcare	1,238,471		1,238,471
Industrials	1,637,190		1,637,190
Materials	248,357		248,357
Consumer staples	1,028,740		1,028,740
Technology	1,135,315		1,135,315
Telecommunications	165,236		165,236
Utilities	237,528		237,528
Total common stock	8,251,454	-	8,251,454
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	48,350,027		48,350,027
International equity funds	9,103,889		9,103,889
Domestic fixed-income funds	30,561,878		30,561,878
International fixed-income funds	5,609,412		5,609,412
Real estate equity funds	1,939,585		1,939,585
Total mutual funds	95,564,791	-	95,564,791
Total assets	\$106,036,681	\$ -	\$106,036,681

2012	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
<b>Asset Category</b>			
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 3,777,786	\$ -	\$ 3,777,786
Common stock:			
Consumer discretionary	768,900		768,900
Energy	928,823		928,823
Finance	909,947		909,947
Healthcare	1,171,305		1,171,305
Industrials	1,237,400		1,237,400
Materials	248,452		248,452
Consumer staples	1,099,866		1,099,866
Technology	1,289,750		1,289,750
Utilities	203,063		203,063
Total common stock	7,857,506	-	7,857,506
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	33,739,389		33,739,389
International equity funds	8,234,405		8,234,405
Domestic fixed-income funds	31,641,634		31,641,634
International fixed-income funds	5,614,546		5,614,546
Real estate equity funds	1,892,580		1,892,580
Total mutual funds	81,122,554	-	81,122,554
Total assets	\$92,757,846	\$ -	\$92,757,846

## 5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2013 and 2012, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed DAV \$92,872 and \$110,780 in 2013 and 2012, respectively. At December 31, 2013 and 2012, the Foundation owed DAV \$61,270 and \$137,774, respectively. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

As discussed in Note 2, DAV contributed \$52,800 and \$88,725 to The Columbia Trust in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The Columbia Trust also received \$175,302 and \$80,000 from the DAV in 2013 and 2012, respectively, for funds designated to assist in meeting the transportation and medical needs of veterans.

In 2013 and 2012, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of \$740,000 and \$650,000, respectively, to The Columbia Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program.

In 2013 and 2012, the Foundation distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund	\$ 45,000	\$ 73,274
National Service Office Copier Fund	15,016	47,014
National Service Office Reference Manuals	25,000	25,000
Construction of fraternal merchandise internet store front	105,000	-

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. In performing the duties of their positions as a Foundation Board of Director, some members also serve on the DAV Charitable Service Trust's Board of Directors.

## **6. GRANTS AND EXPENSES OF THE COLUMBIA TRUST**

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, the grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 454,097	\$ 494,501
National Transportation Network Van Grant Program	1,063,635	700,941
Other grants to service programs	30,000	47,500
Miscellaneous expenses	2,128	1,312
Grant proposal processing	<u>30,223</u>	<u>47,182</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,580,083</u>	<u>\$ 1,291,436</u>

In 2013, temporarily restricted net assets of \$1,023,461 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$556,622 were used. In 2012, temporarily restricted net assets of \$909,605 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$381,831 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of \$1,023,461 and \$909,605, are shown as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the accompanying statements of activities for 2013 and 2012, 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, 2013, but before April 7, 2014, 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 JOHNSTON: May I have a motion to accept the report from President Wilson for the National Service Foundation.

MR. ROLAND PAQUETTE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 3.

MR. PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette, Chapter 20, moves to accept Art Wilson's report.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Is there a second?

MR. JAMES BOGAN: Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2.

MR. BOGAN: James Bogan, California, seconds. COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? So ordered. Thank you, Art, for an excellent report. At this time I will ask Vince Darc – Vince Darc – excuse me – Darcangelo of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation. (Applause)

MR. VINCENT DARCANGELO: Commander, members, officers, and guests. My name is Vincent Darcangelo from the Department of Pennsylvania and I'm on the National POW/MIA Committee along with Larry D'Angelo, Lawrence D'Angelo from the Department of Florida. And we served this year, the past year, on the POW Committee.

We did several projects and some hard work. And I'm just going to give you some highlights from our Seminar. My report will be brief, I can tell you that.

We still have 83,000 missing in action, unaccounted for, that have not come home yet. And that's from our combined past wars. The Department of Defense accounted for, since January of this year, 2 Vietnam veterans, 16 Korean War veterans, and 5 World War II veterans. And all of last year there were only 60 sets of remains that were identified. That is far less than the 200 per year mandated by Congress, which begins next year.

Due to the increased pressure by Congress and the media scrutiny our Defense Secretary has a plan to fix the recent failures within the two major agencies in charge of the accounting effort. Those would be JPAC, the Joint Pacific Accounting Command, and DPMO, the Department of Defense Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Office. The two agencies will be combined by restructuring and reorganization.

In the past year two delegations from Vietnam have come to Washington, D.C., to discuss the prisoner of war issue. Our own Joe Violante attended the first meeting and was quite surprised to learn that they are here seeking information on their own MIAs from the Vietnam War and there was no discussion held about American MIAs.

Then just a few weeks ago, in July, a second delegation from Vietnam visited us and, again, their only concern and discussion was that they wanted information about their MIAs from the Vietnam War.

We know that Vietnam has war museums, many documents with photos that could be very helpful in accounting for our own MIAs in the Vietnam Conflict yet still they have restricted our access to those museums and their information.

It may be suggested that if there are any Vietnam vets out there that have any information about their MIAs it may be a show of good faith to come forward and present that information and perhaps we could increase cooperation with Vietnam and they could get around to actually helping us account for our own MIAs.

Just like me, many of you in this room have participated in POW awareness marches, you have stood vigils, you have attended rallies, you have signed petitions for our POWs and can you imagine – many of you are very passionate about the issue, as I am.

And I can't tell you how I felt this past June when I attended the National Alliance of Families annual meeting in coordination with the Department of Defense briefing, annual briefing on the POW issue when it was, I found out details of a POW camp in Laos called Nam (indistinguishable) and a missed opportunity where we knew and we had three different intelligence sources verifying that they were holding between up to 30 American prisoners of war in that POW camp in Nam (indistinguishable) and it was a missed opportunity.

We had a rescue mission being designed at Fort Bragg and it never came to be. And imagine what the POW issue would look like today if that mission had been successful and we brought those POWs home.

The POW is a very important and a passionate one to veterans. And did you know that the only flag that flew over our White House in Washington, D.C., was the black and white POW flag? That POW flag is a symbol of our undying effort for the undying dedication to the POW issue and the accounting issue.

And a few years ago our POW Committee, we started a tradition where we would present a POW flag to our outgoing commander in support of his support of the POW Committee. And Commander Johnston, would you step forward?

(Whereupon, Commander Johnston joined Mr. Darcangelo at the podium for the presentation of a POW/MIA flag, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. DARCANGELO: That concludes my report. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Vince. Marc, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. The Nominating Committee will meet 30 minutes following the close of this morning's session in Sky View 2, the 26th Floor of the Indigo Tower, in just 30 minutes from now.

This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30. We will start off with the important business of nominations and election of our officers. Please be on time.

We are, again, giving away \$30 gift certificates, redeemable to the DAV store to five delegates at the Convention. I will call your name. If you, if the person is here in the hall, please come up front to see Tony Baskerville.

This evening's activities include the introduction of our National Officers at six o'clock followed by delicious food and great entertainment.

I will go ahead and call the five names: Art Miller from Alabama; Dorothy Reed from D.C.; George Granter from Illinois; William McIntyre from Oklahoma; Michael Quinn of New York. Commander.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Marc. Chaplain Ringo, will you lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Eternal Father, we thank You again for the great work and efforts put forth for the blessing of our veterans and their families. We seek to always keep them our priority and continue to look for new ways to help make sure the promises made to those who served the uniform are fulfilled.

Let us never forget the sacrifices they made for all we hold dear, especially those who never made it home, who were killed or missing in action. Now be with us as we take this break and refresh and prepare for our final session. We humbly pray in the Name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The Convention stands in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:59 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2014.)

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## FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 12, 2014

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 93rd National Convention convened in the Event Center on the Casino Level of Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday afternoon, August 12, 2014, and was called to order at 1:30 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Joseph W. Johnston.

COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: The Convention will come to order. As a reminder, once again we ask that everyone in attendance please turn off their cellular telephones and portable devices.

In opening this afternoon's business session it is right, fitting and proper that we render due respect to the flag of our country. Present arms. Order. Please be seated. We will now be led in prayer by Chaplain Ringo.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: He is supposed to do that toward the end so that when we get tired it happens. Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, we come together again for our final session. Much work and great results have been created. We thank all those who have shared their talents and skills in this stewardship.

May we always remember how blessed we are to live in a place where we can choose to do the things that we want and when and where we want to do them. We thank all who have gone before us to make it possible.

Now be with us as we rededicate our efforts and bring in our new leadership team for the coming year. We are thankful for all our blessings and pray this humbly in the Name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Please be seated. 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.

And I would now like to remind everyone that registration of delegates is closed. I will call upon the Chairman Warren Tobin for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, this is the final report of the Credentials Committee and reflects the total registration as of 10:00 o'clock, August 12th, 2014.

There are 1,222 delegates and 48 alternates registered which includes 50 Departments and 443 Chapters. There are 8 National Officers, and 32 National Executive Committeemen and 9 Past National Commanders currently registered. The vote total is 8,309. At this time I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee members and advisors.

Comrade Commander, that completes the final report of the Credentials Committee and on behalf of the Committee I move for its adoption.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: May I have a motion to second that motion?

MR. PAQUETTE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 3.

MR. PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette, Chapter 20, Texas, seconds.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: 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 A. JOYNER: Thank you, Comrade Commander. Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Nomination of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on August 9, 2014, by Committee Advisors Gene 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 Fred Powers, California, was elected as secretary.

The Committee on the Nomination of National Officers met on Saturday, August the 9th at 1:30 p.m. The Committee met again today at 11:30 a.m. to review and interview more candidates. We have elected the following individuals to be – we would recommend for the national offices.

For the office of National Commander, Ron F. Hope from North Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice Commander Moses A. McIntosh Junior from Georgia; (Applause) for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, David W. Riley from Alabama; (Applause) for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster from California; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander, Dennis L. Krulder from New York; (Applause) for the

office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Brigitte G. Marker from Oregon; (Applause) for the office of National Chaplain, Michael P. Dover from Georgia; (Applause) for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier from North Dakota. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, this completes this report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers. On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of this report.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: 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. LINDEN: Al Linden, Mic 2.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 2

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

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed? So ordered.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOYNER:  
Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You have heard the report of the Committee on the Nomination of National Officers and they have nominated Ron F. Hope for National Commander. (Applause) Here to second the nomination for the great State of North Carolina is Rodney Tucker. (Applause)

MR. RODNEY TUCKER: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

MR. TUCKER: Ron Hope was born in Texon, Texas, and now resides in Clemmons, North Carolina, with a daughter named Ronda. He is a life member of Stanley County Chapter 12.

Ron joined the Army in 1968. Army. (Cheers) After his training he was assigned to the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the 1st Air Calvary. (Applause) On July 15th, 1969, his helicopter was shot down during a combat assault at Song Be Province. Ron and the gunner survived the crash. The copilot and crew chief were killed.

Ron was transported to a MASH unit in Bien Hoa, Vietnam and then to Japan. Later he was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center. He was in the burn center from August 1969 to March of 1970. In April of 1970 he was medically retired as a result of his wounds.

Ron's military decorations include a Purple Heart, multiple Air Medals, the Army Aviation Badge and Vietnam Service and Campaign medal.

In 1979 Ron joined the DAV as a National Service Officer in Waco, Texas. In 1983 he was appointed NSO Supervisor in Oklahoma City. In 1992 he was made Director of Services for the Department of North Carolina and in 2000 was one of the original nine Area Supervisors appointed by the National Adjutant where he served as supervisor for North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. He retired in 2010 after 32 years of service to the DAV. (Applause)

From the time Ron joined the Army through his recovery, his years of service as a DAV NSO, he has been a fighter for his country, the veterans and their families to ensure they receive the benefits they sacrificed for and earned. Now it's time to let Ron fight for you to fulfill the mission statement of this great organization and its 1.2 million members.

It is with great honor that I nominate your next National Commander for 2014 and 2015, Ron Hope. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Thank you, Rodney. The Chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of National Commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

If there are no further nominations I close nominations and declare Ron F. Hope elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous vote for his election. (Applause)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of the DAV, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Ron F. Hope, for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The Nominating Committee has nominated Moses McIntosh of Georgia for the office of 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 Moses McIntosh of Georgia elected as National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated David Riley for the office of National First Junior 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 First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Delphine Metcalf-Foster for the office of 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 Delphine Metcalf-Foster elected National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Dennis Krulder for the office of 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 Dennis Krulder elected National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Brigitte Marker for the office of 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 close nominations and declare Brigitte Marker elected as National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dobmeier for the office of 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 nominations and declare Michael Dobmeier elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael Dover for the office of 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 nominations and declare Michael Dover elected as National Chaplain. (Applause)

And I will now instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these officers.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, cast one unanimous ballot for Moses McIntosh for National Senior Vice Commander; David Riley for National First Junior Vice Commander;

Delphine Metcalf-Foster for National Second Junior Vice Commander; Dennis Krulder for National Third Junior Vice Commander; Brigitte Marker for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander; Mike Dobmeier for National Judge Advocate; and Michael Dover for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I would now like to ask the newly-elected officers and their families be escorted to the stage please.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and their families were escorted to the stage.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: You guys can be seated. At this time I would like to call on my friend, your National Commander-Elect Ron Hope for his remarks. (Applause)

COMMANDER-ELECT RON F. HOPE: Thank you, everyone, for that very warm welcome. I could spend the next two hours thanking individuals who were instrumental in my development as a National Service Officer for 31 years and in the last two years as a National Line Officer. But I won't take that much of your time this afternoon, but I must thank some of them.

First And foremost, I'd like to thank my first family: my mother, Lucille Hope, who stayed by my side for most of the eight months that I spent at Brooke Army Medical Center's burn center between 1969-1970; my daughter Ronda Wilson and her husband Dusty and my grandchildren, Pete and Addison, for their support while I travel;

my second family, the Department of North Carolina, (Cheers) and especially my Chapter 12 out of Albemarle; the Ninth NEC, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina; (Applause) the Department of Texas and my Chapter there, Chapter 167 in Fredericksburg; (Applause)

The National Service Officers in Winston-Salem; my administrative assistant for 25 years, Etta Ratledge, for correcting my grammar, spelling and sentence structure; Don Samuels and Wally Tyson for their guidance in adjusting to the fraternal side of the DAV;

Art and Mary Wilson and Dennis and Maxine Nixon for their friendship and mentorship on the many occasions when I needed it; all of the employees in Cold Spring, Kentucky and Washington, D.C., for keeping me on track during the past 35 years;

Rodney Tucker, Bobby Williams and Ken Wolfe for their assistance during my tenure on the line and all of the National Service Officers nationwide who helped me in my travels; (Applause) and all of the members nationwide who, without their support, I wouldn't be standing here today as your National Commander-elect.

Last, but certainly not least, a very special thank you to Victor and Anita Diaschenko, Doug Russell, who is not with us anymore, and Dennis Nixon who helped me "come home" after 25 years, after July the 15th, 1969. Doug isn't with us anymore but he and I and Vic were only a few feet apart during my time in Vietnam.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of Bravo 227 who are here today. Please stand.

(Whereupon, the members of Bravo 227 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT HOPE: We made a commitment together to never leave one of our own behind. If we hadn't, I wouldn't be here today. And that's what it is all about: veterans serving veterans. That's what the DAV is all about.

When I became a part of the DAV more than three decades ago, I never dreamed I would be addressing our fellow veterans and members of our DAV family as your National Commander. Commander Johnston, National Adjutant Burgess, and, most importantly, my fellow veterans, I want you to know it's a position that I do not take lightly. I know I have some very big boots to fill as Commander Johnston accomplished some amazing feats on his watch. (Applause)

Joe, you've been a great mentor and an even better friend. Thank you very much for your contributions. As you end your tenure as Commander with the DAV in better shape than when you came in and your leadership has been inspiring to all of us. Thank you very, very much. (Applause)

Friends, we've had a busy year. And, rest assured, we're going to get busier. As our weary nation winds down from combat operations after nearly 13 years of war, those veterans will be making that very challenging evolution that we've all experienced ourselves.

The transition out of uniform and back into civilian life is difficult. But that's where the DAV is at its very best. I'm very proud to say that I spent 31 years as a National Service Officer and helping veterans make that transition often beings with their NSOs and TSOs.

This past year when Washington, D.C., couldn't stop squabbling and playing partisan politics, the government, as you will remember, shut down. Many of our NSO offices were located inside VA medical centers and this could have presented a problem.

I cannot tell you how proud I am that while the government shut down, DAV's services to veterans did not. (Applause) Our NSOs developed a "Plan B" and many of you worked out of our mobile offices, tents and tables in parking lots.

And that's where the "rubber meets the road" for the DAV. I want all of our NSOs and TSOs to know our leadership certainly appreciates the hard work that you men and women do each day for our veterans. Let's give them a hand. (Applause)

We also have busy times ahead as we continue the fight for passage of Putting Veterans First Act. This will ensure things like much needed equipment and infrastructure at VA medical facilities is accomplished during government shutdowns, that pension and disability checks do not stop flowing to those who've sacrificed for our nation.

DAV knows that our partners at the VA operate the largest health care system in the country and offer some of the finest health care in the world. We know that they have our veterans' best interest at heart, although the actions of a few individuals have made it a challenging year for our partners at the VA recently.

But recent events have, rightfully, outraged the nationwide community of veterans and the public at large, as well it should. And though the extent of the secret waiting lists were carefully held, the result could have been predicted at any time over the past decade when recommendations from the Independent Budget were ignored.

The bottom line is you cannot effectively run any organization without effective funding. And DAV will continue to advocate before Congress to fully fund the VA so that it can provide the quality health care to our men and women who served, as they deserve nothing less. (Applause)

From the time I served in Vietnam there was one theme that separated and released the honor – and raised the honor of our fighting forces. It was our commitment that we never leave our own behind.

And yet, as we as an organization recognize and must continue to ensure that this is the case for women veterans who made and took that same oath and made the same commitment to their brothers when they served.

For too long – (Applause) for too long the word "veteran" has been associated as a purely masculine term. And while women veterans served with distinction in times of war, they did not receive the benefits they had earned.

Our nation made the same promise to them and we need to welcome them to our ranks, give them the opportunity to lead, and to advocate for them with a single, unified voice. (Applause) DAV has led the advocacy effort for women's veterans. And I promise you we will continue to do so.

Family, friends and fellow veterans, it will indeed be a busy year for DAV. We have many fights ahead of us. But we cannot look back or down. And we shouldn't back down. Let our local community leaders, stakeholders, elected officials and local Congressional delegates know about veteran issues in our own backyards.

Finally, there is an acronym I want all of you to know and that is DAV CAN – D-A-V C-A-N. Everyone associated with DAV and their families should be members of the Commander's Action

Network. It ensure we get the word out to policy makers that we vote and we are going to fight to ensure that our nation lives up to its promise to the men and the women who serve.

Finally, I pledge with each of you to take on a mentoring role. Starting this year we're going to see so many young men and women leaving military service. We need to reach out to them. We need to bring them into our organization and make them a part of our community.

Don't count on them to understand the benefits available to them or the importance of our organization. Be ready to teach them, to reach out to them, to show them the impact that we make on peoples' lives. Give them a role to serve and bring them into our family.

I look forward to working with you all this year. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Commander and I pledge to you that I will work tirelessly to ensure your voices are heard as we continue our more than 90 years' mission of service to the men and women who raised their hand and said, "send me" and went forward to conduct America's business when called.

Thank you one and all and God bless America. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Commander Johnston placed the National Commander's cap on the head of Commander-Elect Hope, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: I would now like to ask our Senior Vice Commander Moses McIntosh for any comments that he may have. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT MOSES A. MCINTOSH, JR.: Thank you, Commander. And I want to personally thank you for this past year of your outstanding leadership and tutelage that you presented to us. Also, Adjutant Marc Burgess, thank you for your guidance throughout this past year and I look for continued guidance in the upcoming year.

And Ninth District, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina (Cheers) I want to thank you. And I want to thank each and every one of you. I really, truly appreciate the support. But just let me say, first of all, this has been and continues to be a most humbling moment in my life.

I thank each and every one of you for your continued confidence you have in me. And I'm very grateful. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. And I will endeavor to represent you with the utmost transparency and boldness. And I stand in solidarity with the Auxiliary.

I look forward to working with the elected line you have chosen and Headquarters staff for the betterment of this organization.

To my family, I am also grateful to them for the love, support and the hard work they have given me because without them I would not be the man I am today. Again, thank you all. As I hope you will continue to pray for my wife and I as we walk this journey together.

And one thing I always say I want you to remember is that it is because of your dedication that America remains free. It is because of your persistence that Congress will not forget. And it is because of your commitment that no ill or injured veteran will be left behind.

And may God bless you. May God bless America. And may God bless the DAV. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We will now hear from our First Junior Vice Commander Dave Riley. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID W. RILEY: To all of you that have helped me through this year, Chad Richmond, Bill Baker, Carl Bailey, Art V. Miller, Eddie Figueron, most of all to my wife who has put up with me for 27 years now. (Applause) I look forward to a new year of service to vets in this, the nation's or the world's best VSO. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Next we will hear from our Second Junior Vice Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Good afternoon. (Response of "Good afternoon.")

