

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

COMMUNICATION

from

**THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT, CHIEF EXECU-
TIVE OFFICER, THE DISABLED AMER-
ICAN VETERANS**

transmitting

2013 NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED
AMERICAN VETERANS, PURSUANT TO 36 U.S.C. 90i AND 44 U.S.C.
1332



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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

December 1, 2013

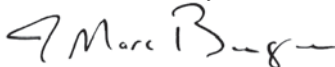
Hon. John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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, 2012, 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 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., Hephzibah, 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 Lucus, 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



Joseph W. Johnston

National Commander

2013-14

Disabled American Veterans



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

NATIONAL OFFICERS 2012-13
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

National Commander

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

Senior Vice Commander

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

2nd Jr. Vice Commander

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

3rd Jr. Vice Commander

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

4th Jr. Vice Commander

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

National Judge Advocate

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

National Chaplain

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

Past National Commander

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

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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
1963-64:	Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986)
1964-65:	William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982)
1965-66:	Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland
1966-67:	John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970)
1967-68:	Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969)

1968-69: Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington (deceased 1999)
 1969-70: Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California (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

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 92nd NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 10, 2013
Joint Opening Session**

- - -

CALL TO ORDER: COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN

The Joint Opening Session of the Disabled American Veterans 92nd National Convention and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 91st National Convention convened in the Orlando Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Saturday morning, August 10, 2013, and was called to order at 8:32 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Larry A. Polzin.

COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN: I now declare the or I now call to order the 92nd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant, will read the Call to the – the Call to the 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, declare the 92nd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Orlando, Florida, at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 10th, 2013. Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. I would like to ask everyone in attendance to please turn off your cell phones and other portable devices. As we are all aware, DAV has a couple special guests who will be joining us at noon today. Because of the attendance of the First Lady and the President, we will be changing our schedule.

There will be no afternoon session today. Tomorrow morning's Memorial Service will be held at 7:00 o'clock instead of 7:30 as printed in the program. Our first Convention business session will begin at 8:30 tomorrow morning instead of 9:00 a.m.

Present Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were presented and posted by members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem.

(Whereupon, the National Anthem was sung.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard for posting of the Colors. (Applause)

And now please join me in reciting the Pledge of the Allegiance.

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

COMMANDER POLZIN: Two. I would like to call National Chaplain, Dr. Ronald R. Ringo, Jr., to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN RONALD R. RINGO, JR.: Let us bow in prayer. Eternal Father, we often ponder on who we are and why we are here. But today we don't have to wonder. We are the DAV. We know our mission and our purpose is to assist veterans and their families in assuring that the promises made to them for serving their fellow man are fulfilled.

Father, we owe the freedoms that we all enjoy to those who have and do serve in the military. May we keep aware of our heritage and have a special place in our hearts for those who have given so much. May we always remember and do our part in preserving these freedoms and in fulfilling those promises.

We are grateful for all the blessings that we enjoy and ask for Your Spirit to be with us here today. We humbly pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER POLZIN: Audience, please be seated. As you know, we have a full agenda for the Convention and lots of important work to get done. So to get things underway I am pleased to introduce National Convention Chairman Richard Tolfa, a past Department of Florida Commander. Richard has been a life member of the DAV since 1984. He is a Vietnam veteran who flew more than 900 hours and 176 combat missions in a combat gunship.

Richard has been a volunteer Transportation Network driver for more than 12 years and has more than 1,300 hours working in our Local Veterans Assistance Service Program.

And what's more, Richard was selected to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. And now, please join me in welcoming our Convention Chairman Richard Tolfa. (Applause)

WELCOMING REMARKS: CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN RICHARD TOLFA: Thank you, Commander Polzin. National Adjutant Burgess, distinguished members and guests and fellow Florida delegates – and before I go any further I do have to recognize a special group out there that has been my heroes since I was a kid.

I was eight years old when World War II ended. Could I have the World War II veterans, if you are able to, please stand and receive our thanks for your service.

(Whereupon, World War II veterans were recognized with a round of applause.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN TOLFA: Like I said, you guys have been my heroes since I was a kid. And there is one other group out there that I have to recognize because I'm a part of them. Good morning, Vietnam.