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: First of all, I would like to thank God for my life. I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for having faith in me and giving me the privilege to stand before you as your Second Junior Vice Commander of the world's most great organization, the DAV. Give yourself a hand. (Applause)

I would like to thank my family for their love and support through this journey. I would like to thank my District. District 16 would you please stand and be recognized. Give yourself a hand.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 16 stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: You have and you continue to be my rock. My Committee who have worked tirelessly to get me to this point, I thank all

of you. I thank the National staff for their leadership and their support. They have always been there for me in the last 24 years and I do thank you for that. Thank you. (Applause)

I will continue as I have in the last 23 years of fulfilling the promises of the men and women and families on what they deserve. With your help and your support that I see you have given all over the last six states that I have visited I know that it will continue.

And if there is anything that I can do for any one of you, please let me know. May God bless you. May God bless the DAV. And may God bless America. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We will now hear from our Third Junior Vice Commander Dennis Krulder. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DENNIS L. KRULDER: I wish to thank the Department of New York and District Number 2 for their support as I move up these chairs.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Commander Joe for his leadership. One night, late in the evening, when I was doing my emails and that Joe called me as I was going on my first assignment. That call was one of the most important calls I have ever received because he took some of the nervousness that I had in me, inside myself, out of me. So I thank you for that, Joe. (Applause)

To Mr. Burgess, Mr. Jesinoski, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Marszalek, I thank you for your leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Amberly Jackson and her staff for all the help that she has given me over this past year. Dan Clare, Doreen and the staff in Communications, I want to thank you all.

Most of all, I want to thank Sal Tornatore and Ron Tears, my campaign managers. But I would be remiss if I didn't thank Department adjutant and Past National Commander Don Sioss for all his leadership that he has given me over the past year. Thank you, Don. (Applause)

I promise I will work as hard as I can to keep the promise to all veterans. God bless all of you out here in the audience. God bless our staff. And God bless America. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Our Fourth Junior Vice Commander is Brigitte Marker. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER BRIGITTE G. MARKER: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MARKER: So I am very humbled and honored today to have been elected to serve you and the National Organization as your new fourth junior vice commander. I would like to thank the 19th District for their continuous support. Would the 19th District please stand to be recognized?

(Whereupon, the members of the 19th District stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER MARKER: This journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support and love of my family: my husband, Mason, and my children Alex and Sidney; my parents, Bill and Geisla Rigsby; and my mother-in-law Laverne Marker. I love you all very much.

I would be remiss not to mention and thank my campaign manager, National Area Supervisor Rob Lougee. Rob, thank you for your friendship and support through this journey. (Applause) My campaign advisor, Past National Commander Brad Barton, Brad, thank you so much for your friendship and support. (Applause)

My Committee, Sarah Royse, Rhoda Janus, and Tom Cousino, I owe you all a big thank you. (Applause) I also would like to thank a few NSOs that have helped me along the way: National Area Supervisor Tom Wendell; NSO Andre Carter; NSO Amber Mimi; NSO Justin Moran, thank you for supporting me through the years.

Last but definitely not least, thank you to you, the membership, and the Nominating Committee for giving me this opportunity to serve you and our ill and injured veterans in fulfilling the promises that have been made to them. Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We will now hear from our National Judge Advocate-elect Mike Dobmeier. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Our Commander made a comment. I won't repeat it but I can tell you it doesn't get old to be elected by your heroes. Thank you very much for your continued confidence. I can do this. Sandy, would you stand.

(Whereupon, Sandra Dobmeier stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: My wife, Sandy, who not only supports me, lately she has been outrunning me. (Laughter) To 14th District, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, thank you. Would you all please rise.

(Whereupon, the members of District 14 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: And Commander Ron, we've got your back, buddy. (Applause)

COMMANDER-ELECT HOPE: Thank you very much.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Our National Chaplain-Elect Michael Dover. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT MICHAEL DOVER: Marc, I'm very grateful that you sent the memo to my wife for the color t-shirt. I feel at home now. Thank you. (Laughter) All I know is camouflage. She dresses me. It's all good. We have a great relationship.

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee and delegates and members present in placing your trust and confidence in me as your chaplain. I want to personally thank my God, my wife, Latrelle, if you will please stand, dear.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Dover stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT DOVER: Moses McIntosh, Bobby "the Brain" Huggins, Chuck Weeks, the 9th NEC and my many friends who have encouraged me on this journey. And I also want to thank Chaplain Ringo who has set a very high standard and, sir, I can only hope to emulate what you have done.

Commander Hope and Adjutant Burgess – (Applause) yes. Commander Hope, Adjutant Burgess, I look forward to serving you, the national line, the Executive Board and the Auxiliary, and carrying out the mission of this great organization to the next level.

And to the members in general, I consider the trust you have placed in me sacred. And I give you my sacred oath that I will do my utmost to justify your faith. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 1.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Carson City Chapter 7, Department of Nevada, so moved.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Mic 3.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Seconds that motion and with a great thanks from the Committee – the great thanks of the Convention.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: We have a motion and a second. All those in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed? So ordered. National Adjutant Burgess, would you please read the list of newly-elected National Executive Committee members.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term 2014 to 2016: District 2, Robert Finnerty, New York; District 4, Timothy Kelly, Connecticut; District 6, Bennie Harris, District of Columbia; District 8, Kevin Wenthe, Louisiana; District 10, Rolly Lee, Michigan; District 12, Rodney Hegleson, Wisconsin; District 14, Joe Parsetich, Montana; District 16, Dan Contreras, California; District 18, Johnny Stewart, Arizona; and District 20, Teresa Johniken, Texas. (Applause)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda. Marc, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I do. As a reminder to all the National Executive Committee persons, including those newly-elected, the National Executive Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the Convention, just a few minutes, in the Grand Ballroom Silver. A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. NEC Alternates should also attend this swearing-in ceremony.

The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting in Grand Ballroom Gold.

The presentation of the National Officers will begin at six o'clock this evening here in the Event Center followed by dinner. And I would like to say a, give a grand "thank you" and acknowledgment for the Arizona Color Guard as they get ready to wrap us up. And they are John McNeal, Demetrious Smith, Nancy Welch, Edwardo Gonzales, and Maria Snyder. I want to thank them and give them a big hand for being here to do their business. (Applause) Commander.

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Chaplain Ringo, will you please lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Just prior to the prayer, it's been an honor and privilege to be your chaplain for the past two years. I know that the Lord when one door is closed another will be opened and other opportunities are in the horizon for all of us. And I look forward to the ones in front of me.

It's a privilege to work with all the National staff. I greatly appreciate all that they do. I've emphasized that over the Convention this weekend. Please thank them. None of this stuff could be done without the National workers that we have doing all that they do.

I also want to thank my original home state of California and all their support. (Applause) And I look forward to seeing great things with this new elected body. Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we have come to the close of this 2014 Convention. We are so humbly grateful for the tremendous efforts and work that has been done. We ask for Your special blessing to be with this new leadership team. Be with them as they go throughout the land and represent our organization to share our message and hear what else is still needed to be done to assure that the promises made are fulfilled.

Please be with those who still stand the watch in our lands all around the world. Protect them and their families as they continue to serve. Now be with all of us as we travel to our various destinations, that we may have Your loving hand of protection and safety.

And please be with us and this work until we meet again. We humbly pray in the Name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Commander of the Color Guard, retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired by the Department of Arizona Color Guard.)

COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Sisters and brothers, please give the Department of Arizona Color Guard another big round of applause. (Applause) Sisters and brothers, the 93rd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. We will see you next year in Denver. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at 2:21 o'clock, p.m.)

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## **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY**

### **92<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

**August 9, 2014**

### **Opening Business Session**

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The Opening Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Champagne 1-2 Ballroom of the Paris Casino Level, of the Paris Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday afternoon, August 9, 2014, and was called to order at 2:06 o'clock, p.m., by National Adjutant Judith Hezlep.

ADJUTANT JUDITH C. HEZLEP: I'd like to call this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Las Vegas to order. We thank you for being here. Appreciate it.

National Sergeant-at-Arms please present National Commander Susan Miller to the platform. (Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms Kim Stake escorted Commander Susan Miller to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms please have National Chaplain and the National Officers escorted to the platform: National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus; National Judge Advocate Carol Gray; National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman; National Third Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken; National Second Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa; National First Junior Vice Commander Linda Stake; National Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg; Immediate Past National Commander Donna Adams.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake escorted the National officers to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring in the State representatives.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: State of Alabama, Rebecca Culver; (Applause) Arizona, Lucy Garza; Arkansas, Janet Vogle; (Applause) California, Mary Lou Caldwell; (Applause) Colorado, Kathy Phelps; (Applause) Delaware, Sarah Kashner; (Applause) Florida, Paul VanSandt; (Applause) Georgia, JoAnn Atkinson; (Applause) Illinois, Carla Reynolds; (Applause) Indiana, Dorothy Fivecoate; (Applause) Kansas, Veronica Bergquist; (Applause) Kentucky, Melissa Walker; (Applause) Louisiana, Carolyn Sensat; (Applause) Maine, Sylvia Heath; (Applause) Maryland, Claudette Holt; (Applause) Massachusetts, Sheila McGowan; (Applause) Michigan, Gloria Boozer; (Applause) Minnesota, Laurie Pekarik – Pekarik, excuse me; (Applause) Mississippi, Juanita Upton; (Applause) Missouri, Glenda Flynn; (Applause) Montana, Laurie Grantier; (Applause) Nebraska, Breanne Chandler; (Applause) Nevada, Sharon Howe; (Applause) New Hampshire, Jeanne Gideon; (Applause) New Jersey, Edna Iverson-Long; (Applause) New Mexico, Brenda Moore; (Applause) New York, Cheryl (sic); (Applause) North Carolina, Margaret Keller; (Applause) North Dakota, Marissa Jackson; (Applause) Ohio, Jeanette Scott; (Applause) Oklahoma, Jennifer Hammons; (Applause) Oregon, Vickie Partridge; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Diane Freeman; (Applause) Rhode Island, Linda Folcarelli; (Applause) South Carolina, Steven Truscello; (Applause) South Dakota, Nancy Worth; (Applause) Tennessee, Cindy Fink; (Applause) Texas, Sharon Thornton; (Applause) Vermont, Ann Marie Greenwood; (Applause) Virginia, Diane Brinkley; (Applause) Washington, Micki Kraft; (Applause) Wisconsin, Kathy Lytle; (Applause) Puerto Rico, Ana M. Torres. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the delegates were escorted to the front as their names were called.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Our Commander said you are too noisy. National Sergeant-at-Arms—please clear the center for the flags to be brought in. National Sergeant-at-Arms, please have the host state Colors brought in and posted.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the State of Nevada were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring forward and post the National Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please dismiss the National and host state Department Color Bearers.

(Whereupon, the Color Bearers were dismissed.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We will now have the prayer by National Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the privilege to be together yet again today. We thank You for the safe travels provided to each and every one of us.

We ask a special blessing on those who have lost some so dear – upon Kay Eagan and her family and friends, Micki Kraft and her family and friends, Laurie Stopyra and her family and friends, and on Past National Commander Kathy Wiley at the loss of her family.

Today we know that many of our troops are in harms' way and we ask a special blessing upon each of them. We give thanks for the privilege to serve and to be united in service for this past year.

Help us to use our ears to listen to all the words that we can gain for knowledge here and, most important, to share that knowledge when return home.

Help us to be respectful of each other. Help us to open our minds and our hearts to gather all the information we can. In Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by National Americanism Chairman Craig Johniken.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman William Craig Johniken advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN WILLIAM CRAIG JOHNIKEN: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Johniken led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which he withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Thank you. Our National Anthem will be sung by one of our Junior members, Chloe Wheeler. Would she come – oh, sorry. Didn't see you. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, Chloe Wheeler sang our National Anthem, followed by a standing ovation.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Absolutely beautiful.

(Response of "Yes.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You can be seated, please. She is from Maine. (Applause)

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in the Annual National Convention composed of the National Officers and representatives of the state Departments and Units.

In accordance with these directives I, Judith C. Hezlep, National Auxiliary Adjutant, declare the 92<sup>nd</sup> 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.

At this time it is my pleasure to introduce National Commander Susan Miller. (Applause)

COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: Thank you.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: She said "thank you" but I'm not done yet. (Laughter) No, it is always a pleasure to introduce the National Commander. Now, I've got to say with Susan, she is kind of quiet. She really is. (Laughter)

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes, I am.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: She is. And sometimes I will send her an email or a note and it's like my mouth goes here. It goes in an email the same way. And I'll get an answer, "okay" or "thank you" or whatever. But, Susan, it has been such a pleasure getting to know you, to work with you.

And we, at National Headquarters, have had a great year with you. And I hope you've enjoyed us as much as we have enjoyed you. And we appreciate all that you have done for this great organization. Thank you. Have a great Convention.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thanks. (Applause) I have enjoyed National Headquarters or you wouldn't have got your popcorn. (Laughter) I want to welcome everybody. It's great to see the room so full.

I hope you enjoyed the National Anthem. I heard her sing in Maine when I was there and just felt my – oh, I just poured out and I had to have her come here. So they came just so she could sing. (Applause)

I would like to introduce our National Convention Chairman Eileen Langille.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Langille.

COMMANDER MILLER: Langille, boy, I messed that one up. (Laughter) Oh, she's not going to talk? She's just our Convention Chairman. She is not going to come to this podium to speak. (Applause) Oh, she will speak at the luncheon so you will hear her later.

Now, I would like to introduce all of our Past National Commanders who, without them, we wouldn't have all the wisdom and knowledge of this great organization: Betty Hall; (Applause) Evelyn Dorsey; (Applause) Paula Raymond – (Applause) she is at the back; Carol Gray; (Applause)

Linda Trulio; (Applause) Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) Donna Tanner; (Applause) Kathryn Wiley; (Applause) Sandy Dobmeier; (Applause) Susan Henry; (Applause) Patti Rapisand; (Applause) and Donna Adams. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as their names were called each Past National Commander stood and acknowledged the audience.)

COMMANDER MILLER: And Sandy Dobmeier, if you would like to come forward to bring greetings.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Sandra Dobmeier advanced to the podium.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANDRA DOBMEIER: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DOBMEIER: On behalf of the Past National Commanders we'd like to welcome all of you to the Convention. We hope you have a great one, get a lot of knowledge, and lots of things to take back, and have a great time.

It is my privilege to ask Susan to step up. We have a little token from the Past National Commanders that we would like to present to her on her wonderful year that she has had and all she has done for this organization.

It's a long road when you start on that end and work all the way up. (Laughter) And all past national commanders, I am sure, will agree it's a long road. It's well worth it. And the memories will last a lifetime.

It's such an honor and a privilege to be able to serve as a commander of this organization. So on behalf of the Past National Commanders I would like to present this to you.

(Whereupon, Commander Miller was presented with a gift from the Past National Commanders.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. I know what that is. I get to keep one. (Laughter) These are the beautiful crystals I get to hand out to everybody and never get to keep one. (Laughter) So now I have one of my own.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DOBMEIER: Congratulations.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Dobmeier withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: If you are attending the Convention for the first time, would you please stand up and remain standing. We have first-timer ribbons to give to you.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Wow. Look at that. Stay standing. I guess they have ribbons, right?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Yes.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS KIM STAKE: I lost the box. (Laughter)

COMMANDER MILLER: Well, sit down and when Kim finds the box we will have you all stand up again. (Laughter) We will just go on. At this time I would like to recognize our Past National Commander Outstanding Member of the Year recipient, Shirley Kosisky of Arizona.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Kosisky stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: We all heard this morning about all the wonderful things she has done. Very deserving.

At this time I would like to dismiss the Nominating Committee and I would also ask that District 20 members from Texas – that's District 20 – please step out in the hall for a brief caucus.

(Whereupon, members of the Nominating Committee and District 20 withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER MILLER: I should have said "quietly." At this time I would like to request that anyone making a second, making a motion or seconding a motion please go to a microphone, state your name, Unit and state Department or they may not be recognized since our recorder hears the information through his or her – I guess it is his – headphones.

So please, if you want to speak, go to a – where are the microphones? In the hall, okay. All right. Make sure you do that.

Will the Credentials Committee Chairman please come forward to give a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee?

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests.

The Credential report is as follows: total Units registered, 169; total Departments registered, 37; National Officers registered, 5; Past National Commanders registered, 10; total guests registered, 160; total delegates, 372; total alternates, 30; total registered 518.

**Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.**

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. Do I have a second?

(Whereupon, Althea Jackson spoke from the floor.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Jean, you have to go to a mic. We'll, I'll repeat it. Jean Jackson, Unit 7, Colorado, seconds the motion. Any discussion? All in favor say aye; all opposed? 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 now will entertain a motion for adoption of these rules.

MS. DEBRA PARKER: **Debra Parker, Unit 24, State of Arizona, I make a motion that we adopt these rules.**

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. Do I have a second?

MS. ELLEN GRIGGS: Ellen Griggs, West Virginia, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: What Unit are you from, Ellen?

MS. GRIGGS: Thirty-two.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thirty-two?

MS. GRIGGS: Yes. Thirty-two, West Virginia.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. Okay. All in favor of accepting the Convention Rules signify by saying aye; opposed? The motion carried.

May I have a motion to accept the agenda subject to change? There is an agenda that has been printed.

MS. REBECCA CULVER: **Rebecca Culver, Unit 9, Alabama, I move that we accept the agenda as presented.**

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. CAROL LEE: Carol Lee from Michigan Unit 129, I second it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; any opposed? The motion carried.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep and Commander Miller had a sidebar conversation.)

COMMANDER MILLER: You tell them. I'll mess it up.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: On your agenda the times are correct, the rooms are correct but on our specific agenda for what we are doing in each session is not correct.

They did the agenda, the booklet, without checking with the Auxiliary. Feature that. So when we got here we found out they used last year's agenda. So, as I said, the times, the rooms, everything is okay, but the agenda will vary.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: I would now as the Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg to take over, please.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn B. Karg advanced to the podium to assume the chair.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER LEEANN B. KARG: I will now present – sorry – our National Commander Susan Miller for the purpose of reading her report.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. National Adjutant Hezlep, Assistant National Adjutant Kemper, National Officers, Past National Commanders, members and guests, my journey as the national – I'm probably going to cry because I didn't this morning so I will have to this afternoon, but maybe not. (Laughter)

My journey as a national officer began in August 2008 right here in Las Vegas, Nevada. It ends this year as National Commander, right here in Las Vegas, Nevada. I will never forget the past six years.

My first duty as National Commander was in August of 2013. I was asked by San Isabel Unit Number 2 of Pueblo, Colorado, to ride in the State Fair parade. I shared a convertible with Colorado's DAV Department Commander and the DAV Auxiliary State Commander.

In September I was off to Pennsylvania for the "Sharing and Caring" boat ride. Talk about "united in service." Many different organizations work together to put this week-long event on.

I was told that they transport veterans from four states to the paddleboat lunch cruise. It was an honor to share my first paddleboat ride with all those veterans. And we were entertained by Cher and Elvis. That was the best part. Elvis was really good. Cher was pretty good, too.

In September in my community the local assisted living center hosts an annual pie auction as a fundraiser for the residents' activity program. And I baked two 10-inch pies, a peach and a cherry, for the first, for this event. And the next day I made two gallons of homemade ice cream for their banana split party.

The following day, September 14<sup>th</sup>, I was off to Pueblo, Colorado, for the annual All Patients Activities Day where I host a snow cone booth every year.

October was the Auxiliary National Fall Conference. Our officers and chairmen did an excellent job presenting their programs. Colorado's fall SEC meeting was held in Denver. I am the state adjutant and I was able to attend that meeting.

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, I flew to Alabama for Veterans' Day. On Sunday there was a memorial service in the park, a VIP reception, and then the national veterans' award dinner.

On Veterans' Day I attended the Memorial Service at the Church of the Advent, the World Peace Luncheon and then rode in the parade. I have never seen so many people lining the streets. There was more people lining those streets than we will ever have in the town I live in. (Laughter) It was very impressive.

In December I didn't have any duties. I was able to spend it with my family.

In January I attended Florida's Mid-Winter Conference. They had an excellent turnout and the officers and chairmen did an excellent job. The last day of the conference they had the Commander's Testimonial dinner. This was also very nice.

The end of January I attended (Undistinguishable) Unit 26's Americanism program in Colorado Springs. February brought snow to Denver so I missed a joint Americanism program of S.O. Brown Unit 11 and Clyde Siler Unit 21. I was told it was a very good program.

February 15<sup>th</sup> I was able to attend the Americanism program sponsored by Murphy Borelli Klumker Unit 7 in Lakewood, Colorado.

I attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. I had the honor of laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. I was assisted by LeeAnn Karg National Senior Vice Commander, Craig Johniken National Third Junior Vice Commander, and Ellen Timmerman National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. It was just beautiful.

I accompanied Commander Johnston as he gave his address on Capitol Hill and attended the Operation Keep the Promise rally that was held prior to the address. Commander Johnston and his staff did an excellent job.

I left D.C. and flew to Fort Drum, New York, to see my son who had just returned from Afghanistan. (Applause) Sorry. But it's wonderful to see him come home.

At the end of March I drove to Snowmass, Colorado, for the Winter Sports Clinic. I spent four days there. I climbed the wall to the very top and rang the bell. (Applause) I didn't ski but Joe didn't climb the wall, either, so. (Laughter) It's just amazing to see how this clinic can change the life of a veteran.

My testimonial dinner was following the Winter Sports Clinic so I did not spend the entire week there. I want to thank all of you who attended my testimonial dinner.

The next weekend was DAV Commander Johnston's testimonial. I drove to Cincinnati for it. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, I installed the new officers for San Isabel Unit Number 2 in Pueblo, Colorado.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, I flew to Kansas City, Missouri, for Unit 2's Americanism program, a tour of the very impressive World War I Museum, and a tour of the VA hospital there.

We got caught in a downpour going to the hospital. We had been so dry in Colorado I wanted to bottle the rain and take it home with me. (Laughter)

Following this event was the National Finance Committee meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Committee did a great job on the budget.

State Conventions started in May. I attended Maine and Mississippi in May, plus Colorado's as the state adjutant. We were honored to have Craig Johniken as our national representative.

In June I attended Conventions in Hawaii, California and Arkansas. All the Conventions were very good. The amount of work the Auxiliary members do is outstanding.

I was supposed to go to Oklahoma but my nephew got married and so I had to go to his wedding in Fort Collins and thank you, Linda Stake, for going to Oklahoma for me.

In July I attended the CNA Conference in Covington, Kentucky. This was very informative. The DAV National staff did a great job. I toured National Headquarters. I was there but it was many years ago.

It is a very beautiful, impressive building. And I got to go into the store and buy stuff where you can see it and take it back if it didn't fit real quick and it's just amazing.

And now the end of here. I have seen the wonderful work that the DAV Auxiliary does. Please keep up the great work.

I want to thank my family and especially my mother for her support over the past six years. God bless all of you. God bless the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary. And God bless America. Thank you so much. (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: Don't cry.

COMMANDER MILLER: I'm good now. I'm done.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: I will now entertain a motion to accept National Commander Susan's report.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Madame, Kim Stake, Unit 57, Arkansas.

MS. OLIVE TOMLIN: **Olive Tomlin, Unit 6, Colorado, we accept your report.** (Applause)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I just wanted to second it.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: We've got a motion and a second. All those in favor say aye; all those opposed say no. Accepted. (Applause)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Karg withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Did you find the first-timer ribbons yet?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: No, ma'am.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Okay, who took them?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I'm not kidding. She handed them to me. I set them back there. And poof. We're looking. We're looking. It's just a little brown box about so big and it's got a yellow ribbon on the outside of it. It says "first timers" or "new." And it just went poof.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, this is just an announcement. For those of you who are attending the Southern Caucus Breakfast on Monday, it will be at 7:30 a.m. in the Versailles Rooms 1 and 2 in the Paris Hotel.

The tickets have said "Bally's" so it's in Paris, not Bally's. Thank you. Versailles – the Versailles 1 and 2. You can tell I'm not French.

So, if you are attending the Southern Caucus Breakfast there is a misprint on the ticket. It says it's going to be in the Bally's Hotel and Casino and the Versailles Room is here in Paris.

And we are waiting on Donna. They had to go and get her and she will come to give her Education Scholarship report.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I have contacted the hotel. They are trying to cool it down in here.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Kim.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: We do have water back here. (Undistinguishable as she continued speaking but not near a microphone.)

COMMANDER MILLER: If anybody wants water there are hot ones here. Okay, we're going to continue on. And I would like to call National Junior Activities Chairman Tawnya Kingsley to approach the podium, please.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Is she in here?

COMMANDER MILLER: I don't have my glasses on. I can't see that far back.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake found the first-timer ribbons inside the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: I found the ribbons.

COMMANDER MILLER: Oh, they were up here.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Here are the ribbons.

COMMANDER MILLER: We stole the ribbons. They are up here. (Applause) So would all the first-timers please stand up and you will get your ribbon.

(Whereupon, all first-timers stood and were given a ribbon.)

COMMANDER MILLER: One first-timer is up here on this podium, up here on the stage, so make sure she gets her ribbon.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Yes, ma'am.

COMMANDER MILLER: Are you still passing out ribbons?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Just a few more, yes.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. Is that it?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Yes.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, Donna.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA M. ADAMS: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: There you go. Let's get some – we need some warmth in here. (Laughter) Madame Commander, line officers, Past National Commanders, employees, everybody, and all you wonderful delegates, I am here to talk to you about the Education Scholarship Fund.

If you remember, about three years ago, I believe, it was changed from the Loan Fund to the Scholarship Fund. The guidelines have been put online.

One of the things that the guidelines will show when you take this back to your Units – and I see everybody writing so they can take this back to their states and make sure it goes into their newsletters or online or whatever – the current form each year will have a revised date on it.

Even if there are no changes it will show a date revision on it. If the correct form is not used, the scholarship application will not be considered. Okay?

So, if it's, if the questions are not completed, if, you know, you say "see attached" and don't put an attachment, if the grade point average is not at least 2.5, if the form is not used correctly, it will not be considered.

Our scholarship applications are getting more in number. Our funds are decreasing. We, last year, budgeted \$50,000. And we allocated \$50,000. However, each year the competition is going to get more and more stringent. And we have to have ways to vet out those that have not completed the application properly.

So, you know, right time, right place, on time, complete and ready to go. You know? It's basically you're looking for a scholarship and if you want to go to college with a scholarship you have to know how to fill our paperwork.

And if you can't fill out the scholarship application, perhaps you should look at attending some other form of McDonalds' training. (Laughter)

This year we had 60 applicants. The Committee, the judging Committee consisted of myself – as the Immediate Past National Commander I was the chairman – our National Commander, Susan Miller, is the second member; and our Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg.

The way we judge them is the Headquarters Office makes copies of all of the applications. They send them to us. We judge them independently, then we get together on an online meeting where we can look at a scoring sheet and we put our numbers in.

If somebody is way off – you know, if I am giving everybody 69, 70, 80 and all of a sudden I dump down to a 45 and somebody else had continued to give them an 80-85, whatever, then we stop, we look at that one to see where the differences is, what did I see that you didn't do.

So then we combine all of the scores, we average them out, we find a natural break and that's how we determine who is eligible for the scholarships.

This year we had 60 applications. We were able to grant 36 scholarships. Two of those scholarships were for part-time or for a lesser amount. We did, actually – you know the maximum amount anybody can get is for \$1,500.

So in order to get the most people that we thought were qualified that were right in this range we did a natural break at \$1,500 and then went to \$1,250 and then there were a couple that we did \$750.

So we allocated a total of \$50,000. What actually ended up happening was we had two students, one did not need the amount, the whole \$1,500 and called National Headquarters and so only \$750 of that was allocated.

And the other one, there was money that was allocated and she actually graduated early so she called National Headquarters and that one wasn't released. So the total amount that was actually expended was, I believe it was \$47,500. Okay?

These scholarships are way important. How many states – how many people here have people from your state that have received or are receiving the scholarship?

(Whereupon, members answered in the affirmative by raising their hands.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Quite a few of you. And I know we actually have some recipients here at the Convention and congratulations to those people who do.

The only way we are going to keep this fund going is through your donations through your states and through your units and through individual donations.

You know, in my state when we have a State Commander pass away or an immediate family member our Past State Commanders and Adjutants Association makes a gift in their name of wherever they want it to go and it's something we might think about.

If you have someone that's close to you, consider the Education Scholarship Fund as some place where you want to give your gift-giving dollars. And with that said, are there any questions about the scholarship?

So, at this point, our National Commander is going to come down here and gratefully accept any donations that any states or units might have. Do we have anybody that brought us money for Education Scholarship Fund?

Okay, don't all stampede at once because, you know, it's warm in here. (Laughter) I see somebody coming.

(Whereupon, the members lined up to bring their donations to the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: So we are going down?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER AND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ADAMS: Yes. And this is also if you want a photo op, make sure you have that time. I thank you for your time. Continue with a wonderful convention. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Education Scholarship Convention Chairman and Past National Commander Adams withdrew from the podium.)

MS. ANN MARIE GREENWOOD: My name is Ann Marie Greenwood. I am from the State of Vermont. I have two checks here. One is for the DAVA National Education Loan Fund and that's \$100. And the other check is for DAVA National Service program and that's \$100, also. Thank you. (Applause)

MR. PAUL VANSANDT: Paul Vansandt, State of Florida, I do have a check to present for it but I did leave it in the room in a hurry getting down here because I didn't want to be late because somebody threatened us if we weren't here by the right time we would be in trouble. (Laughter) I will bring it back in. I believe it is for \$100.

COMMANDER MILLER: But he is not sure on the price so, the amount.

MS. CHERYL CONNORS: Hi, I'm Cheryl Connors from the State of New York. We have one check for the National Education Scholarship Fund for \$150 and one for the National Auxiliary Service Fund for \$150.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. JEANNE GIDEON: Jeanne Gideon from the State of, the Department of New Hampshire, I have one for the National Education Fund, National Service Fund, and also the National, for the Kids for Camp.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The great State of Texas has a check for you for \$750 for the Service Fund and \$750 for the Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: It's a check for the Service Fund in memory of Bill Novak.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause)

MS. JoANN ATKINSON: JoAnn Atkinson, Department of Georgia, we have two checks, one for the hospital riding program and the National Department Service Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Michigan City Indiana Unit 23, a donation to the National Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause) Hi.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The State of Kentucky has two checks, one for the Educational Fund and one for the Service Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'm going to blame Sandy Resner because she left the check in her room. (Laughter) That makes me – you know. But we have a check for \$200 for the Scholarship Fund

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: – from the state of Illinois.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you.

MS. ANNELIESE RAUBER: I'm Anneliese Rauber, Unit 38, New Mexico, I have a check for you for Camp Corral and the DAV National Headquarters for \$200.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Everybody, before I tell her what the monies is I want to thank everybody who has sent me cards and things for my dad that passed away.



Now, there is one here for \$100 for the Kids 4 Camp. There is one here for the Winter Olympics for \$100, and \$100 for the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you so much. (Applause) Thank you all.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: You've got another.

COMMANDER MILLER: Oh, we'll wait. (Laughter)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the State Department of Ohio we have DAV for the Service Fund for \$300. We have the Scholarship Fund for \$300. And we have the DAV for Kids for \$100.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, and if you would give these to Ann right over there. Thank you. (Applause) Thank you all very much for your donations. (Applause)

Now, Tawnya Kingsley, the National Junior Activities Chairman, will present some gifts to the Juniors.

(Whereupon, National Junior Activities Committee Chairman Tawnya R. Kingsley advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAWNYA R. KINGSLEY: National Commander Susan, National Adjutant Judy, and Pat, line officers and delegates and guests.

We would like to thank all of our Juniors for the hard work and dedication that they have put into going and volunteering and making goodie bags and everything they have done to make the veterans' lives better.

And we would like all registered Juniors to come up here and introduce themselves and we have a bag to give them with some little goodies we have put together. (Applause) And there is also – you will also find a coupon in your bag to come to the business office and pick up a gift.

(Whereupon, the Juniors in the room advanced to the podium.)

MS. OLIVIA KASHNER-FORWOOD: Olivia Kashner-Forwood and I'm from Delaware. (Applause)

MS. KENNEDY: (Undistinguishable) Kennedy and I'm from Virginia. (Applause)

MASTER ETHAN KINGSLEY: My name is Ethan Kingsley and I'm from Kentucky. (Applause)

MASTER GIOVANI JEFFERSON: Giovani Jefferson and I'm from Wisconsin. (Applause)

MS. (UNDISTINGUISHABLE): (Undistinguishable), Colorado. (Applause)

MS. JOSETTE HIGGINBOTHAM: Josette Higginbotham from Texas. (Applause)

MR. JONATHAN BRADER: I'm Jonathan Brader from Kansas. (Applause)

MS. ERIN: My name is Erin and I am from Washington.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KINGSLEY: I have Erin here that is from Washington. (Applause)

MS. JESSICA: I am Jessica from California. (Applause)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KINGSLEY: Juniors, when you go out of here make a left-hand turn. You will have a yellow coupon in your bags. We have t-shirts to give to each one of you so just come down to the office. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Junior Activities Chairman Kingsley and the Juniors withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: I will now call on National Adjutant Judy Hezlep for announcements.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Do you see why we adopt the agenda with changes? (Laughter) We appreciate your consideration of the things that we have to change around.

(Whereupon, Donna Adams advanced to the podium and had a sidebar conversation with Adjutant Hezlep.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Okay, Ann Richardson and Laurie Stopyra, please report to the Nominating Committee with Donna.

Okay, the Memorial Service will be tomorrow, Sunday, at 7:30 a.m. I know you have all had your practice so that kind of makes it go smooth. Please, please, please, be on time, because they are not going to hold up the Memorial Service. And I certainly want the Auxiliary to be represented.

The National Chairmen are to pick up their Committee folders tomorrow morning in the Auxiliary office Versailles Number 4. (Laughter) She said Versailles. I'm from Ohio, we say Versailles. (Laughter) This is Colorado, I know.

Our Convention Committee meetings convene tomorrow morning. Serving on a Committee, please check the program schedule for the rooms and the times. That part on your schedule is correct, the rooms and the times, as far as I know. (Laughter)

There will be no Auxiliary business session tomorrow. For many years the Auxiliary members have requested to be able to participate and sit in on some of the DAV seminars. They are very educational. They are very well done.

And they have accommodated us this year. And they're allowing bigger rooms, not just for DAV. So check the front of the agenda and if there is a seminar you would like to attend, please go. They are welcoming us. We want to learn and be a part of what the DAV is doing.

The Forget-me-not Luncheon is Monday at 12:30 p.m. You must show a ticket to get in. You can keep the ticket. But you must show your ticket to get into the luncheon.

I think there are a few available. We lowered our guarantee this year so if you don't have it they are being sold right where you registered. There is a table outside where the DAV and Auxiliary held their registration.

And there is a sign out that says "Forget-me-not Luncheon." So please get your ticket as quickly as possible because when we sell out, we have – we will have met our guarantee and I don't think we can get additional.

Is there anything else, Commander that you have? Okay, we will call on Aura-Lee for a closing prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Judy, just a minute, please? I'm looking of the lady who gave me Southern Caucus tickets to sell. I believe she was from North Carolina. And I have the unsold tickets and money to turn in to her so if she would contact me I'm in 1072 in the Bally Hotel.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Over right here, to the right.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Okay. Thank you.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Can we stand for closing prayer, please.

Dear Heavenly Father, at this pivotal time in our nation's history we ask Your blessings upon the leaders of our country, upon the leaders of our state, upon the leaders of our organization, both here at the National level and also throughout our states and our units and chapters.

We ask Your blessings upon each and everyone in this room. Please guide us and direct us. Keep us safe. Help us to find the most important part of our organization, the camaraderie we share. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: The Convention stands in recess until – we will reconvene on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:15 o'clock, p.m., on Saturday, August 9, 2014.)

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## **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY**

### **92<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Paris Vegas Hotel and Casino**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

**August 11, 2014**

### **Second Business Session**

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Champagne 1-2 Ballroom on the Paris Casino Level, of the Paris Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Monday morning, August 11, 2014, and was called to order at 9:04 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Susan K. Miller.

COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: We're going to get started. I call this meeting to order and we will have the opening prayer by Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Please stand for prayer, for those that are able. Dear Heavenly Father, we give thanks for being together today and for the wonderful time that we shared last evening.

We pray for our members who are unable to be with us. We pray for all those at home, that You will care for them, those that are ill, be with them, those that are in the hospital, help them to heal.

We pray that You will nurture our spirits today and help us to remember that although we all have many different ideas, that what we have to look most forward is the forward of our organization. Bless us all. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," after which Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Craig Johniken, Americanism Chairman, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Johniken advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN JOHNIKEN: Free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the proper salute and please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Johniken led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which he withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Will the Credentials Chairman please come forward to give an updated report on the Credentials Committee.

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests. The Credentials report is as follows: total Units registered, 172; total Departments registered, 37; National Officers registered, 6; Past National Commanders registered, 10; total guests, 180; total delegates, 374; total alternates, 30; total vote count, 1,258; total registered, 600.

**Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.**

(Whereupon, the Convention Credentials Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second? And please come to the microphone to second it.

MRS. SYLVIA HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, seconds.

COMMANDER MILLER: There is a motion and a second to accept the Credentials report. All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

I will now call on the Finance Committee Chairman Donna Henshaw for the National Finance Committee report and budget review.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairman Donna Henshaw advanced to the podium.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DONNA HENSHAW: National Commander Susan Miller, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, family and friends, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HENSHAW: The National Finance meeting was held April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members with the Committee present were Susan Miller, National Commander; Debbera McLaughlin, District 7 NEC; Earnestine Bennett, District 17 NEC; Lorna Kakesako, District 18 NEC, and myself, Donna Henshaw, District 10.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper.

The purpose of this meeting was to set up and adopt a budget for the 2015 year. At this time I would like to thank the Committee and the staff for all their help.

The budget was included in your registration packets and at this time **I move for the adoption of the budget.**

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairman Henshaw withdrew from the podium.)

MS. DEBBERA McLAUGHLIN: I, Debbie McLaughlin, Unit 18, Florida, second that.

COMMANDER MILLER: Before we have the vote will you please turn your cell phones off or put them on silence, please.

There is a motion and a second to adopt the budget. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman will come forward for the first reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws amendments. This is only a reading. Please hold all questions and comments for the second reading.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JUDY STEINHOUSE: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I am Judy Steinhouse, 14<sup>th</sup> District, and I was elected the chairman of this Committee. Sit back, relax. Pull out your copy and follow along.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary proposed National Constitution Amendment. This – the first one is an amendment to the actual Constitution.

National Constitution Change. Page N-2, Article III, Eligibility for Membership, New Section 1. Add new Section 1 as follows:

"Any person who is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans is also eligible for membership in the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary."

Rationale: This sentence was omitted during the rewriting of the expanded membership eligibility constitution amendment of 2010. The current Article does not address members of the Disabled American Veterans. Sections will be renumbered accordingly.

The next items are all proposed Bylaw amendments.

Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, A, Annual Senior Membership: Delete the entire paragraph. If approved, Paragraph B will become Paragraph A and re-lettering of the remaining paragraphs will be done accordingly.

Rationale: With the development of a new DAV/DAVA membership system, the Auxiliary's expense for product customization to meet the annual membership requirements will exceed \$400,000. And that cost continues to go up. Without significant membership growth the system expense for annual membership alone will have a considerable financial impact on the organization.

DAV has achieved success with life memberships and while the Auxiliary will still assume financial responsibility for their portion of the new system, the parent organization is generously absorbing the system cost for features used in tandem with the DAV and DAVA without proration.

Provided that members make ample payments to achieve the annual life membership distribution they can, essentially, take years to pay the balance of their respective life memberships.

Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1: Definitions. A: Delete A and substitute the following:

"A. A member in good standing is one whose dues are sufficient to make the annual distribution and not indebted to the organization."

Rationale: To clarify the definition of "good standing."

Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1: Definitions. C: Delete C and substitute the following:

"C. A member is delinquent when funds are insufficient to make the annual distribution."

Rationale: To define delinquency.

Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1: Definitions. D: Delete D.

Rationale: No longer applicable.

Page N-28, Article VII, Membership. Section 6: Membership Classification. B. Life Membership: Delete the first full paragraph.

Rationale: Membership is no longer required to be paid in three full membership years but member must maintain sufficient funds to make annual distribution.

The balance of this section of proposed changes, Number 7 through 23, either eliminate a sentence or a paragraph that pertains to annual senior or senior or senior membership or changes the word "senior" to "life" in that sentence or paragraph.

Page N-6, Article I, National Convention, Section 4: Delegates, second paragraph: change the word "senior" to "life."

Page N-30, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification D. Junior Membership, third paragraph, second sentence: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page N-39, Article X, Local Units, Section 1, Paragraph 3: Change the word "senior" to life" in three places.

Page S-2, Article II, State Convention, Section 3: Delegates, second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-2, Article IV, Executive Board, Section 1: Change the word "senior" to life" in two places.

Page U-2, Article X (sic) Eligibility for Unit Office, Section 1: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 1: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 2: Change the word "senior" to life."

Do I sound like a broken record? (Laughter)

Page U-4, Article IX, Appointed Officers, Section 1, second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3: Adjutant, Item 9: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-9, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 1, Regular Business Meeting, second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-10, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 2: Special Meetings, first paragraph, Number 3: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-11, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 3: Executive Board Meetings: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-12, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 2: Audit Committee, first paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-13, Article XV, Unit Finance and Dues, Section 1: Membership Dues, second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, Section 1: Delegate/Delegates, Paragraph 1: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, Section 2: Change the word "senior" to life."

Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification. Change the first paragraph to read:

"Parenthesis (Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 end parentheses) Membership classifications are as follows".

Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership: Delete the first paragraph and substitute the following:

"Any person 18 years of age, having met the requirements of membership, shall become a life member."

Rationale: Clarifies that they will be life members and not annual members.

Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, C Members-at-Large, National Members-at-Large, second sentence: Delete the sentence which reads:

"An annual membership card shall be issued upon receipt of a \$15.00 payment to National Headquarters."

Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, C. Members-at-Large, State Members-at-Large, second sentence: Delete the sentence which reads:

"The amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each Auxiliary State Department."

Page N-35, Article VIII, Finances, Section 2: Per Capita Tax, first paragraph: Delete the entire first paragraph.

Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 3, Paragraph A: Delete the words "up" and "and/or annual senior." Paragraph will now read:

"A. When there are ten or more paid life members."

Page N-6, Article I, National Convention, Section 4: Delegates, Paragraph 4: Add the following sentence to the end of Paragraph 4:

"In the absence of any delegate their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit or State.

Paragraph 4 would 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.

"In the absence of any delegate, their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit/State."

Rationale: To grant voting privileges to the registered alternate delegate in the absence of a delegate, thereby eliminating unnecessary hardship involved in changing registration status.