(Responses of "Good morning" and applause.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN TOLFA: We're really excited to have the National Convention here in Florida and hope to have you back here in the near future.

You know, Orlando really is a family-oriented town. We have Universal. We've got Disneyworld, naturally. And if someone says you're in a Mickey Mouse organization, this week you are. (Laughter)

There is a lot of fun places to go, too. We have Sea World, Epcot, Downtown Disney, Wet and Wild for the kids, if you brought your grandkids with you or your children with you, just a wonderful place for family.

Here on International Drive are a lot of great restaurants, fun places. International Drive, it has outlet malls for the ladies on both ends. (Laughter) So you can either go north or south and run into an outlet mall. And I hope you leave a lot of that money here in Florida. (Laughter)

And the best part is we have a trolley that runs north and south. And for about \$1.50 a day you can ride that thing all day, get on and off as many times as you want. We really hope you enjoy your stay here in Orlando and in Florida.

Let me just say one more thing about the DAV. This organization makes me proud when I look across this room and I know DAV is alive and well doing the work we all love for our veterans.

I know that each of you stands for service. It's what we do in the DAV. That makes our organization strong. We take care of our veterans and their families until the last one is served.

I'd like to thank our National Commander, Department of Florida. And I do have to recognize, you know, I'm up here speaking but the people who actually did the work are my

Committee. I would like to have my Committee and the Department of Florida please stand to be recognized. Please. You guys did a great job.

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

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN TOLFA: Enjoy your visit to Florida. May God bless each and every one of you. Have a great Convention. And I thank you very much for this opportunity. Commander Polzin, thank you, sir. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Richard.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

MR. DANIEL CLARE: And now, let me introduce the DAV Auxiliary National Officers: here in spirit, Past National Commander Patty Rapisand of Texas; National Chaplain Carol Rundell of Arizona; (Applause) Judge Advocate Kathryn Wiley of Washington; (Applause)

Fourth Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken of Texas; (Applause) Third Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa of Massachusetts; (Applause) Second Junior Vice Commander Linda Stake from Arkansas; (Applause) First Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg of Minnesota; (Applause)

Senior Vice Commander Susan Miller of Colorado; (Applause) and now please give it up for your Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams from the wondrous state of Arizona. (Applause)

And now let's meet your DAV National Officers: your Past National Commander and Chairman of the Board of Directors, from Gallatin, Tennessee, Don Samuels; from Simi Valley, California, your National Chaplain, a heavenly reception for the Reverend Doctor Ronald R. Ringo; the pride of Grand Forks, North Dakota, our National Judge Advocate, Mike Dobmeier; your Fourth Junior Vice Commander, from Semmes, Alabama, David Riley; (Applause) your Third Junior Vice Commander, from Meridian, Georgia, Moses A. McIntosh; (Applause) your Second Junior Vice Commander, from Clemmons, North Carolina, give it up for Ron Hope; (Applause) and last, but by no means least, your Senior Vice Commander, from Williamsburg, Ohio, Ranger Joe Johnston. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to present National Commander Larry Polzin to the National Convention.

Commander Polzin is a service-decorated Vietnam-era veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps. He was unanimously elected to lead DAV at last year's National Convention in Las Vegas.

Joining DAV's professional staff in 1972 as a National Service Officer in Los Angeles, his DAV career spanned more than 25 years of service to injured and ill veterans.

Commander Polzin is a life member of Chapter 73 in Woodland Hills, California, where he has served as Commander, and in a variety of other Chapter offices and appointments.

He also served as the Department of California Junior and Senior Vice Commander before being elected Department Commander in 1996. He was first elected to National Office in 2007.

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

REPORT TO CONVENTION, NATIONAL COMMANDER

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. It's great to be with you again. We have some busy days ahead. But please take time to enjoy the company of your friends and the wonderful entertainment in store for us.

While I stand before some of the most respected leaders and Past National Commanders, I would like to recognize a special guest. Here today is Past National Commander Paul E.

Frederick who served from 1957 to 1958 during the tenure of Past National Adjutant Vivian D. "Crab" Corbly. At 90 years young, Commander Frederick is the oldest surviving Past National Commander. (Applause)

As I look back on my year as your National Commander, I'm inspired by the wonderful work that DAV does. It's been amazing to see first-hand all the great work we do. Our service program is woven into the fabric of DAV – from our Chapters through our Departments to the National level. For those of you who make it your mission to serve, I thank you.