Page N-10, Article I, National Convention, Section 5: Official Rules of the National Convention, Rule 12: Delete Rule 12 and substitute the following:

"Rule 12. No person shall participate directly or indirectly in a vote on any subject except fully accredited delegates or alternates acting as delegates who have registered and paid the registration fee."

Rationale: To bring this rule in line with changes made to the National Convention delegates. It eliminates the unnecessary hardship for an alternate to change over to being a registered delegate.

Page N-30, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, D. Junior Memberships, Paragraph 2: Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following four paragraphs – and that should be five paragraphs, not four:

"New Junior and Junior Life membership applications shall be processed upon receipt at National Headquarters only if a date of birth is provided.

"Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Junior membership requires no payment of annual dues and shall be considered complimentary until the member reaches Age 18 at which time the membership will convert to a part-life membership and billings shall commence.

"Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, a Junior Life membership may be secured on a payment plan through Age 18 at which time if said Life membership is not paid in full the membership shall continue only as long as there are sufficient funds to make annual distribution. Said life membership fee shall be equivalent to the current Life membership at Age 18. The minimum down payment to start the Life membership is \$20.00.

"Prepaid annual Junior fees as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, shall be applied to a Junior Life membership, when applicable.

"Junior membership shall not have the privilege of voting but may hold any appointive office in the Unit with the exception of the adjutant – excuse me, exception of adjutant. Junior members shall be counted on the membership standing of the units. There shall be no refund of Junior membership dues."

Rationale: The financial obligation that applies to system development of the annual Senior membership also applies to annual Junior membership. This amendment provides for complimentary Junior memberships and also offers an opportunity for a Junior Life membership to be secured on a payment plan. Prepaid annual Junior fees as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, shall be applied to a Junior Life membership, when applicable.

Pages N-30 and N-31, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, D, Junior Membership, fifth paragraph: Delete the entire fifth paragraph.

Rationale: Senior members may hold multiple memberships in different states so Junior members should have the same rights.

Page N-31, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, F. Transfers, first paragraph, first sentence: Delete the first sentence and substitute the following:

"Life members in good standing and Junior members of one Auxiliary Unit may secure a transfer of membership to another Unit."

Rationale: since Juniors are not required to pay dues, this provision would not apply to them.

Page N-35, Article VIII, Finances, Section 2: Per Capita Tax, third paragraph: Delete the paragraph which reads:

"The National per capita tax for Junior members is \$3.00"

Rationale: Since Juniors are not required to pay dues this provision does not apply.

Page S-2, Article II, State Convention, Section 3: Delegates, Paragraph 4: Add the following sentence at the end of Paragraph 4:

"In the absence of any delegate, their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit."

Paragraph 4 would then read:

"A member shall not cast a vote in the State Convention in more than one representative capacity or be registered as a delegate for more than one Unit.

"In the absence of any delegate, their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit."

Rationale: To eliminate any unnecessary hardship for an alternate to change over to being registered as a delegate. This, then, falls in line with the National Convention definition of delegates.

Page S-7, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4: State Treasurer, sixth paragraph: Delete the paragraph and substitute the following:

"The State Treasurer shall submit all records and a copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 when the gross income is greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 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 or Form 990-EZ or Form 990 is filed for income greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000, a copy of such shall be provided to the State Adjutant."

Rationale: Clarifies that the Audit Committee does not review financial records of State Departments that are required to use an Independent or Certified Public Accountant.

Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 6: State Adjutant, third paragraph, Item b: Delete Item b and substitute the following:

"b. A copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990-EZ or Form 990 for Units whose gross income is greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000."

Rationale: Clarifies what the State Adjutant must submit after the adjournment of the State Convention.

Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 2: State Finance Committee, first paragraph, second sentence: Change sentence to read as follows:

"No two members from the same Unit shall be elected to serve on this Committee parenthesis (this does not apply to State Departments when three or less chartered Units are present, end parentheses).

Rationale: States are no longer required to have three Units.

Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 3: State Nominating Committee, third sentence, in parentheses, change parenthetical statement to read as follows:

"Parenthesis (This does not apply to State Departments when three or less chartered Units are present. End parenthesis)"

Rationale: States are no longer required to have three Units.

Page S-13, Article 6: State Committees and Chairmen, Section 5, State Standing Rule Committees – State Standing Rules Committee, third sentence in parentheses: Change parenthetical – thank you – statement to read as follows:

"Parenthesis (This does not apply to State Departments when three or less chartered Units are present. End parenthesis)"

Again, rationale: States are no longer required to have three Units.

Page S-17, Article VIII, Finances, Section 2: State Per Capita, Paragraph 2: Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"The States shall determine and provide in the State Standing Rules the State per capita for Junior members."

Rationale: Proper placement for this is in the State – is in the Standing Rules so it can be voted on by the Convention Delegates.

Page S-17, Article VIII, Finances, Section 3: State At-Large Dues: Delete Section 3 which reads:

"The State shall determine and provide in the Supplement to State Bylaws the State at-large membership dues for annual Senior members."

Rationale: No longer applies due to the change to life membership.

Section 4 will then become Section 3 and renumbering the remaining sections will be done accordingly.

Page S-17, Article VIII, Finances, Section 4: State Mandates: Delete the entire paragraph and substitute the following:

"The State shall determine and provide in the State Standing Rules for any State mandates and details concerning said mandates."

Rationale: The proper placement for this is in the Standing Rules so it can be voted on by the Convention delegates.

Page S-19, Article X, Installing Officers, Section 1: Installing Officers, Paragraph 2: Delete the paragraph and substitute the following:

"The State Commander and the State Officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant or a Past State Commander. The incoming State Commander selects the installing officer."

Rationale: As representatives of the National Organization at State Convention this allows the National Adjutant and the National Assistant Adjutant the privilege of installing state department officers.

Page S-20, Article X, Installing Officers, Section 1: Installing Officers, Paragraph 3: Delete paragraph and substitute the following:

"State Executive Committee members shall be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected State Officer or a Past State Commander."

Rationale: As representatives of the National Organization at state conventions this allows the National Adjutant and National Assistant Adjutant the privilege of installing state executive committee members.

Page U-3, Article VIII, Installation of Unit Officers, Section 1, Paragraph 1: Delete the first paragraph and substitute the following:

"The Unit Commander and elected officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected State Officer" – an 'e' officer, should be 'elected' – an elected State Officer – "a Past State Commander, or a Past Unit Commander. The incoming Unit commander selects the installing officer."

Rationale: To have Unit officer installation agree with state officer installation, granting installation privileges to the National Adjutant and National Assistant Adjutant. This would be – this would allow them, when requested to do so, to install Unit officers.

Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3: Adjutant, Item 12: Delete Item 12 and substitute the following:

"12. Send a copy of the acknowledgement of Form 990 – of "Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 for Units whose gross income is greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000."

Rationale: Clarifies what the Unit Adjutant must submit to the State and National Headquarters.

Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, Item 7, Line 3: Delete Item 7 and substitute the following:

"7. Submit all records and a copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard to the Audit Committee for the annual audit. If the gross income of the Unit exceeds \$50,000 but is less than \$100,000, a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 must be submitted to the Audit Committee.

"If the gross income exceeds \$100,000, the Unit financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an Independent or Certified Public Accountant. They will submit to the Treasurer the completed Financial Report and an accountant's statements of findings."

Rationale: Clarifies that the Audit Committee does not review financial records of Units that are required to use an Independent or Certified Public Accountant.

Page U-9, Article XIII, Unit Members, (sic) Section 1: Regular Business Meetings, second paragraph, first sentence: Delete the word "five" and substitute the word "four." The sentence would then read:

"Four Senior members shall constitute a quorum."

Rationale: With a trending decline in Unit meeting attendance it is becoming increasingly difficult for some Units to conduct the regular, the required number of business meetings with the current quorum requirement.

Page U-13, Article XV, Unit Finances and Dues, Section 1: Membership Dues, first paragraph: Delete the entire paragraph, which reads:

"The amount of annual dues for both Senior and Junior members shall be set by the Unit."

Rationale: This provision does not apply now.

Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and Past National Commander Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Judy. I will now call on National Adjutant Judy Hezlep as we go into the Awards Program.



(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium and Commander Miller went down onto the floor to distribute awards.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Thank you. Excuse me. This year when we do the awards we are going to do things a little bit differently. Instead of coming up on the stage when you receive an award, when your Unit is called, we have our two lovely assistants over here. Bunny and Ann will you stand up, please?

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

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: So, Susan is going down and as we do the awards when your Unit is called if you want to come up here to accept your award and if someone wants to be taking photos, this is your opportunity and you don't have to come up and down these steps.

Monetary awards are given in each category of the respective programs to the first place winning Units and the checks will be mailed out by National Headquarters following the Convention.

When called upon, the Convention Committee Chairman will approach the podium and announce the winners. And, as I said, since we don't have a ramp we are going to go over there to receive your awards and for your photo ops. Please come forward as your Unit is called.

And our first presenter will be Americanism, Craig Johniken.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Johniken advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN JOHNIKEN: Here comes the chairperson for the Committee.

(Whereupon, Americanism Convention Committee Chairman Nancy Michalski advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN JOHNIKEN: I want to thank you all for having the opportunity to be the Americanism Chair this year. I've had a great time. This Committee worked really hard on this. It took them quite a while to get done with it. Thank you.

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NANCY MICHALSKI: Good morning. How are you?

(Response of "Good morning.")

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: Good. My name is Nancy Michalski and I'm a delegate from the State of Nevada. And I would just like to thank my Committee for the wonderful work they did and also the secretary, Sandy Resner. They did a wonderful job.

National Americanism Committee Convention report. National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Americanism Convention Committee met in the Champagne II Ballroom at 9:00 a.m. on August 10, 2014. Our advisor was Craig Johniken and Sandy Resner was elected the secretary.

Will the Committee members please stand as I read your name: from District 1 it was Allen Hedrick (sic); District 2, Anita Ingram; District 3, Linda Folcarelli; District 6, Barbara Sater; District 7, Betty Hess;

District 8, Becky Culver; District 9, Ginger Bish; District 11, Judith Uetterling; District 12, Sandra Resner; District 13, Linda Bratcher; District 14, Nancy Worth; District 15, Glenda Flynn;

District 16, Samantha Galliher; District 17, Beth Maughan; District 18 was Nancy Michalski; District 19 was Carol Georgoff; District 20, Fannie Lowe; and District 21, Margaret Scott. Thank you, ladies, you did a good job. (Applause)

The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Americanism Awards: Group 1 was 10 to 50 members, Mary T. Klinker Unit 27 of Indiana;

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: Group Number 2, 51 to 100, was Pikeville, Kentucky, Unit 134. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: Group Number 3, 101 members to 200 members, Beaufort County Unit 148, North Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: Group Number 4, 201 members or over, was Scottsdale Unit 22 in Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: The special Americanism Awards: Group Number 1 was 10 to 200 members, was General Melvin J. Miles Unit Number 17 in Maryland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: Okay, Group Number 2, 201 members or over, Frances J. Beaton, Unit Number 1 in North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

AMERICANISM CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHALSKI: And thank you again very much for this honor of being the chairman of this Committee. (Applause)

Oh, I'm sorry, there were two recommendations. Hang on one second. One was no writing in the margins and listing of points earned at state level. That's very confusing to the Committee. Please do not write on the reports when you send them in.

And the second suggestion was the instructional that is sent out should include a suggestion for activities listed on Americanism report to be specifically delineated as to whether the activity is attended only or participated in by the members.

That makes a big difference in judging. So if you participate or do anything in a program please put it down that you did this program, not that you just attended. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Johniken and Chairman Michalski withdrew Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Our next is Ellen Timmerman, Community Service.

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander and National Community Service Chairman William Ellen Timmerman advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN ELLEN L. TIMMERMAN: Joyce Humes, would you come forward, please?

(Whereupon, Joyce Humes advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: We had a lot that didn't show up for Community Service but those who did, they did an excellent job. They worked very hard. Joyce filled both positions. She was elected as our secretary and she also filled the position as our chairman on this.

So you know when you sign up for a committee, please go to it. We really need you there. It's very difficult. And these, the ones who did this, I'm not kidding you, they took their job very seriously.

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN JOYCE HUMES: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary conference or Convention.

The National Community Service Committee met in the Champagne Room Number IV at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Our advisor was Ellen Timmerman. Joyce Humes was named secretary.

Would the members that were present at the meeting please stand up as I call your name: District 1, Liz Eldridge; District 2, Monique Wisnesky; District 3, Jeanne Gideon;

District 4, Linda Applegate; District 7, Margaret "Peg" Henderson; District 8, Dorothy Robinson; District 11, Judy Davis; District 12, Patricia Dempsey; District 13, Tana Penland; District 14, Joyce Jefferson; District 15, Cheryl Goss;

District 16, Josephine M. Benner; District 17, Carol Ann Chapman; District 18, Janiel Hockenberry; District 19, Heidi Bjurstrom; District 20, Joyce Humes, that's me; District 21, Teresa Vance. (Applause)

The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Community Service awards: Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Dr. Gannon Number 3, Fayetteville, Arkansas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN HUMES: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Glasgow 20, Glasgow, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN HUMES: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, J.W. Cantrell, Number 63, Palestine, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN HUMES: Group 4, 201 members and over, Frances J. Beaton Number 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN HUMES: I want to thank all the Committee members for being on our Committee. They worked really hard and really long, at times. They have these following recommendations.

Do not write on the reports. Make sure that reports are filled out correctly. The State Adjutant must make sure to send only one report per category.

If you have to add information the back, add only one sheet, not a book. (Laughter) No explanations for greater amounts – no. There were no explanations on some for amounts greater than \$1,000.

And the biggest one is be neat.

Thank you very much, ladies. Appreciate being on the Committee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as Fourth Junior Vice Commander and Chairman Humes withdrew Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Next is Hospital, Linda Bailey.

(Whereupon, National Hospital Committee Chairman Linda L. Bailey advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA L. BAILEY: That squeaked when I was coming up through there. (Laughter) Can my Hospital chairman come up here?

(Whereupon, Convention Hospital Committee Chairman Marie Hansen advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: We had an awesome time doing this report. The ladies, and we only had ladies, had so much fun.

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN E. MARIE HANSEN: Hi, how are you all doing? I want to welcome the National Commander, the National Adjutant, the National Officers, the Past National Commanders, the delegates and the guests of this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention.

We want to thank our advisor, Linda Bailey, for all her assistance. And our secretary was Vicki Johnston and she did an excellent job.

The ladies that were on the Committee was – and I apologize in advance if I mess up your name so just be aware: Nancy Hoey – would you please stand; Diane Wisnesky; Donna Folcarelli; Bonnie Cuocci; Janet Hoffman;

Alycia Hill; Vicki Johnston; Carrie Willems; Emma Billings – Billins, sorry; Faye Litzinger; Mary Cummings; Evelyn Millan; Deidra Tidwell; Carol Schwartz; Sienna Stewart; Elaine Moreland; and me, Marie Hansen. And the ladies did an excellent job. They worked very hard on these. (Applause)

Okay, Group 1, 10 to 50 members, the winner was San Isabel, Pueblo County – Pueblo, Colorado, Unit 2. Unit 2. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HANSEN: Group 2, 50 to 100 members, was Cumberland County, Fayetteville, North Carolina, Unit 46. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HANSEN: One-hundred-one to 200 members, was General Melvin J. Miles, Camp Springs, Maryland, Unit 17. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HANSEN: And Group 4, 201 members or more, was Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota, Unit 1. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HANSEN: The recommendations that we have are fill in every blank; print clearly; encourage participation from all members; differentiate hospital versus community service because a lot of the stuff they had written down was actual community service versus actual hospital.

And please count every minute served or contributions made because a lot of times people don't count everything that they do. And they want to make sure that everything gets accounted.

And I thank all the ladies. And we had a good time. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as National Hospital Committee Chairman Bailey and Chairman Hansen withdrew Adjutant Hezlep advanced to podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Junior Activities, Tawnya Kingsley.

(Whereupon, National Junior Activities Chairman Tawnya R. Kingsley advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Will the Chairman of her Committee come up, too, please?

(Whereupon, Convention Junior Activities Chairman Micki Kraft advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KINGSLEY: It was Micki Kraft was the chairman of the Junior Activities. I'd like to thank the Committee with being patient with me yesterday for this was my first venture as an advisor so. And thank them for all their work.

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN MICKI KRAFT: Okay. National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of the 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Junior Activities Convention Committee met at 9:00 o'clock on August the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Our advisor was Tawnya Kingsley. Linda Oliver was the secretary. The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Junior Activities awards:

Group 1, 1 to 25 members, Pikeville Unit 134, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Group 2, 26 to 50 members is Gosher Memorial Unit 15, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Group 3, 51 to 100 members, Titusville Unit 109, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Group 4, 101 and over, Murphy – however you pronounce it.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Is it Borelli?

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Yes, Borelli –

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: What's the number?

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Is that Unit 7?

(Whereupon, several people in the audience called out the name Murphy Borelli Klumker.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Thank you. Is that Unit 7? Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Wow. And the National Junior Award, the Age 15 to 17 goes to Tylynn Hochletter, Unit 53, Indiana. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: The National Junior Award, 11 to 14, goes to Ethan Kingsley, Unit 134, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: The National Junior Award, 7 through 10, goes to Connor Michael Lindeman, Unit 7, Nebraska. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: The Committee submitted the following recommendations. Make sure to list how the Juniors earned the hours, don't just list the hours. List what was done.

Okay, we had District 2, Linda – okay – okay, never mind; sorry; Unit 6 was Lizzie Jackson; Unit 7 was Brandy Giles; Unit 9 was Steven Truscello; Unit 10, Juanita Morey –

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Teresita. Tess.

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Oh, that's right, Tess. Never mind.

Okay. Unit 11, Deronda Johnston; District 12 is Rodney Hegleson – you can read it better than I can.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Helgeson.

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Helgeson Jr.; 13 was Kaitlyn Hager; 14, Marissa Jackson; 15 is MaKayla Brader; 16 was Dolores Wingett; 17 is Cheryl Edwards;

18 is Carolyn Walker; 19 was myself – I don't know if I can pronounce that (Laughter); District 20 was Ursula Cunningham Spence; and District 21 was Linda Oliver. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, National Junior Activities Chairman Kingsley and Chairman Kraft withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Is there someone here from Indiana to pick up the Junior Award, please? Legislation, Fran Costa. And will her chairman please come up, too, please.

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander and National Legislative Chairman Frances J. Costa and Convention Legislative Chairman Jennette Scott each advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN FRANCES J. COSTA: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN: I would like to personally thank all of the Units across this country that did so much work on legislation.

It was very, very impressive. We have a lot yet to do but many of our members really stepped up and went to bat for our veterans. And right now they need us more than ever so please continue the good work.

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN JEANETTE SCOTT: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, guests of this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention – sorry.

Versailles, we met in the Versailles Room at 10:30 yesterday. Fran Costa was our advisor. And Jacqueline Gray was our secretary. The following Units were judged and received first place.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Unit Number 33, Greenville, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Fifty-one to 100 members, Unit 96, Hyannis, Massachusetts.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: What number?

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Ninety-six. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Unit Number – 101 to 200 members, Unit Number 78, Pikeville, Kentucky.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep and Chairman Scott had a sidebar conversation.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Sorry, that was Unit 134, Pikeville, Kentucky.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Glad we have Judy up here to keep me straight. (Laughter) Two-hundred-and-one members and over, Unit 20, Glendale, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: The Committee submitted the following recommendations. Encourage the Units to make local contacts. Encourage the Units to use correct dated form. We had a couple-years-ago form used.

Some states ignoring – no. Some states' reports did not get submitted. We had somebody there that said that their reports did not get submitted by their state. And it is the responsibility of the adjutant to do that.

The following members are the ones that was on the Committee: District 1, Nancy Mooney; District 2, Cheryl Connors; District 6, Jane Schmidt; District 7, Paul Vansandt; District 8, Edwina – and I'm not even going to –

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Daugeaux

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Okay, that word. District 9, Jacqueline Gray; District 10, Jeanette Scott; District 12, Evelyn Couture; District 13, Lynn Swanson; District 14, Kathy – do you know that one? Vandrovec? Vandrovec? Hey; District 15, Robin Hill; District 16, John Medvigy; District 18, Sharon Kowalski; District 19, Jerald Rosie –

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Royse.

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCOTT: Royse. Okay. Sorry. District 20, Linda Grant; and District 21 August Roden. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COSTA: I would just like to say one thing. I don't know if you noticed when the roll of the Committee was called how many gentleman served on this Committee. It was great having you. And they were really interested and asked a lot of questions. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander and National Legislative Chairman Costa and Chairman Scott withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Mae Holmes, LeeAnn Karg.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander and National Mae Holmes Chairman LeeAnn B. Karg advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Will her chairman please come up.

(Whereupon, Convention Mae Holmes Chairman Velma Steinman advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MAE HOLMES CHAIRMAN KARG: While our chairman is coming up, I just want to congratulate our team. We had a great afternoon or a great morning.

We got everything done really quickly. They were really efficient. And I really appreciate all their help so thank you to everybody who served. This is Velma Steinman. (Applause)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VELMA STEINMAN:

Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: National Commander Susan, National Adjutant Judy, National Assistant Adjutant Pat, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests.

The Mae Holmes Committee met on May 9 (sic), August 10, 2014, in the Burgundy Room at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our Advisor was LeeAnn Karg. We, I, Velma Steinman, was elected as chair. And our secretary was Robin Linton and assisted by – excuse me – by Aura-Lee Nicodemus. Excuse me.

As I call our Committee members, would you please stand. They did a really good job and the Mae Holmes report is a very hard report to judge so they did a really good job.

District 1, Donna Horton; District 2, Matilda Brooks; District 3, Aura – excuse me – Aura-Lee Nicodemus; District 4, Edna Long; District 6, Diane Brinkley; District 7, Winona Eastin;

District 8, Susan Turner; District 9, Megan Truscello – I hope I said that right; if I didn't, please forgive me; District 10, Carol Lee; District 11, Darlene Hanneman; District 12, Katie Lytle;

District 13, Mabelene Stevens; District 14, Pat Resler; District 15, myself; District 16, Miley Lee – Leal, I'm sorry; District 17, Shirley Walker; District 19, Robin Linton;

District 19, Florence Riley; District 20, Sharon Thornton; District 21, Janet Vogle. Thank you all very much. (Applause) We had a full slate minus one at our Committee. They did a really good job.

The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes awards: Group 1, 10 to 50, San Isabel, Unit 2 Pueblo, Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Lopez Unit 95, McAllen, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: Group 3, 100 to 200 members, General Melvin J. Miles Unit 17, Cold Springs, Maryland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: Group Number 4, 200 members or over, Glendale Unit 20, Glendale, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: I think somebody down there at the end is very excited. (Laughter)

The Committee submitted the following recommendations. Explanations – document, document, document. Detailed documentation makes for a winning report.

Complete every line and sign. No blanks. Read and follow the directions on the form. They are very plain and easy to follow.

Be sure that attachments are attached, as required. And include breakdown on the back of the form to decrease attachments.

Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander and National Mae Holmes Chairman Karg and Chairman Steinman withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Margaret, you've got to stop taking pictures and come up. (Laughter) Margaret Smell – smelling. (Laughter) Margaret Snelling, the National History Chairman.

(Whereupon, National State Department History Book Committee Chairman Margaret Snelling advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARGARET SNELLING: Would Anita Marcum join me?

(Whereupon, Convention State Department History Book Committee Chairman Anita Marcum advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SNELLING: While she is coming up I would like to thank you for the history books we received. We only got two but next year I'm promised that the next History Chairman will have more than they can take care of. (Laughter)

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANITA MARCUM: Hello, everyone.

(Response of "Hello.")

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARCUM: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention.

The National State Department History Book Convention Committee met in the Champagne Room I at 9:00 a.m. on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Our advisor was Margaret Snelling. Our secretary, Dorothy Reese was elected and appointed secretary.

I ask Committee members to stand as I call your names: District 1, Sandra Fincel; District 2, Josephine Rivera; District 6, Lena Maki; District 7, Donna Joyner; District 8, Juanita Upton;

District 9, Dorothy Reese; District 11, myself; District 12, Barbara Helgeson; District 13, Shelba Hunt; District 14, Marilyn Hardt; District 15, Gracie Caldwell; District 16, first name I'm not sure, Hernandez; District 18, Amber –

MS. AMBER LINTON: Amber works. (Laughter)

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARCUM: Thank you, Amber; District 19, Gracie Partridge – Jackie Partridge; my apologies. (Applause)

The following State Department was selected to receive the National State Department History Book Award: the State Department of Texas. (Applause) State History Book Chairman Joyce E. Humes. (Whereupon, a representative advanced to accept the award.)

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARCUM: And the Committee has submitted the following recommendations. Need to have area/district placed back on tally sheet. If a state does not have area/district, they can mark they don't have area/district. There was a question where some areas didn't have districts versus those that do.

2. Do not write on back of pictures. Use a Post-it to prevent any bleed-through.

3. Committee members need to stay until the judging is completed. We kind of were in there for about three hours and with two books and it took a little while.

And that is it. Thank you, everyone. (Applause)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Thank you.

(Whereupon, National State Department History Book Committee Chairman Snelling and Chairman Marcum withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Ann Glende, VAVS.

(Whereupon, National VAVS Representative Ann Glende advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE ANN GLENDE: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE GLENDE: The advisor of our Committee was Rose Williams and I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their reports and for serving on the Committee.

(Whereupon, Convention Committee on VAVS Chairman Rose Williams advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN ROSE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE GLENDE: Thank you.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention.

The National VAVS Convention Committee met in the Versailles Number 3 at 9:00 a.m. on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Ann Glende was our advisor, and a good one she is. And Kathy Wiley was the secretary, was appointed the secretary.

The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, West Dallas Number 19, Wisconsin. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Fayetteville, North Carolina Number 46, Cumberland County. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Number 6, Spokane, Washington. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And Group 4, 201 members or over, Frances J. Beaton, Number 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON VAVS CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: And now I would like to introduce the members of the Committee, the ladies and gentlemen who did an awesome job:

District 1, Sharon Dufault; District 2, Janice Bailey; District 3, Ann Marie Greenwood; District 6, Linda King; District 7, Lois Farrell; District 8, Carolyn Sensat; District 9, Odessa Hawkins; District 11, Elizabeth Hamel; District 12, Rose Williams; District 13, Charlyn Davis-Hager; District 14, Laurie Pekarik; District 16, Ardith Dillard; District 16 – oh, I'm sorry, District 15, Ardith Dillard; District 16, Melissa Pitts; District 17, Ricky Chapman;

District 18, Sharon Linton; District 19, Kathryn Wiley; District 20, Joanne Johnson; and our delegate from the 21<sup>st</sup> District didn't show up. And, as you can see, too, as – I thank you, ladies and gentlemen. It was great working with you all. (Applause)

As you can tell from my reading off of the Districts, we did not have representatives from three or four Districts so that was kind of disheartening.

Recommendations. We would recommend that the Units make a copy of the report first and then fill the one that you want to then transfer the information onto the report to be sent in because this would avoid any mistakes or messiness.

Remember to itemize. And the problem with the VAVS report was we had two different forms. One said underneath Sections 2 and 3 that if it was over \$1,000 you had to itemize.

The other form didn't say that. So we did not discard any ones that didn't have that line on them. They were all, they were kept in. And Annie explained there was a difference in the reports online.

Let's see. Think about your ratio of volunteers to your membership total. And then the "make forms match." And we just wanted to say that all the Units did a wonderful job.

And, also, if the winners of this unit, if you want to see what they did for special events to raise for VAVS contact them because a lot of them did great, great things.

Thank you very much, everybody. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National VAVS Representative Glende and Chairman Williams withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And now our Membership Awards, Linda Stake.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander and National Membership Committee Chairman Linda S. Stake advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA S. STAKE: Hello, everyone.

(Response of "Hello.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STAKE: First of all, I want to thank you for reaching for the stars. How many of you got the star pin? If you have a star pin, please stand.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STAKE: Wonderful. That – those people signed at least five members. How many of you received the snow globe? Please stand.

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

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STAKE: Thank you so much. That was at least 15 members that they signed up. (Applause) It is up to each one of us to keep this organization going.

If we don't continue recruiting, signing up, eventually our program will die out and we don't want that. If you remember, in 2009 then-Commander Sandy Dobmeier did a strategic plan. And our average membership person was 73 years old.

So, we have to continue recruiting because those of us who are getting older are going to be dying out. So thank you all for your efforts. (Laughter)

Now I am going to get my glasses so I can see who did the most amazing things this year.

(Whereupon, Ms. Stake was handed her glasses.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STAKE: Thank you. Membership Awards, okay, Group 1, 10 to 50, Bristol Number 39, Tennessee, (Applause) a 22-member increase. Please come up and get your award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Linda, is it okay if I read then you don't have to –

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Yes.



ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Okay. Group 2, Staff Sergeant L. Pierce 157, California, with a 24-member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Group 3, 101 to 200, Carroll County 85, Ohio, with a 69-member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Group 4, 201 and over, Cape May County 44, New Jersey, with a 153-member increase. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Group 5, this is a new Unit with the most new members – and not only do we have a tie, we have a three-way tie. (Applause) One is Donald A. Moody 33, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The other is Star 24, Arizona. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The third is Craven County 40, North Carolina. And they all had 16 new members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The Department with the largest percentage increase over quota is the State Department of New Mexico. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Group 7, the Department with the largest numerical increase over quota, the State Department of New Jersey. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Now, our top recruiter – I am going to have Pat tell you the story of this top recruiter.

(Whereupon, Assistant Adjutant Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT PATRICIA KEMPER: We have some reports that had quarters, the recruitment reports. And when we were running these as of year-end and we were looking at the report, I realized I'm not seeing any DAV members on here.

And I started – this award is also open to DAV member. It's the top recruiter of Auxiliary members. So we contacted IT and we said this report is wrong. So they re-ran it. They re-ran it.

We validated and we searched. We pulled applications. And, sure enough, it's a DAV member. And he is also a DAV Auxiliary member. I had the privilege of meeting this gentleman when I went to their state convention. What a guy and what a supporter of the Auxiliary he is.

To expand on this a little bit further, even though he is not in this room, the DAV had their CNA meeting just a few weeks. So we got to go to this event.

It was on a Sunday so they wanted the Auxiliary Commander to speak. They wanted the Auxiliary Adjutant to speak. And they wanted the Auxiliary Assistant Adjutant to speak.

Well, every year I whine because I say I don't know what the Commander is going to say, I don't know what the Adjutant is going to say, and I'm going to get up there and twiddle my thumbs.

This year I had something wonderful to say because I got to go through my spiel that I just went through with you and I got to announce the winner. And we got to present the check for \$250 and his certificate.

So it is my honor and privilege, even though he is not in this room but some of his District members are here, it is David Alderete from New Mexico 3 who is our top recruiter. (Applause)

Oh, his wife, Mary, is here. Mary, please come forward and be recognized. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mrs. Mary Alderete came forward to accept the award and be recognized.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And you know, Pat discovered that this year and evidently it went through last year and he could very well have won that last year, also.

What a great supporter of the Auxiliary he is. And he was thrilled to death when he was named the winner and we got to present that at the CNA.

And the fun thing was the DAV thought it was great that we had a top recruiter that was a male, was a member of the DAV. And I think he is still state adjutant for the DAV in New Mexico. So it really got it out there that – get them involved. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as Adjutants Hezlep and Kemper withdrew Commander Miller advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: We are going to go into District caucuses and then we will start the second reading of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws amendments so make sure you are all sitting together so you can caucus on the proposed amendment changes.

And then we are going to start in on them this morning because we have two hours before lunch. Okay, you have until ten 'till eleven, 15-minute caucus and then we're going to start voting.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed for to caucus at 10:35 o'clock, a.m. August 11, 2014; the meeting reconvened at 10:50 o'clock, a.m. August 11, 2014.)

COMMANDER MILLER: It is now ten minutes until eleven. We are going to get started. I call on Judy Steinhouse, the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to come forward.

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Steinhouse advanced to the podium.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Madame Commander, if I might, can I have a second to talk to Sylvia Heath?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Okay, cancel that. I love to talk to Sylvia Heath but I don't have to right now at this particular moment in time.

All right, National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, and guests of this 92<sup>nd</sup> National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee met in the Paris Hotel, Loire Room, at August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Our advisor was Carol Gray. I was elected chairman of the Committee and Sarah Kashner was named, was elected our secretary.

The Committee members that served on this Committee – and I want to thank all of them. They did a wonderful job. We had, as you can tell, lots of changes proposed. And we hashed over a lot of these, came up with some changes to them. And this is what we are presenting to the Convention right now.

So please stand as your name is called. District Number 1, Sheila McGowan from Massachusetts; District Number 2, Theresa Grabowski; District Number 3, Sylvia Heath;

District Number 4, Sarah Kashner; District Number 5, Diane Freeman; District Number 6, Carol Simmons; District Number 7, Delores Roussey, Roussey – excuse me; District Number 8, Susan Henry;

District Number 9, Ann Wilner; District Number 10, Donna Henshaw; District Number 11, Denise Proffitt; District Number 12, Patricia Davis; District Number 13, Mildred Brown;

District Number 14 is myself, Judy Steinhouse; District Number 15, Breanne Chandler; District Number 16, Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh; District Number 17, "Mean Jean" Jackson; District Number 8, Carol Rundell – excuse me, District Number 18, I'm sorry;

District Number 19, Christina Fairin; District Number 20, Christopher Easley; and District Number 21, Jennifer Hammons. Thank you all for the service. (Applause)

Okay, everybody got their copies? Here we go. A reminder to everybody for the seconding and the speeches, any comments you want to make, you have to go to a microphone and identify yourself for our recorder.

The first one is a National Constitution Change. If this is passed, this will change the Constitution. If this is passed the National Office will send out ballots to all of the Units in the nation so that the Units will vote on this change.

Once they have – once they have received the majority, three-fourths majority of votes, this will become law. And at that point in time, after that, then any other Bylaw changes applicable to this Constitution change can be made, if necessary.

Number 1 – this is proposed amendment or proposed change Number 1. Page N-2, Article III, Eligibility for Membership, New Section 1: Add new Section 1 as follows:

"Any person who is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans is also eligible for membership in the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary."

Rationale: this sentence was omitted during the rewriting of the expanded membership eligibility constitutional amendment of 2010. The current Article does not address members of the Disabled American Veterans. Sections will be renumbered accordingly.

**Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.**

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MRS. SYLVIA HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State Department, Maine, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: There has been a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?

JUDGE ADVOCATE CAROL GRAY: Madam Commander, Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, I move to amend from Page 2 to Page 1.

(Whereupon, members complained they couldn't hear as Judge Advocate Gray did not use a microphone.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: **Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, I move to amend it from Page N-2 to Page N-1.**

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, seconds.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, is there any discussion? Now we will vote on the amendment, first. So all those in favor of changing it to Page N-1, signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

Now we will vote on the motion, right? All in favor of adding say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Now we go into proposed Bylaw amendments. If they are passed they will become law now. Okay.

Amendment Number 2. Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, A, Annual Senior Membership: Delete the entire paragraph. If approved, Paragraph B will become Paragraph A and re-lettering of the remaining paragraphs will be done accordingly.

Rationale: With the development of a new DAV/DAVA membership system, the Auxiliary's expense for product customization to meet the annual membership requirements will exceed \$400,000.

Without significant membership growth the system expense for annual membership alone will have a considerable financial impact on the organization.

DAV has achieved success with Life membership; and while the Auxiliary will still assume financial responsibility for their portion of the new system, the parent organization is generously absorbing the system cost for features used in tandem by the DAV and the DAVA without proration.

Provided that members make ample payments to achieve the annual life membership distribution they can, essentially, take years to pay the balance of their respective life memberships.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, there has been a motion and a second to adopt the amendment. Is there any discussion?

MS. LYNN SWANSON: Madam Commander, Lynn Swanson, District 13, Unit 23. I have a question about the statement "they can essentially take years to pay the balance."

The way I am understanding it, as long as there is distribution on your membership activity which is, you know, \$7 per person, this, a person making a \$20 initial payment could then, basically be a member in good standing for nearly three years without another payment before they are dropped off?

COMMANDER MILLER: That's correct, right? Yes, that's correct. As long as they have enough paid on their life membership to make the annual distribution they will not be dropped off.

So you can pay your \$20 down and then two or three years later pay another \$10 and keep paying until you get it paid off. You don't have to make the three-year commitment like we do now.

MS. SWANSON: Okay. Okay, well, I guess my concern would be that they could initially pay their \$20, not make another payment for another three years, be dropped off and then re – you know, reapply, start another \$20 and go for another three years, which is not making it fair to the people that are continually, continuing to make payments on a life payment membership.

COMMANDER MILLER: They can do that now. If they wanted to they can pay their \$20 and not pay any more for after three years and then pay another \$20 and start over again.

MS. SWANSON: Okay.

COMMANDER MILLER: That's happening now.

MS. SWANSON: Okay, well, I guess then I don't understand the reason for making it a life membership.

COMMANDER MILLER: You don't understand the reason for making it a life membership?

MS. SWANSON: Right.

COMMANDER MILLER: Because with the new membership program that the DAV is installing the Auxiliary, if we continue to go with annual membership which the DAV does not have, it's going to cost us over \$400,000 for them to customize the program to accommodate our annual membership. And the Auxiliary does not have \$480,000 to put just towards a computer program.

MS. SWANSON: Okay, thank you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions? I will call. All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL  
COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 3. Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1: Definitions.  
A: Delete A and substitute the following:

"A. A member in good standing is one whose dues are sufficient to make the annual distribution and not indebted to the organization."

Rationale: To clarify the definition of "good standing."

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. ANN GLENDE: Ann Glende, District 12, Unit 19, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, there has been a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL  
COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 4. Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1: Definitions.  
C: Delete C and substitute the following:

"C. A member is delinquent when funds are insufficient to make the annual distribution."

Rationale: To define delinquency.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. KATHY PHELPS: Yes, Kathy Phelps, from District 17, Colorado, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Unit Number?

MS. PHELPS: Thirty-two. That was Unit 32, Colorado.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, there has been a motion and a second. Any discussion?

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Yes, Commander.

COMMANDER MILLER: Come over here to the microphone and state who you are and where you are from – not that he can't tell.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Linda Stake, First National Senior or Junior Vice, Arkansas. I wonder, how will a member determine whether they are delinquent, if they have enough distribution? How would they know when to make that payment?

"A member is delinquent when funds are insufficient to make the annual distribution?"

MRS. HEATH: I can help you with that because we discussed it.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: How would they –

COMMANDER MILLER: Sylvia will answer your question.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Okay. Thank you.

MRS. HEATH: I can answer that. The reason we kept this in here is we had the same question. But when you get your stuff that comes from National that tells you how many members you've got, how many you need for quota, how many have been delinquent for a year, that will tell you how many are delinquent.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: So then would the adjutant need to notify those members?

MRS. HEATH: Yes, the same way – you know, when you get the delinquent one year and then it says "delinquent two years" and you've got to look them up and try to get them to pay some money? That would be the same thing.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Okay.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions? You have to go to a microphone. Yes.

MR. KENNETH BAXLEY: This is Kenneth Baxley, Department Delegate, Department of Utah, Commander of Utah, Unit Number 1, District 17.

I've got a question about how is that going to affect people, say, who sign up at odd times of year, say in the middle or within one or two quarters of the beginning or end of the year?

Is there going to be some form of, something on the paperwork to let those people know, okay, you will receive a statement at this time and you need to pay this much total? Because we've had members down at one that that's happened and they've gone, "Okay, I just signed up, why am I receiving a bill as though I never did?"

COMMANDER MILLER: They will get a bill quarterly in the mail.

MR. BAXLEY: Okay, so it's quarterly.

COMMANDER MILLER: That says it's time to make a payment.

MR. BAXLEY: They get that. But they often don't know how it would have affected if they had just signed up, say, three months before for the annual. They are confused because come June, as they would understand it –

COMMANDER MILLER: They won't be signing up as annual any more. They will have to sign up as life.

MR. BAXLEY: Okay. Thanks. As long as that makes it clear to people on paper. Thanks.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions? All in favor of this please signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 5. Page N-26, Article VII, Membership, Section 1: Definitions. D: Delete D.

Rationale: No longer applicable.

Madame Commander, I move for the acceptance of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MR. WILLIAM SUMLER: Unit 20, Glendale Arizona, I will second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Your name.

MR. SUMLER: Bill Sumler.

COMANDER MILLER: Thank you. There has been a motion and a second to accept Amendment Number 5. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 6. Page N-28, Article VII, Membership. Section 6: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership: Delete the first full paragraph.

Rationale: Membership is no longer required to be paid in three full membership years but member must maintain sufficient funds to make annual distribution.

Madame Commander, I move for the acceptance of this amendment.

MS. DONNA HENSHAW: Donna Henshaw, District 10, Unit 22, Michigan, I move to second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, there is a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on Amendment 6? All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: The balance of this section of proposed changes, Number 7 through Number 23, either eliminates a sentence/paragraph that pertains to annual Senior/Senior members or changes the word "senior" to "life" in that sentence or paragraph.

What we will do here is I will read all of these changes, Number 7 to 23, and we will vote on them at one time. (Applause) We thought you would like that. (Laughter) Okay, settle back and listen to the senior to life.

Number 7. N-6, Article I, National Convention, Section 4: Delegates, second paragraph: change the word "senior" to "life."

Number 8. Page N-30, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification D. Junior Membership, third paragraph, second sentence: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 9. Page N-39, Article X, Local Units, Section 1, Paragraph 3: Change the word "senior" to life" in three places.

Number 10. Page S-2, Article II, State Convention, Section 3: Delegates, second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 11. Page U-1, Article IV, Executive Board, Section 1: Change the word "senior" to life" in two places.

Number 12. Page U-2, Article V, Eligibility for Unit Office, Section 1: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 13. Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 1: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 14. Page U-2, Article VI, Election of Unit Officers, Section 2: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 15. Page U-4, Article IX, Appointed Officers, Section 1, Second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 16. Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3: Adjutant, Item 9: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 17. U-9, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 1, Regular Business Meeting, second paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 18. U-10, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 2: Special Meetings, first paragraph, Number 3: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 19. U-11, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 3: Executive Board Meetings: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 20. Page U-12, Article XIV, Unit Committees, Section 2: Audit Committee, first paragraph: Change the word "senior" to life."

Number 21. Excuse me. Unit – Unit. Page U-13, Article XV, Unit Finance and Dues, Section 1: Membership Dues, second paragraph: Change the word “senior” to life.”

Page – Number 22. Page U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, Section 1: Delegates, Paragraph 1: Change the word “senior” to life.”

Number 23. U-16, Article XVI, Conventions, Section 2: Change the word “senior” to life.”

Madame Commander, I move for the acceptance of all these amendments.

MS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City Number 3, State of South Dakota, District 14, I second it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. There has been a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?

MS. JOANNE JOHNSON: I’m Joanne Johnson from Unit 128, San Antonio, Texas. By deleting the word “senior” to “life” will this guarantee that no longer will our yearly forms, the term “senior” be removed from the forms?

COMMANDER MILLER: The forms will be updated. Yes, the applications will be updated and it will be changed.

MS. JOHNSON: So no more seniors?

COMMANDER MILLER: No more seniors, just life.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes. This won’t take effect until July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2015. That’s when they will change. Any other questions? Okay, all in favor of Numbers 7 through 23, signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 24. Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification: Change the first paragraph to read:

“Parenthesis (Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 end parentheses) Membership classifications are as follows”.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. DEBBERA McLAUGHLIN: Debbie McLaughlin, Unit 18, Florida, seconds it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there any discussion?

MS. CAROL LEE: Carol Lee, Unit 129, Michigan. My question is if you’ve got a new unit organizing before the first of July 2015 and they have some members that are signing up as annual members, which I understand they are going to the life, will they still be able to sign up before then as the annual and pay the annual dues?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes.

MS. LEE: And then as of the first of July 2015 they will do the life member?

COMMANDER MILLER: Right.

MS. LEE: Cool.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions?

MR. SUMLER: Bill Sumler, Unit 20, Glendale, Arizona, the first question brought another one to mind. A new unit forms, they have, say, six annual, four life, but partial life, they won’t lose their charter because they don’t have full life –

COMMANDER MILLER: No.

MR. SUMLER: Paid life members, right?

COMMANDER MILLER: No.

MR. SUMLER: Okay.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions? Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 25. Page N-27, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, B. Life Membership: Delete the first paragraph and substitute the following:

“Any person 18 years of age or older, having met the requirements of membership, shall become a life member.”

Rationale: Clarifies that they will be life members and not annual Senior members.

**Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.**

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. PATRICIA DAVIS: Patty Davis, District 12, West Dallas Number 19, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there any discussion? All in favor of Amendment Number 25 please signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: One minute, please. Number 26. Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, C Membership-at-Large, National Members-at-Large – typo, should be “at” not “a” large, (Laughter) National Members-at-Large, second sentence: Delete the sentence which reads:

“An annual membership card shall be issued upon receipt of a \$15.00 payment to National Headquarters.”

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this motion or amendment, please.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. SHEILA MCGOWAN: Sheila McGowan, Department of Massachusetts, Department Delegate, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. Any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 27. Page N-29, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, C Members-at-Large, State Members-at-Large, second sentence: Delete the sentence which reads:

“The amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each Auxiliary State Department.”

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. CHERYL EDWARDS: Cheryl Edwards, Unit 26, Colorado, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. Any discussion? Okay, all in favor of Amendment Number 27 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 28. Page N-35, Article VIII, Finances, Section 2: Per Capita Tax, first paragraph: Delete the entire first paragraph. Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. GLENDE: Ann Glende, District 12, Unit 19, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor of Amendment 28 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 29. Page N-40, Article X, Local Units, Section 3, Paragraph A: Delete the words “up” and “and/or annual senior.” Paragraph will now read:

“A. When there are ten (10) or more paid life members.”

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. MCGOWAN: Sheila McGowan, Department of Massachusetts, Department Delegate, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion?

MS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Madam Commander, Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City 3, South Dakota, the sentence is not a sentence, it is a fragment. Can we correct that to make it a complete sentence?

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate. If you will read where the – under Section 3 it says “an active chartered unit is one semi-colon or colon: A, which has ten or more paid life members.” That is the end. The beginning of the sentence is right behind where it says “Section 3”. The “A” part is the end of that sentence.

MS. JEFFERSON: Thank you.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: You’re welcome.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other discussion?

MS. REBECCA CULVER: Rebecca Culver, Unit 9, Alabama, I would like to have clarification. Does that mean that they have to have their membership paid in full or is it –

COMMANDER MILLER: No. No, just as long as they’re life members or partial life because there is no annual members now.

MS. CULVER: Okay.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, that was what we were removing was that they were a fully-paid life member.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions? Hearing none, all in favor of Number 29 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 30. Page N-6, Article I, National Convention, Section 4: Deletes – excuse me, delegates. Hello. Sorry about that – Delegates, Paragraph 4: Add the following sentence to the end of Paragraph 4:

“In the absence of any delegate their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit/State.

Paragraph 4 would 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.

“In the absence of any delegate, their Unit shall be cast – excuse me, their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit/State.”

Rationale: To grant voting privileges to the registered voting alternate in the absence of a delegate, thereby eliminating unnecessary hardship involved in changing registration status.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Debbie McLaughlin, Unit 18, Florida, seconds it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there any discussion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LINDA TRULIO: Hello. Past National Commander Linda Trulio, Unit 118, New York, would this mean now like when we were in our committees it was noted to us that everyone must have a blue delegate badge, does this now mean that if you are an elected alternate that now that you are also a delegate and you may now serve on any committee as a registered alternate?

COMMANDER MILLER: No, this just refers to voting, like in a roll call vote at a Convention.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: Oh. So now you cannot served.

COMMANDER MILLER: You have to be a delegate to be on a committee.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER TRULIO: On a committee.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. Any other questions? Okay, all in favor of Number 30 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 31. Page N-10, Article I, National Convention, Section 5: Official Rules of the National Convention, Rule 12: Delete Rule 12 and substitute the following: “Rule 12. No person shall participate directly or indirectly in a vote on any subject except fully accredited delegates or alternates acting as delegates who have registered and paid the registration fee.”

Rationale: To bring this rule in line with changes made to the National Convention delegates. It eliminates the unnecessary hardships for an alternate to change over to being a registered delegate.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. MABELENE STEVENS: Mabelene Stevens, District 13, Pikeville Unit 134, I so move.

COMMANDER MILLER: You are seconding it, right?

MS. STEVENS: I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of Number 31 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 32. Page N-30, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, D Junior Membership, Paragraph 2: Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following five paragraphs – not four, there are five:

“New Junior and Junior life membership applications shall be processed upon receipt at National Headquarters only if a date of birth is provided.

“Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Junior membership requires no payment of annual dues and shall be considered complimentary until the member attains Age 18 at which time the membership will convert to a part-life membership and billings shall commence.

“Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, a Junior life membership may be secured on a payment plan through Age 18, at which time if said life membership is not paid in full the membership shall continue only as long as there are sufficient funds to make annual distribution. Said life membership fee shall be



equivalent to the current life membership at Age 18. The minimum down payment to start the life membership is \$20.00.

"Prepaid annual Junior fees as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, shall be applied to a Junior life membership, when applicable.

"Junior membership shall not have the privilege of voting but may hold any appointive office in the Unit with the exception of adjutant. Junior members shall be counted on the membership standing of the units. There shall be no refund of Junior membership dues."

Rationale: The financial obligation that applies to system development of the annual Senior membership also applies to annual Junior membership.

This amendment provides for complimentary Junior memberships and also offers an opportunity for a Junior life membership to be secured on a payment plan. Prepaid annual Junior fees as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, shall be applied to a Junior life membership, when applicable.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. GLENDE: Ann Glende, District 12, Unit 19, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there any discussion?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT PATRICIA KEMPER: Yes. My name is Pat Kemper from Kentucky, Unit 19, I would like to amend this.

I would like to amend by deleting the recommended Paragraph 4 which states: "Prepaid annual Junior fees as of July 1, 2015, shall be applied to a Junior life membership, when applicable."

My personal rationale for deleting this is the question. As a staff member and in meeting with the National Adjutant and the IT personnel from DAV the response we got when we asked if this could happen was, "I am pretty sure we can do this." She was fairly confident. But when someone says to me "pretty sure" it raises a question.

So by inserting that in there, I don't know what would happen as a result if when they get into the testing phase that they say, "No, this can't happen." We want it to happen. And if it can happen it will. There is just a minute question, so.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second to the amendment?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, any other questions? Pass the microphone down – oh, she is coming.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONNA ADAMS: Donna Adams, Past National Commander, if we don't take out – if we don't amend the motion, per Pat's motion, can we do a Junior life membership? Can we start paying their amount of life membership that it would be at 18 when they are little-bitty?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay. And is it going to be the \$250 at Age 18? Or why don't we charge more if they're going to get more year?

COMMANDER MILLER: No, it's not going to be any more. It will be – unless later on there is, at a Convention it is changed. Then changes would have to be made at that time. But as of right now, no. Any other questions?

MR. STEVEN TRUSCELLO: Yes. Steven Truscello, District 9, Department of South Carolina Commander, my granddaughter is paid up – she is two years old – through 18. What happens to the monies for the 16 years or 15 years that she is paid?

COMMANDER MILLER: That is what we are discussing right now. Hopefully when the new system goes in they will be able to credit that towards their life payment.

MR. TRUSCELLO: But what happens if they can't? I mean you are talking that's forty-something-dollars.

COMMANDER MILLER:

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KEMPER: Well, again, hopefully it can and we are very, fairly certain that it can. It's just when someone says to me "maybe" it may not happen. But I think it can. That raises the question.

I also have prepaid grandchildren and I understand. So if my prepayment of my grandchildren can be applied to their future life membership, then good for me. If there is something in the system that does not accept it then, I hate to say it but, that money will be lost.

But, there is an extreme amount of confidence it will happen. It is just my concern was putting this in there and locking this in without testing.

This only came about in the last couple of weeks. So we've done the best we can. And that's why it was put in the rationale and then later moved up. But–

MR. TRUSCELLO: Well, I have three granddaughters that are all paid through 18 years old and now you're talking I'm losing over \$120, so it is –

MRS. HEATH: Madam Commander, Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, you won't be losing it because even if we can't do this, you do not have to pay dues on juniors so they will be paid up.

MR. TRUSCELLO: Yes, but everybody else isn't paying anything for the next 15 years and I've already paid. That's not fair.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, I also have prepaid Juniors. However, if this – if this had not come about to change it to have annual and no longer have annual members, I still would have paid for my Juniors and it would have, if there is any money left in that account, it would be minute if you paid them for a good number of years.

But, it would also – you would also have had to have paid later for the full paid, for the full amount of a life membership for them when they became 18. So this is just to transition in the meantime.

And if it is that I end up making a donation to the organization for \$3 a year for each of my grandchildren, they are all worth it. (Applause)

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other questions?

MS. RENE HOLLOWAY: Rene Holloway, Unit 7, Nebraska, delegate, so just to clarify, if the system can apply it, if we take this out, we will – the money will be applied?

COMMANDER MILLER: Right.

MS. HOLLOWAY: Okay. Okay. So if it can, we will still have the money, it's just – okay. Thank you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay?

MS. ANITA INGRAM: Anita Ingram from New York, Brooklyn 28, when we signed these Juniors up – and let's say I sign my granddaughter up now and the fee is \$250 and then two years down the road we up our initiation fees or our whatever you want to call it, will I still just be at the \$250 or will she move up? Will she have to pay the new amount or am I allowed to do the \$250?

COMMANDER MILLER: If she pays the full amount now she's paid, right?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KEMPER: Once the member comes in it will be the same as it is now. So if your grandchild comes in at the \$250 amount –

MS. INGRAM: It stays there.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KEMPER: – and then say 3, 4, 5, 10 years from now it is increased, then it still is \$250.

MS. INGRAM: I just wanted to make sure. Thank you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay.

MS. STEVENS: Madam Commander, Mabelene Stevens, 13<sup>th</sup> District NEC, Pikeville Unit 134, State of Kentucky, just to clarify, will they still count as, toward quota?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes.

MS. STEVENS: Yes?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes, Juniors will still count toward quota. Now we are going to vote on the amendment first. All in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carries.

Now we are going to vote on the whole Number 32. All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

#### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: On Number 32, the one that we just took care of, I had you change up at the top where it says "Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following five paragraphs", since we just changed this to four paragraphs, it now goes back to four. Isn't this fun?

Okay, Number 33. Pages N-30 and N-31, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, D, Junior Memberships, fifth paragraph: Delete the entire fifth paragraph.

The rationale: Senior members may hold multiple memberships in different states so Junior members should have the same rights.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. ELIZABETH ELDRIDGE: Liz Eldridge, District 1, Massachusetts, Unit 35, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there any discussion? All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

#### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 34. Page N-31, Article VII, Membership, Section 6: Membership Classification, F Transfers, first paragraph, first sentence: Delete the first sentence and substitute the following:

"Life members in good standing and Junior members of one Auxiliary Unit may secure a transfer of membership to another Unit."

Rationale: since Juniors are not required to pay dues, this provision would not apply to them.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. HENSHAW: Donna Henshaw, District 10, Unit 22, Michigan, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion?

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KEMPER: I would like to ask a question, please. Would this, also, mean that potentially every Junior member, even those who do not pay a membership fee, could have the 50, up to 50 memberships, one in each state? Would it open that? And would it subsequently inflate membership numbers?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes.

COMMANDER MILLER: Pat, repeat your question. Everybody didn't hear it, apparently.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KEMPER: Okay, my question was, would passage of this to allow Junior members to have more than one membership, which is the change – because right now they may only have one membership and not dual – would this open the door for Junior members, even without any payment whatsoever, to become a member of each of our 50 state departments, thereby inflating numbers?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, wasn't that the last one that we just passed?

(Response of "Yes.")

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Yes. This one was referring to them being able to transfer, not have a second membership. We already passed that one.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT KEMPER: I'm sorry. I should have spoken sooner. (Laughter)

COMMANDER MILLER: She has been overworked this week. (Laughter) Any other questions for Number 34? All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 35. Page N-35, Article VII, Finances, Section 2: Per Capita Tax, third paragraph: Delete the paragraph which reads:

"The National per capita tax for Junior members is \$3.00"

Rationale: since Juniors are not required to pay dues this provision does not apply.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Debbie McLaughlin, Unit 18, District 7, seconds it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 36. Page S-2, Article II, State Convention, Section 3:

Delegates, Paragraph 4: Add the following sentence to the end of Paragraph 4:

"In the absence of any delegate, their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit."

Paragraph 4 would then read:

"A member shall not cast a vote in the State Convention in more than one representative capacity or be registered as a delegate for more than one Unit. In the absence of any delegate, their vote shall be cast by an elected and properly registered alternate of that Unit."

Rationale: To eliminate any unnecessary hardship for an alternate to change over to being registered as a delegate. This, then, falls in line with the National Convention definition of delegates.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor of Number 36 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 37. Page S-7, Article IV, Duties of State Officers, Section 4: State Treasurer, sixth paragraph: Delete the paragraph and substitute the following:

"The State Treasurer shall submit all records and a copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 when the gross income is greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 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 or Form 990-EZ or Form 990 is filed for income greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000, a copy of such shall be provided to the State Adjutant."

Rationale: Clarifies that the Audit Committee does not review financial records of State Departments that are required to use an Independent or Certified Public Accountant.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, PNC, seconds that.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 38. Page S-8, Article IV, Duties of State Officer, Section 6: State Adjutant, third paragraph, Item b: Delete b and substitute the following:

"b. A copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of IRS Form 990-EZ or Form 990 for Units whose gross income is greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000."

Rationale: Clarifies what the State Adjutant must submit after the adjournment of the State Convention.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. NANCY MOONEY: Nancy Mooney, District 1, Unit 33, seconds this motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, Department of Maine, I make a motion that we delete the word "Unit" and fill it in with "State Departments" that's a housekeeping.

COMMANDER MILLER: It should be state. It should be state. It was a typo. But we have to vote on your amendment. We will do that. It should be state, though, according to Judy.

MS. SHIRLEY WALKER: Madam Commander, Shirley Walker, State Treasurer for Colorado, Unit Number 7, I have a question in reference –

COMMANDER MILLER: Can't take the question.

MRS. HEATH: We need a second, first.

MRS. WALKER: Oh.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: I second the motion to change "unit" to "state department," Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, now we can have more discussion. Okay.

MS. WALKER: Shirley Walker –

COMMANDER MILLER: Just a minute. We have to have discussion on the amendment first and once that has passed we will have discussion on the motion. Any discussion on the amendment? All in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye; opposed. The amendment carried. Now we can discuss the motion.

MS. WALKER: Shirley Walker, State Treasurer for Colorado, Unit Number 7, I have a question on the timing. It says "clarifies that the state adjutant must submit after the adjournment of the state convention." The paperwork isn't sent to the IRS or to the auditor for the final preparation for, until after convention so –

COMMANDER MILLER: But we also do the audit which we submit. We down our own audit plus it goes to an auditor. So if we submit our own audit immediately following that covers us. We are covered by submitting our own audit first and then you submit that after you get it –

MS. WALKER: Okay, thank you.

CHAPLAIN AURA-LEE NICODEMUS: In looking at this the one concern – Aura-Lee Nicodemus, Unit 1, New Hampshire, the one concern I have is that we really should add the word "successful filing" because when you file the 990, when you first file it you get a thing that says you filed it but most of the time if you – filing it alone does not necessarily mean that you have filed it successfully, from the voice of experience from someone who has filed it several times and the next day get a rejection notice.

So if we just submit something saying we filed it, it does not mean that it was successful or that it was accepted by the IRS.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, the – you usually get an immediate response within two minutes after submitting this and it will tell you then if it is rejected.

So if you have that problem, you need to recheck it and to see what it will take to correct it. Otherwise, if you do try to file again they are going to tell you that it has been filed and you can't file again until the end of your next fiscal year.

So, having, saying "successful" isn't correct because the IRS doesn't care if we are successful or not on the first time. They just want it in and done.

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, sometimes you don't hear until the next day. But what covers that on this is saying it is an acknowledgement so that means it came from the IRS and not from – because when you are submitting it you are not submitting it through to the IRS.

You are submitting it through an outside company. That's just how it works. And then you will get the acknowledgement in the e-file from the IRS. So that is the one we need, the acknowledgement.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. Any other discussion? All in favor of Amendment Number 38, signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 39. Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 2: State Finance Committee, first paragraph, second sentence: Change the sentence to read as follows:

"No two members from the same Unit shall be elected to serve on this Committee parenthesis (this does not apply to the State Departments when three or less chartered Units are present, end parentheses).

The rationale: States are no longer required to have three Units.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander seconds.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor of Number 39 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 40. Page S-12, Article VI, State Committees and Chairmen, Section 3: State Nominating Committee, third sentence, in parentheses, change parenthetical statement to read as follows:

"(This does not apply to State Departments when three or less chartered Units are present.)"

Rationale: States are no longer required to have three Units.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MRS. HEATH: Sylvia Heath, State of Maine, second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 41. Page S-13, Article 6: State Committees and Chairmen, Section 5, State Standing Rules Committee, third sentence in parentheses: Change parenthetical statement to read as follows:

"(This does not apply to State Departments when three or less chartered Units are present.)"

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. EDWARDS: Cheryl Edwards, Unit 26, Colorado, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor of Number 41 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 42. Page S-17, Article VIII, Finances, Section 2: State Per Capita, Paragraph 2: Delete Paragraph 2 and substitute the following:

"The States shall determine and provide in the State Standing Rules the State per capita for Junior members."

Rationale: Proper placement for this is in the Standing Rules so it can be voted on by the Convention Delegates.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. CYNTHIA FINK: Cindy Fink, Tennessee Department Commander, I second it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor of Amendment 42 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 43. Page S-17, Article VIII, Finances, Section 3: State At-Large Dues: Delete Section – excuse me – Delete Section 3 which reads:

"The State shall determine and provide in the Supplement to State Bylaws the State at-large membership dues for annual Senior members."

Rationale: This no longer applies due to the change to life membership.

Madame Commander, I move vote – I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. EDWARDS: Cheryl Edwards, Unit 26, Colorado, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? Okay. All in favor of Number 43 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: I screwed up. I should have also read as part of that amendment Section 4 will then become Section 3 and renumbering of the remaining sections will be done accordingly. Forgive me? Thank you.

Number 44. Page S-17, Article VIII, Finances, Section 4: State Mandates: Delete the entire paragraph and submit the following:

"The State shall determine and provide in the State Standing Rules for any State mandates and details concerning said mandates."

Rationale: The proper placement for this is in the Standing Rules so it can be voted on by the Convention delegates.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. DAVIS: Patty Davis, District 12, West House 19, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor of Amendment 44 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 45. Page S-19, Article X, Installing Officers, Section 1: Installing Officers, Paragraph 2: Delete paragraph and substitute the following:

"The State Commander and the State Officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant or a Past State Commander. The incoming State Commander selects the installing officer."

Rationale: As representatives of the National Organization at State Convention this allows the National Adjutant and the National Assistant Adjutant the privilege of installing state department officers.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. PATRICIA RESLER: Pat Resler, Unit 1, North Dakota, Department senior vice, I second it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 46. Page S-20, Article X, Installing Officers, Section 1: Installing Officers, Paragraph 3: Delete paragraph and substitute the following:

"State Executive Committee members shall be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer," – somebody's phone – an elected National Officer, "the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected State Officer or a Past State Commander."

Rationale: As representatives of the National Organization at state conventions this allows the National Adjutant and National Assistant Adjutant the privilege of installing state executive committee women – state members. Slap myself. I didn't say that. Forgive me. The privilege of installing state executive committee members.

Madame Commander, as I stumble here help me. No, I move that this amendment be adopted. (Laughter)

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. EDWARDS: Cheryl Edwards, Unit 26, Colorado, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion? All those in favor of Number 46 say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 47. Page U-3, Article VIII, Installation of Unit Officers, Section 1, Paragraph 1: Delete the first paragraph and substitute the following, Section 1:

"The Unit Commander and Unit officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected State Officer a Past State Commander, or a Past Unit Commander. The incoming Unit commander selects the installing officer."

Rationale: To have Unit officer installation agree with state officer installation, granting installation privileges to the National Adjutant and National Assistant Adjutant. This would allow them, when requested to do so, to install Unit officers.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. ELDRIDGE: Liz Eldridge, Massachusetts, Unit 35, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion?

MS. KATHY VANDROVEC: Madam Commander, Kathy Vandrovec, Unit Number 1, Fargo, I think, just a typo – we need to put that “elected state office, officer.”

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. All in favor of Number 47 signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 48. Page U-7, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 3: Adjutant, Item 12: Delete Item 12 and substitute the following:

“12. Send a copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 for Units whose gross income is greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000.”

Rationale: Clarifies what the Unit Adjutant must submit to the State and National Headquarters.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. ROSE WILLIAMS: Rose Williams, delegate from District 12, Unit 30, Wisconsin, I second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion?

MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. Rose Williams, Unit – District 12, Unit 30, Wisconsin, I disagree with that because any adjutant or treasurer who has submitted the 990-N e-Postcards know you get a copy of the acknowledgement immediately.

You do not always get a confirmation that it was filed. So I believe it should say that you have to stay with the confirmation of the filing, that it was accepted.

COMMANDER MILLER: The acknowledgement is the acceptance that it was filed.

MS. WILLIAMS: But it doesn't mean it was accepted – it was accepted but it doesn't mean that they took the filing because you get an acknowledgement that you got it filed but you have to get the confirmation from the IRS saying it went through. You always get the receipt that it was filed, the acknowledgement. But it has to come back that you got it.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: The first acknowledgement that you get is through the company that is doing the processing.

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: The second acknowledgement is the IRS acknowledgement.

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: That's the one that we need.

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: You are welcome. Thank you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any other discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL

COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 49. Page U-8, Article XI, Duties of Unit Officers, Section 4, Treasurer, Item 7, Line 3: Delete Item 7 and substitute the following:

“ 7. Submit all records and a copy of the Acknowledgement of Filing Form 990-N e-Postcard to the Audit Committee for the annual audit.

“If the gross income of the Unit exceeds \$50,000 but is less than \$100,000, a copy of Form 990-EZ or Form 990 must be submitted to the Audit Committee.

“If the gross income exceeds \$100,000, the Unit financial records shall be reviewed and verified by an Independent or Certified Public Accountant.

“They will submit to the Treasurer the completed Financial Report and an accountant's statements of findings.”

Rationale: Clarifies that the Audit Committee does not review financial records of Units that are required to use an independent or certified public accountant.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this paragraph, amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Debbie McLaughlin, Unit 18, District 7, seconds it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion on Number 49? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 50. Page U-9, Article XIII, Unit Meetings, Section 1: Regular Business Meetings, second paragraph, first sentence: Delete the word "five" and substitute the word "four." The sentence would then read:

"Four Senior members shall constitute a quorum."

Rationale: With a trending decline in Unit meeting attendance it is becoming increasingly difficult for some Units to conduct the required number of meetings – required number of business meetings with the current quorum requirement.

Madame Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. KATHY PHELPS: Kathy Phelps from Loveland 32, Colorado, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Any discussion?

MR. RICKY CHAPMAN: I have a question for you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Who are you?

MR. CHAPMAN: You know me. (Laughter)

COMMANDER MILLER: But the recorder doesn't.

MR. CHAPMAN: Oh. Sorry. Rick Chapman from Colorado 21 Auxiliary, I have a question. What happens if you don't have senior members and you have only life members?

COMMANDER MILLER: Life members are the senior members.

MR. CHAPMAN: What if you have only two senior members?

COMMANDER MILLER: That doesn't go into effect until 2015.

MR. CHAPMAN: I know that.

COMMANDER MILLER: But you only have – you have to have four Senior members. You cannot have Junior members. You have to have four Senior members to make a quorum. It has to be four Senior members.

MR. CHAPMAN: But if you don't have Senior members, can your officers like your commander and your senior vice and your junior, would that work?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER MILLER: It doesn't matter who the four members are as long as they are Senior members and you have at least one commander, either a senior commander, junior vice commander or the commander. One of them has to be that and three other senior members would make a quorum.

MR. CHAPMAN: Okay.

MS. LEE: Madam Commander, Carol Lee from 129 in Michigan, if you don't have a quorum of the four members at the meeting you can go on the computer, if you have a computer available, and Skype them. They will be in the meeting though, via the internet on Skype.

COMMANDER MILLER: We haven't approved – that's nowhere in our Constitution and Bylaws that you can have an electronic meetings.

MS. LEE: You can't use it? Really?

COMMANDER MILLER: Really.

MS. LEE: I mean –

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: That might be something for discussion for next year, Carol.

COMMANDER MILLER: Just a minute. The Judge Advocate was saying something. Be quiet, please.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, Carol, that – that is not an adopted practice at this time.

MS. LEE: So that could be something that could be brought up like next year and put in writing?

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Yes it could be. If anybody can put something together as to how it can be done, how it should be done, and present it, that would be – that would be reviewed by the Interim Bylaw Committee.



MS. LEE: So what about, you know, like if you've got a cell phone and you've got it on, you know, speaker? Would that still?

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: That's still the same way –

COMMANDER MILLER: It's the same thing.

MS. LEE: Okay.

COMMANDER MILLER: But you need to propose an amendment change to the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

MS. JANICE HOWARD: Madam Commander?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes.

MS. HOWARD: Janice Howard, Unit 11, State of Missouri, we don't have Senior members any more. We have life members.

MR. CHAPMAN: That was my –

COMMANDER MILLER: But this has to specify that it's Senior life members and not Junior life members because Junior members don't constitute a quorum.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: But Junior members aren't life members.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: How about life member over the age of 18?

COMMANDER MILLER: You cannot just say four life members because you could have a two-month old Junior member who is paying towards their life membership and she can't be – she or he can't be considered part of the quorum. Okay, any other discussion?

MS. CHERIE HANSARD: Well, I have something to say because –

COMMANDER MILLER: We're still discussing and we can't hear over the microphone.

MS. HANSARD: I'm Cherie Hansard. I'm from Unit 32 in Texas. I have a question because earlier when we changed all those senior to life we actually did change that in that location so that's what she is trying to say.

COMMANDER MILLER: We have – Judy is looking that up.

MS. HANSARD: It is Number 17.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, you cannot count Juniors towards a quorum in a unit meeting. You never could; you never will.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, so we just need to do what now?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam Commander?

COMMANDER MILLER: We are discussing that up here. We will get you an answer here, soon.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, I make the motion that we amend it to read "Senior life members."

COMMANDER MILLER: It will be four Senior life members. That's the amendment to the motion.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Which would make it read, then, "four Senior life members shall constitute a quorum."

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, any discussion on the amendment, not the motion but the amendment? Oh, we have to have a second on the amendment.

MS. JOYCE JEFFERSON: Joyce Jefferson, Rapid City Number 3, South Dakota, I second the amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, thank you. Any more discussion on the amendment?

MS. JEFFERSON: But we still don't have senior members? What if we –

COMMANDER MILLER: We do have senior members. All the life, all the senior members will be life members. We just don't have annual senior members.

MS. JEFFERSON: What if the motion read something like, "four life members over the age of 18 shall constitute a quorum"?

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate, I withdraw that motion as this would go into effect immediately and we will not have just life members until 2015.

So I withdraw my motion and leave it the way it is because it would be four senior members at this time and it will go into effect immediately upon adoption.

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes, because we are not going to all life until another year so this would go into effect immediately that they have to be four senior members. The life membership will be coming down the road.

MS. JEFFERSON: Commander.

COMMANDER MILLER: Next year they will have to change it again.

MS. JEFFERSON: Joyce Jefferson Number 3, I withdraw my second.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. All in favor of Amendment Number 50, signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL  
COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Number 51. (Cheers) Page U-13, Article XV, Unit Finance and Dues,  
Section 1: Membership Dues, first paragraph: Delete the entire paragraph, which reads:

"The amount of annual dues for both Senior and Junior members shall be set by the Unit."

Rationale: This provision does not apply.

Madame Commander, I vote for the adoption of this amendment.

COMMANDER MILLER: Is there a second?

MS. RESLER: Pat Resler, Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota, Department of North Dakota, I second it.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay. Any discussion? All in favor of Amendment 51 signify by saying aye; opposed. We're not done yet. The motion is carried but we are still not done yet.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER  
STEINHOUSE: I would like to, again, thank the Committee and I would also like to thank the two ladies that served with me on the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee, "Mean Jean" Jackson and Sylvia Heath. I appreciate all the work that you did and thank you very, very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past National Commander Judy Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, I have the donation. Is there a question?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Yes, Susan Henry, Past National Commander, we just fixed this very last one to remain senior for the rest of the year. What about the other 18 that we changed to life that now says you have to be a life member for the executive board, you have to be a life member to be on the finance committee, etc cetera?

COMMANDER MILLER: Go ahead.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: National Judge Advocate Carol Gray, those were all to be effective of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. This one will go into effect immediately.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Okay.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: It's been adopted.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: I just wanted clarification because we kept having the question.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GRAY: Right.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HENRY: Thank you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, I have the totals of the donations from Saturday. The Scholarship Fund received \$1,550; Service Support Fund, \$1,625; Camp Corral, \$550; Winter Sports Clinic, \$100; Hospitalized Veterans' Riding Project, \$100, for a grand total of \$3,925.

And tomorrow there will be an opportunity for more people to bring up donations because some had left them in their rooms. But we will make an opportunity tomorrow so if you have checks that you still want to donate, bring it with you to tomorrow's meeting.

And now I turn it over to – you have announcements. LeeAnn Karg, you may come up. She has an announcement.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Karg advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: I just wanted to announce to everybody in the Auxiliary that there will be a reception this evening from 7:00 to 10:00 in this room for myself and Ron Hope from the DAV and for Craig Johniken. So you are all invited to attend. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as Senior Vice Commander Karg withdrew Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We do have door prizes, so Kim, do you want to bring up the tickets?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Yes, and I also would like to say we have a lost-and-found item that was left in the Southern Caucus Breakfast this morning. It's a sweater. And I have it so –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Oh, that's mine.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Okay, I will give it to you. (Laughter)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Also – oh, okay. Go ahead.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Stake advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STAKE: Also, I have an announcement, you are invited tonight at 6:00 o'clock, Champagne Ballroom 3 and 4, to a hospitality room hosted by Moses McIntosh, David Riley, Dennis – what is Dennis' last name – Krulder, Linda Stake, Ellen Timmerman and Fran Costa – 6:00 o'clock. Six to ten, Champagne Ballroom 3 and 4.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Stake advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Do you have any announcements you want to make?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: A couple. How many Juniors are in the room? Would you stand up, Juniors or Pages?

(Whereupon, the Juniors in the room stood.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Did you all get the bag for being a Junior the other day when we had our opening? You did? Okay, because I saw some Juniors in here earlier.

So if they did not get our goodie bag from the Auxiliary and our Junior Activities Chairman, they can go to the office and get it. You only get one so if you got it already, you are okay. But I know there were some Juniors here before.

The Forget-me-not Luncheon is at 12:30 today. Be sure to show your ticket at the door. You can keep the ticket but you must show it to get in.

We will do this quickly. We just need some of the Juniors to come down and help us take the gifts.

COMMANDER MILLER: And apparently there are some more first-timers that didn't get in until today. So if you are a first-timer and do not have a first-timer ribbon button, see Kim Stake. Raise your hand and Kim will get you a first-timer.

(Whereupon, door prizes were drawn.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Is that it? Okay, we will now have our closing prayer by Aura-Lee Nicodemus.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for helping us get through all the business this morning and to agree that even if we didn't agree that we can move forward with our organization.

We pray for our friends in Missouri today that you will take care of them and protect them with all the unrest there and for that mother that has lost her child that You will be with her.

We pray for our members who are in the hospital currently and for their families that are supporting them. We pray for our troops in harms' way. We pray for our National Commander as we go to her Forget-me-not Luncheon that we will enjoy the camaraderie and friendship that are the vital components of our organization. In Your Name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 12:22 o'clock, p.m., on Monday, August 11, 2014.)

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# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY**

## **92<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

**August 12, 2014**

### **Final Business Session**

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The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Champagne 1-2 Ballroom of the Paris Casino Level, of the Paris Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday morning, August 12, 2014, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Susan K. Miller.

COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: It's 9:00 o'clock. We're going to get started. I want to call this third business session to order and Aura-Lee Nicodemus, the National Chaplain, will give us the opening prayer.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Aura-Lee Nicodemus advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN NICODEMUS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for binging us here together yet another day. We pray for some of our members, Joanie Bundy and her family and her father who is in the ICU, her daughter who is having trouble that you will care for each of them.

We pray for Robin Williams. We give thanks for his life and all he did for so many people in the hospitals and how he gave his life of service and giving happiness to others. And we pray for his family.

We pray for our members who are unable to be with us today that You will care for each and every one of them. And we pray for our soldiers in harms' way.

As we make the pivotal decisions for the upcoming year, we ask Your blessings. Lead us in making wise decisions for the future of our auxiliary. In your Name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen," whereupon, Chaplain Nicodemus withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Craig Johniken, National Americanism Chairman will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Johniken advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN Johniken: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the proper salute. And please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Johniken led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which he withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. Okay, at this time are there any other donations that anybody needs to bring forward or anything? Oh, you can sit down. Yes. I just thought you were all going to come forward so, you know. (Laughter)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER TIMMERMAN: This is from my husband Tim and myself. We have – we have \$50 for the Service Support Fund and \$50 for the Education Fund. (Applause)

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, just come right over here.

MS. LAURI GRANTIER: Lauri Grantier, this is Unit 2, DAVA Department of Montana for the DAVA National Service Fund, \$315.50.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MS. SHEILA MCGOWAN: Sheila McGowan, State Commander from the Department of Massachusetts, this is \$100 for the National Service Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MS. JEFFERSON: Good morning. My name is Joyce Jefferson. I am from Rapid City Number 3. On behalf of two National Education Scholarship winners, Darian and Danica Jefferson, \$100. (Applause)

MS. GLENDA FLYNN: Glenda Flynn, Department of Missouri, District 15, we have three checks: one for \$100 for the Winter Sports Clinic, \$100 for Education Scholarship, and \$100 for Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you so much. (Applause)

MS. BREANNE CHANDLER: Breanne Chandler, Junior Vice for Nebraska, I have two checks: one for Kids 4 Kids from Unit 9 in Nebraska and then one from Chapter 9 for Kids 4 Kids, both for \$250.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause) Hi. How are you doing?

MR. ALLEN HERRICK: Hi. My name is Allen Herrick from Unit 72 in Massachusetts. I have one check for Camp Corral from Unit 72, \$15. And I have another check from Unit 72 in Massachusetts, National Service Fund for \$50. (Applause)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Just a personal donation for Service Support fund.

COMMANDER MILLER: A personal donation for the Service Support Fund from Veronica – Ronnie. (Applause)

MS. CYNTHIA FINK: Hi. I'm Cynthia Fink from the Department of Tennessee. And Unit 28 challenged Chapter 28 to save their pennies for three months and we had penny wars for the DAVA 4 Kids. We won so here is \$100 for the DAVA 4 Kids.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you very much. (Applause) And I want to thank everyone for their donations. It's great.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Now we are going to have the officers get up and dance the way they did at the luncheon. (Laughter) Not really.

COMMANDER MILLER: Did you not pay attention yesterday so you could learn? (Laughter) We were supposed to watch so we could do that and have them throw dollars – or 10s or 20s or, you know. (Laughter) That might be a good challenge. LeeAnn said if you would throw 20s she would go down and dance for us. (Applause)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: At this time I would like to call our Convention Chairman forward. She has a special presentation to our National Commander.

(Whereupon, National Convention Chairman Eileen Langille advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN EILEEN LANGILLE: Thank you, Judy.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You are welcome.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN LANGILLE: This was given to me from one of the lovely ladies to give to you.

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN LANGILLE: This is a card for you and a gift from me – sorry. I would like to be able to drape this down so that everybody can see the signatures from the quilt yesterday at our Commander's Forget-me-not Luncheon.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It would make a pretty altar cloth. (Laughter)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN LANGILLE: There is all the signatures. And the luncheon, for those that you missed it, you missed a wonderful time. And this, hopefully, will help you remember, as time goes by, all your friends that came and signed and wished you well for the future.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you so much. It was a neat idea. (Applause) Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, National Convention Chairman Langille withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, will the Credentials Chairman please come forward to give the final Credentials report?

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Madam Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, this will be the final reading of the Credentials report.

Total Units registered, 172; total Department registered, 37; National Officers registered, 6; Past National Commanders registered, 10; total guests registered, 183; total delegates, 374; total alternates, 30; total registered, 603; total vote count, 1,258.

Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER MILLER: We have a motion. Do I hear a second?

MS. CAROL RUNDALL: Carol Rundell, District 18, Arizona, Cactus Number 2, I second that motion.

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. We have a motion and a second to accept the Credentials report. All in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carried.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: The National Adjutant will now call the roll of newly-elected NEC members and alternates. As your name is called, please come forward for the purpose of installation.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium and the newly-elected National Executive Committeewomen and alternates advanced to the front of the room as the National Adjutant called their names.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: District 2 NEC Josephine Rivera, Alternate Terry Grabowski; District 3 Alternate Donna Folcarelli; District 4, Sarah Kashner, Alternate Linda Applegate; District 6, Carol Simmons, Grace James Alternate; District 8, Linda Bailey, Dorothy Robinson Alternate;

District 10, Carol Lee, Alternate Teresita Morey; District 12, Rose Williams, Alternate Patty Davis; District 14, Joyce Jefferson, Alternate Nancy Worth; District 16, Julie Steinbaugh, Melissa Valdez, Alternate; District 17, Beth Maughan, Alternate;

District 18, Rosie McDuffy, Carolyn Walker Alternate; District 19, Crystal Tomlinson Alternate; District 20, Mary Bergeron, Alternate Christopher Easley; District 21 Alternate Mary Reese Roden.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation.

The fact that you have been selected by the members of this Auxiliary for your respective office shows that they have confidence in your ability and that they feel you will strictly and impartially discharge all duties incumbent upon you.

They confide the welfare of this Auxiliary to your keeping and they are expected at all times to respect your position. Let their confidence, therefore, be fully justified by your fidelity.

Let us all remember gratefully the heroism of our veterans whose names we proudly bear.

Realizing fully these responsibilities, are you willing to assume the obligation of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

COMMANDER MILLER: Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the obligation of your respective office.

"I, Susan Miller, having been selected as an officer of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

"I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed I promise to surrender all property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. About face. Members of this Auxiliary, I now present to you the officers of your choice. I trust you will aid them in keeping the performance of their duties. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the newly-installed members of the National Executive Committee turned to face the membership and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: And you will take your seats and – let's see, the NECs to my right and the alternates to the left in these first two rows where they have been reserved for you, after they are through with pictures, apparently. (Laughter)

Okay, the NECs and the alternates are supposed to sit in the front two rows. All NECs to the right, alternates to the left.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected NEC members assumed their appropriate seats.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Kim Stake, please come forward.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, moving right along, will the Chairman of the Nominating Committee please come forward to give their Committee report. Here she comes.

(Whereupon, the Nominating Committee Chairman advanced to the podium to give her report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Everybody awake? Okay, Commander, Adjutant and delegates. The Nominating Committee of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary held their first meeting on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We are pleased to submit the following slate for your consideration to serve as the 2014-2015 officers:

For Commander: LeeAnn Karg – did I pronounce that right? Thank you. Senior Vice Commander Linda Stake. First Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa. Second Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken. Third Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman. Fourth Junior Vice Commander Dorothy Reese. And Judge Advocate Carol Gray.

The secretary who served on the Committee was Patty Rapisand. And the Committee members were Donna Tanner; Lucita Christian; Ann Schatz; Dorothy Kashner; Laurie Stopyra; boy I was awful on that one;

Grace James; Diane Franz; Cynthia Fink; Geraldine Evans; Gloria Boozer; Joyce Hutchinson; Paula Raymond; Karla Schwartz; Robin Kenney; Bonita Mitchell; Mary Lou Caldwell;

Kathy Phelps; Ann Richardson; Crystal Tomlinson; Patty Rapisand and Mary – what's the last name? – Roden. And I want to thank everybody that helped and I think we did a great job and I want to thank everybody. (Applause)

(Whereupon, as the Nominating Committee Chairman withdrew from the podium Adjutant Hezlep advanced to 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.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: I wish to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for their time and efforts. I am now discharging the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees.

I will now ask the officers to leave the podium and go to their respective Districts for the purpose of nomination and election. NECs you may please join your District as well.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the podium and, along with the NECs, joined their respective Districts.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Okay, I would like to appoint the following three people as tellers. You have to be quiet so they can hear their names because they don't have any clue.

The first teller is Joyce Hutchinson, Tawnya Kingsley and Sarah Kashner. Please come and sit in the front and if we have a roll call we will pull a table out for you to be able to use. Joyce, you can just sit in the front. If we have a roll call we will get you a table. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the tellers advanced to the front of the room.)

COMMANDER MILLER: You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. LeeAnn Karg has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander.

MS. ROBIN KENNEY: Is it on?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes.

MS. KENNEY: Okay. I am Robin Kenney from 14<sup>th</sup> District, NEC, delegate in Unit 37 of Hutchinson, Minnesota. May I approach the podium for the purposes of giving the seconding speech?

COMMANDER MILLER: Yes, you may.

(Whereupon, Robin Kenney advanced to the podium.)

MS. KENNEY: LeeAnn Karg is a life member of the Hutchinson, Minnesota, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 37. She joined the Auxiliary through her husband, Van Karg, a Vietnam veteran who was wounded January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1967.

She has been a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for 23 years. In that time she has served as commander, adjutant, treasurer at the Unit level and all of the line officers, commander, for the Department of Minnesota, and has been adjutant for them for the past 12 years.

At the National level she has served as an NEC, Finance Committee, Chaplain, Junior Vice for four years, currently up serving as the National Senior Vice Commander.

LeeAnn has served as chairman at the National level of the Finance Committee, Junior Activities, Community Service, Americanism, Legislative, Membership, and Mae Holmes.

LeeAnn is dependable, honest, fun-loving, hard-working, devoted and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our disabled veterans and their families.

Her goal is to work together as a team with the Disabled American Veterans. Together we can all accomplish so much more.

I, Robin Kenney, second the nomination for LeeAnn Karg as the National Commander for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for the 2014-2015 year. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Kenney withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed of the office of National Commander.

All those in favor of LeeAnn Karg for the office of National Commander signify by saying aye; opposed. They ayes have it and LeeAnn Karg has been elected to the office of National Commander.

(Whereupon, LeeAnn Karg was recognized with a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Linda Stake 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 in favor of Linda Stake for the office of National Senior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; those opposed. The ayes have it and Linda has been selected – elected to the office of National Senior Vice Commander.

(Whereupon, Linda Stake was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Fran Costa 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 Fran Costa for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it and Fran Costa has been elected to the office of National First Junior Vice Commander.

(Whereupon, Fran Costa was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Craig Johniken has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander.

All in favor of Craig Johniken for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it and Craig Johniken has been elected to the office of Second Junior Vice Commander.

(Whereupon, William Craig Johniken was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Ellen Timmerman has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor Ellen Timmerman for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it and Ellen Timmerman has been elected to the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander.

(Whereupon, Ellen Timmerman was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Dorothy Reese has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

All those in favor of Dorothy Reese for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it and Dorothy has been elected to the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander.

(Whereupon, Dorothy Reese was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Carol Gray has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Judge Advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Judge Advocate.

All those in favor Carol Gray for the office of National Judge Advocate signify by saying aye; opposed. The ayes have it and Carol Gray has been elected to the office of National Judge Advocate.

(Whereupon, Carol Gray was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: The National Commander is LeeAnn Karg. National Senior Vice Commander – I just drew a blank – is Linda Stake. (Laughter) I have to move them up a space and – National First Junior Vice Commander is Fran Costa.

National Second Junior Vice Commander is Craig Johniken. National Third Junior Vice Commander is Ellen Timmerman. National Fourth Junior Vice Commander is Dorothy Reese. Welcome to the line. And the National Judge Advocate is Carol Gray.

And I will now dismiss the tellers. Sorry I didn't have any work for you but thank you. (Laughter) The election having been completed, will the current National Officers please return to the podium.

(Whereupon, the National Officers assumed their stations.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms please come to the podium to introduce the NEC members and those serving as Pages Convention.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake advanced to the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Thank you. Commander Susan, it was an honor to get to serve as your sergeant-at-arms this year. I had a really great time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you were good. (Applause)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Adjutant Judy, National Officers, all the Past National Commanders, if it wasn't the influence of you all, we couldn't be where we are so I would like to acknowledge the personal pages. When I call your name line up in front.

For Susan Miller it was Earnestine Bennett (Applause) and Chloe Wheeler. She's the little gal that sang the National Anthem. (Applause) She has already gone but I just want you guys to know, Juniors rock. (Applause)

For LeeAnn Karg that will be Robin Kenney. (Applause) For Linda Stake that was Brenda Patterson but she had to leave, but I wanted her to be acknowledged.

Fran Costa's personal page was Nancy Mooney. (Applause) I think Craig kind of picked and choosed (sic) but I have Emma Ligon –



THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNIKEN: Ligon.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Ligon, Emma Ligon. Come on up here, Emma. (Applause)

Ellen Timmerman, her husband was going to and he was ill but I would like to acknowledge Tim Zimmerman – Zimmerman – Timmerman. (Applause)

Carol Gray had Teresita Morey. I need a pair of reading glasses. That's my problem. (Laughter)  
Aura-Lee Nicodemus used one of the Junior members – and we will get to that later.

Donna Adams, you used a Junior at one time, didn't you?

PAST NATINOAL COMMANDER ADAMS: No. Ronnie Bergquist.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Ronnie. Ronnie Berquist, come here. You are up here as a personal page for the – (Applause)

I would like to say the Junior members, you know we've asked them to help us and I would like to introduce them next. They've been guarding the door. They've been taking care of paperwork. (Applause) I mean awesome job. (Applause)

Chloe Wheeler has already gone. Olivia, please come forward. Giovani, please come forward. Jonathan, please come forward. Jessica, please come forward. Jeffrey, please come forward. Ethan, please come forward. And Jana please come forward. This is the future of this Auxiliary. (Standing Ovation)

But the other two, I just want you to know, weren't selfish. They did what I asked them. Come forward. Come forward. They are taking care of Auxiliary business. Julie Steinbaugh was here. Jessica was here. And Jenae was here, right? Yes. Okay.

The ladies and gentlemen that have worn these red badges, some of us wore them upside down. (Laughter) But that's okay.

The First District, please come forward: Sandra – oh, do you want me to call their last names, too? Sandra Finsel, if you guys don't know who they are; District 2, Matilda Brooks; (Applause)

District 3, Wanda Furbish; District 4, Dorothy Kashner; District 5, Laurie Stopyra; District 3 Alternate Sylvia Heath, come up here. (Applause) She got me in trouble one night while we were here. (Laughter)

District 6, Ellen Griggs; District 7, Debbera McLaughlin; District 8, Edwina Daugereaux; District 9, Lynn Prosser; District 10, Donna Henshaw; District 11, Deborah Hall; District 12, Paula Raymond;

District 13, Mabelene Stevens; (Applause) the 14<sup>th</sup> District and personal page was Robin Kenney; (Applause) the 15<sup>th</sup> District, Linda Gerke; (Applause) the 17<sup>th</sup> District and personal page, Earnestine Bennett; (Applause) the 19<sup>th</sup> District, Barbara Reding; the 20<sup>th</sup> District, Angelyn Scott; the 21<sup>st</sup> District, Linda Oliver. (Applause)

Doris, did I miss you? Come on up, Doris. The 18<sup>th</sup> District didn't make it, I don't believe, because of the storms in Hawaii but that was Lorna Kakesako. (Applause) But these are the people that have helped me. (Applause)

COMMANDER MILLER: Who was the two that carried the flags?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Well, that was next.

COMMANDER MILLER: Oh, okay. (Laughter)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: The flag bearers that I had, the Junior members carrying the flag was Giovani and Olivia. Raise your hands Giovani and Olivia.

(Whereupon, Giovani and Olivia were recognized with a round of applause.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: They carried our National Colors. The color bearers for Nevada: Ann Richardson, Nancy Michalski, right? Come on up here flag bearers. Come on, girls. Don't be shy.

(Whereupon, the flag bearers advanced to the front and were recognized with a round of applause.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: But, like I said, these ladies and gentlemen have totally, totally went beyond what I expected as my help. And I just want to give them all one more round of applause and then we will start doing something else. (Applause)

And let me give some direction real quick. You guys that were on the front row, could you please go back, the Juniors? And then I need two Juniors to come back here just for a few minutes and take these spots. Any two. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Kim. Kim. You announced for 19 Bobbie Redding but it's been Crystal Tomlinson.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: Crystal Tomlinson?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Yes.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: For the 19<sup>th</sup>? Crystal, raise your hand.

(Whereupon, Ms. Tomlinson raised her hand and was recognized with a round of applause.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS STAKE: See, sometimes we goof but it can be fixed. See, Crystal, you got the big one. You know? Everybody was looking. (Laughter) Thank you and we will start rotating again here.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Stake and the pages withdrew amid a round of applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: All pages are now dismissed and thank you very much for the job you did during the Convention. (Applause) Is there any further business to come before this Convention? (Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Karg advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: I just wanted to ask if there was any Units or Departments in here that are looking for some projects. This is not a fundraiser but one of the gals from Minnesota is here and she has got some handouts here for you if you are interested. It's a veterans' spa day.

She coordinates it with the veterans' medical center and with a beauty college. And once a month they take veterans from the VAMC to the beauty college for two hours.

If you are interested in finding out about this project please see Carmen. Carmen Michaelson would you please stand up so they know who you are?

And she will send a handout with you that explains everything along with a few affidavits from some of the female veterans who have participated and how much this has helped them get back into society. So it's a very good thing.

Just wanted to – she wants to make it available to all of you if you are interested and you have the means to do it. So please see Carmen.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Karg withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. (Applause) Do you have anything? Okay.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: I just would like to thank Susan for a great convention. And it is something we have all enjoyed. We will take our memories home with us. But I'd like for everyone to stand and give her a rising vote of thanks for a great convention. (Standing Ovation)

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you all. It has been wonderful. (Applause) Any other further business? Hearing none, I now declare the 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans (sic) adjourned.

We will immediately go into the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting. And the newly-elected officers – will the newly-elected officers retire to the rear of the room. Done. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 12, 2014.)

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# Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the  
Year Ended December 31, 2013, and  
Independent Auditors' Report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the National Finance Committee of  
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (the "Auxiliary"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2013, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

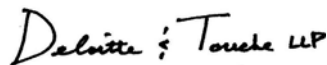
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Auxiliary as of December 31, 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



April 7, 2014

# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013**

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>GENERAL ASSETS:</b>		<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
Cash	\$ 494,064	Accounts payable	\$ 1,696,772
Investments	7,396,662	Contributions distributable to state departments	401,905
Accrued interest receivable	6,740	Deferred membership fees	253,987
Materials and supplies	3,736	Other liabilities	91,594
Prepaid expenses	61,027		
Software development in process	148,486	Total liabilities	2,444,258
<b>SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS:</b>		<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP — Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues</b>	
Cash	13,004		6,155,504
Investments	315,436		
Accrued interest receivable	1,554		
Receivable from General Fund	35,542		
<b>DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS — Cash</b>		<b>NET ASSETS:</b>	
	4,018	Unrestricted	5,666,457
<b>EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ASSETS:</b>		Temporarily restricted:	
Cash	250,942	Service Program	365,536
Investments	484,371	Disaster Relief Program	4,018
Accrued interest receivable	433	Education Loan/Scholarship Program	1,300,218
Loans receivable (less reserve of \$23,563)	204,789		
Receivable from General Fund	359,683	Total net assets	7,336,229
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:</b>			
Investments	5,387,875		
Accrued interest receivable	5,002		
Receivable from General Fund	762,627		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,935,991</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,935,991</b>

See notes to financial statements.

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted			Total
		Service Program	Disaster Relief Program	Education Loan/ Scholarship Program	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 122,368	\$ 1,523	\$ -	\$ 1,303	\$ 125,194
Life membership dues	447,860				447,860
Contributions	308,205	12,717		36,245	357,167
Contributed facilities	27,100				27,100
Conference and meetings	15,780				15,780
National convention	21,547				21,547
Interest and dividends	217,144	5,148		12,979	235,271
Realized investment gains	149,536	2,374		2,429	154,339
Net assets released from restrictions	63,513	(15,763)		(47,750)	-
Other	3,892				3,892
Total support and revenue	<u>1,376,945</u>	<u>5,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,206</u>	<u>1,388,150</u>
EXPENSES:					
Program services	859,274	4,558		5,376	869,208
Fundraising costs	222,206				222,206
General and administrative	492,929				492,929
Total expenses	<u>1,574,409</u>	<u>4,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,376</u>	<u>1,584,343</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	(197,464)	1,441		(170)	(196,193)
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>(74,276)</u>	<u>6,354</u>		<u>5,860</u>	<u>(62,062)</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(271,740)	7,795	-	5,690	(258,255)
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>5,938,197</u>	<u>357,741</u>	<u>4,018</u>	<u>1,294,528</u>	<u>7,594,484</u>
NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 5,666,457</u>	<u>\$ 365,536</u>	<u>\$ 4,018</u>	<u>\$ 1,300,218</u>	<u>\$ 7,336,229</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

## **STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013**

	<b>Program Services</b>	<b>Fund Raising Costs</b>	<b>General and Administrative</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
Salaries and wages	\$ 234,328	\$ 15,430	\$ 73,243	\$ 323,001
Employee benefits	98,969	6,000	19,505	124,474
Distributions to state departments	119,762			119,762
Fundraising expenses		188,443		188,443
Payroll taxes	18,967	1,221	5,787	25,975
Conferences and meetings	86,416			86,416
Expenses of national convention	115,665			115,665
Printing, stationery and office supplies	29,511	3,048	262,537	295,096
Expenses of national commander and officers	51,007			51,007
Contributed facilities	16,368	7,320	3,412	27,100
Postage	2,200		23,795	25,995
Travel	14,235		568	14,803
Professional fees			66,117	66,117
Service program benefits	15,763			15,763
Scholarship program benefits	47,750			47,750
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, memberships, and other awards	3,723			3,723
Other	14,544	744	37,965	53,253
Total	<u>\$ 869,208</u>	<u>\$ 222,206</u>	<u>\$ 492,929</u>	<u>\$ 1,584,343</u>

See notes to financial statements.

# **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

## **STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013**

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>	
Change in net assets	\$ (258,255)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Change in unrealized appreciation in investments	55,096
Realized investment gains	(209,783)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	(552)
Materials and supplies	3,395
Prepaid expenses	(59,123)
Receivable from General Fund	(532,538)
Accounts payable	327,592
Contributions distributable to state departments	(48,905)
Deferred membership fees	241
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	103,172
Other liabilities	<u>19,829</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(599,831)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>	
Purchases of investments	(2,466,324)
Proceeds from sale of investments	3,558,248
Collections from repayment of education loans	36,290
Additions to software development in process	<u>(148,486)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>979,728</u>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH</b>	<b>379,897</b>
<b>CASH:</b>	
Beginning of year	<u>382,131</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 762,028</u>

See notes to financial statements.



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

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### 1. ORGANIZATION

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters (DAVA) is a not-for-profit membership and service organization formed under the provisions of the National Constitution of Disabled American Veterans (DAV). DAVA 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 October 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2012-05, *Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Not-for-Profit Entities: Classification of the Sale Proceeds of Donated Financial Assets in the Statement of Cash Flows*. The ASU requires a Not-for-Profit to classify cash receipts from the sale of donated financial assets consistently with cash donations received in the statement of cash flows if those receipts were from the sale of donated financial assets that upon receipt were directed without any Not-for-Profit-imposed limitations for sale and were converted nearly immediately to cash. Accordingly, the cash receipts from the sale of those financial assets should be classified as cash inflows from operating activities, unless the donor restricted the use of contributed resources to long-term purposes, in which case those receipts should be classified as cash flows from financing activities. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after June 15, 2013 and should be applied prospectively. DAVA has not yet adopted the ASU and does not expect the ASU to have a material impact on DAVA's presentation of cash flows.

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

**Education Loan Receivable** — Students who receive education loans are required to begin repayment six months after completion of their educational programs. DAVA maintains a reserve for uncollectible loans. The amount of the reserve is equal to 100% of all loans for which no payments were received in the last twelve months.

**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** — DAVA accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to revenue ratably during the membership year for which they apply.

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

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

### **3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Under the bylaws of DAVA, any eligible person may become a life member. Amounts paid for membership are placed in separate life membership accounts and invested; the only withdrawals permitted from these accounts are amounts required to pay local units, state departments, and National Headquarters (DAVA) per capita dues for services to be provided to the life members. Generally, life membership assets for National Headquarters per capita dues are transferred to the general assets of DAVA at the beginning of the membership year (July 1) and deferred and recognized as revenue 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 DAVA, departments, and units to assist with providing member services.

The changes during 2013 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

Balance — January 1, 2013	\$ 6,052,333
Additions:	
Membership dues received	411,415
Earnings on invested assets	167,209
Gain on sale of investments	<u>55,444</u>
Total additions	<u>634,068</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	451,122
Dues to local units	24,938
Dues to State Departments	51,718
Investment fee	<u>10,085</u>
Total deductions	<u>537,863</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>6,966</u>
Balance — December 31, 2013	<u>\$ 6,155,504</u>

#### 4. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of DAVA'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. DAVA's policy is to report 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, 2013, are summarized below:

<b>2013</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</b>
General fund:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 117,002	\$ 117,002	\$ -
Mutual funds — domestic equity	939,186	1,231,768	292,582
Mutual funds — international equity	157,471	203,855	46,384
Mutual funds — domestic fixed income	5,329,020	5,226,990	(102,030)
Mutual funds — international fixed income	<u>657,480</u>	<u>617,047</u>	<u>(40,433)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,200,159</u>	<u>\$ 7,396,662</u>	<u>\$ 196,503</u>
Service Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 10,679	\$ 10,679	\$ -
US government securities	63,394	62,315	(1,079)
US government agency notes	39,336	38,952	(384)
Corporate bonds	80,915	79,271	(1,644)
Common stocks	60,891	67,995	7,104
Mutual funds - domestic equity	<u>53,868</u>	<u>56,224</u>	<u>2,356</u>
Total	<u>\$ 309,083</u>	<u>\$ 315,436</u>	<u>\$ 6,353</u>
Education Loan Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 10,302	\$ 10,302	\$ -
US government securities	7,962	7,794	(168)
US government agency notes	7,755	7,717	(38)
Corporate bonds	24,054	23,959	(95)
Common stocks	68,925	77,285	8,360
Mutual funds-domestic equity	142,638	145,020	2,382
Mutual funds-domestic fixed income	<u>219,136</u>	<u>212,294</u>	<u>(6,842)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 480,772</u>	<u>\$ 484,371</u>	<u>\$ 3,599</u>
Life membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 81,239	\$ 81,239	\$ -
Mutual funds — domestic equity	495,819	734,038	238,219
Mutual funds — international equity	126,955	172,863	45,908
Mutual funds — domestic fixed income	4,033,444	3,955,006	(78,438)
Mutual funds — international fixed income	<u>473,996</u>	<u>444,729</u>	<u>(29,267)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,211,453</u>	<u>\$ 5,387,875</u>	<u>\$ 176,422</u>

## 5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value, as follows: Level 1, which refers to securities valued using unadjusted quoted prices from active markets for identical assets; Level 2, which refers to securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs. Assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The DAVA did not hold any financial assets requiring the use of inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement (Level 3) during 2013.

The DAVA's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers from Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 during 2013.

**Asset Valuation Techniques** — Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value. There has been no change in the methodologies used at December 31, 2013.

Cash equivalents, composed of money market funds, are categorized as Level 1. Such investments are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. The money market fund represents DAVA's shares in a registered investment company's fund.

Corporate bonds and U.S. Government agency notes held are categorized as Level 2. They are valued using third-party pricing services. These services may use, for example, model-based pricing methods that utilize observable market data as inputs. Broker dealer bids or quotes of securities with similar characteristics may also be used.

Common stocks and U.S. Government securities (U.S. Treasury Notes) held are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual security is traded.

Shares of registered investment companies (mutual funds) are categorized as Level 1. They are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held at year-end.

The major categories of financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2013, 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	\$ 117,002	\$ -	\$ 117,002
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	1,231,768		1,231,768
International equity funds	203,855		203,855
Domestic fixed income funds	5,226,990		5,226,990
International fixed income funds	617,047		617,047
Total mutual funds	7,279,660		7,279,660
Total	\$ 7,396,662	\$ -	\$ 7,396,662
Service Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 10,679	\$ -	\$ 10,679
US government securities	62,315		62,315
US government agency notes		38,952	38,952
Corporate bonds		79,271	79,271
Common stocks	67,995		67,995
Mutual funds-domestic equity funds	56,224		56,224
Total	\$ 197,213	\$ 118,223	\$ 315,436
Education Loan Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 10,302	\$ -	\$ 10,302
US government securities	7,794		7,794
US government agency notes		7,717	7,717
Corporate bonds		23,959	23,959
Common stocks	77,285		77,285
Mutual funds-domestic equity funds	145,020		145,020
Mutual funds-domestic fixed income funds	212,294		212,294
Total	\$ 452,695	\$ 31,676	\$ 484,371
Life membership — cash equivalents	\$ 81,239	\$ -	\$ 81,239
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	734,038		734,038
International equity funds	172,863		172,863
Domestic fixed income funds	3,955,006		3,955,006
International fixed-income funds	444,729		444,729
Total mutual funds	5,306,636		5,306,636
Total	\$ 5,387,875	\$ -	\$ 5,387,875

## **6. FREEDOMS FOUNDATION**

DAVA has designated \$3,081 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**

**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 DAVA who are in need of temporary financial assistance in accordance with the bylaws of DAVA. 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.

**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 DAVA 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.

**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 DAVA. In 2013, there were 40 scholarships in amounts of \$750, \$1,000, or \$1,500 issued to selected Auxiliary member applicants for a total of \$47,750. The existing education loans are still required to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the original loan agreements. At December 31, 2013, the total amount of loans outstanding was \$204,789, net of reserve.

## **8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

All employees of DAVA 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 2013, DAV charged DAVA \$124,474 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 DAVA may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for DAVA. In 2013, DAV did not charge DAVA for these benefits.

## **9. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

DAV provides services to the DAVA, which puts DAV in the position to influence operating policies of DAVA.

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 \$27,100 in 2013 and is included as revenue and expense on the accompanying statement of activities.

Certain costs are paid by DAV National Headquarters on behalf of DAVA. Such costs are reimbursed by DAVA. As of December 31, 2013, DAVA owed approximately \$570,443 for such costs, which is recorded as an accounts payable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

#### **10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No events have occurred after December 31, 2013, but before April 7, 2014, 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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