Today we're helping more veterans than ever learn about and obtain their earned benefits. We have the best-trained, most knowledgeable Service Officers fighting for our fellow veterans. (Applause) As a retired National Service Officer myself, I'm well-aware of the dedication and knowledge it takes to do the job.

I have seen the pride that our Chapter and Department Service Officers take in completing our Service Officer Certification Program. It's designed to strengthen their knowledge and expertise in serving veterans and their families.

Would all of our Department, Chapter, Transitional Service Officers please stand to be recognized.

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

COMMANDER POLZIN: During my year as National Commander, one of the most moving moments came during my visits to military and VA hospitals. Talking with those veterans was a very special experience. It gave me a chance to help ease their burdens as they did and their families deal with the trauma of war.

Maybe the most challenging assignment I faced was testifying before a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees. Yes, I was pretty nervous representing you at such an important hearing. But I had so much strength and support that it did not matter, thanks to you, my fellow veterans. (Applause)

Of course, the most heart-warming event has to be the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado. The Miracle on a Mountainside is truly an experience of a lifetime. Being there filled us with joy as we witnessed the rebuilding of lives shattered by wounds and illnesses.

And some of the most inspiring moments came when meeting our dedicated volunteers everywhere I went. The comfort and compassion they bring to disabled veterans warmed my heart.

DAV is honored to have the largest volunteer presence among those serving at VA medical centers. We are the leaders, and we set the example for others to follow. My thanks go to our volunteer Transportation Network drivers and Hospital Service Coordinators. Would they please stand to be recognized.

(Whereupon, the Transportation Network drivers and Hospital Service Coordinators stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. And I want to thank each member for what you do. With our support, we speak with a powerful voice on behalf of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Serving as National Commander, I certainly grew as an individual. This is especially true in the area of leadership. I treasured working with Art Wilson. And I welcomed National Adjutant Marc Burgess to his role as the leader of our National organization's staff.

I hated to see such a wise and effective leader as Art retire, but I have the greatest confidence in Marc. And I'm happy to report that DAV is in good hands with him at the helm. (Applause)

I would also like to commend Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski for his leadership in watching over the Service and Legislative programs. He's done a heck of a job.

On a daily basis, Marc and Barry have managed our organization with unmatched skills and professionalism. They and their staffs have made my job easier and quite enjoyable. So please join me in thanking them and their staffs for a job well done. (Applause)

I want to thank Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams. We have had a lot of fun together this year in service to veterans. She and the Auxiliary are true partners and I'm grateful for Donna's friendship and commitment to our cause. Thank you, Donna. (Applause)

Last, but not least, I want to thank my wife, Judy, and my family for all the support that they have given me during this very busy year.

I have had the pleasure of meeting thousands of members during my journey as a National Officer. I have found your support uplifting. You gave me the strength to do what must be done and to do what is right. Thank you for all you have given me.

As I look to the future, I know you will continue to serve your fellow disabled veterans with pride and dignity. Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you.

As I leave you this week, please know that I will always be part of this organization. I'm here to help carry on our finest traditions. I'm grateful for your trust, support and service. I could not have asked for anything more gratifying or satisfying than to serve all of you.

Thank you and may God bless all of you. (Standing Ovation)

ACCEPT COMMANDER'S REPORT

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNSTON: Commander Polzin, Larry, under your inspiring leadership this has been a truly memorable year for the DAV. We all humbly thank you. I move to accept the National Commander's report. Do I hear a second to that motion?

(Whereupon, the motion was duly seconded from the floor, but the delegate was not at a microphone.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHNSTON: The motion has been moved and seconded regularly. All those in favor say aye; opposed. The motion carries. There is always one. (Laughter)

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

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

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. Now I ask that the Auxiliary National Executive Committee please stand to be recognized.

(Responses of "We did" and "They did.")

COMMANDER POLZIN: I'd like to see them stand again. (Laughter)

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

PRESENTATION: OUTSTANDING DISABLED VETERAN OF THE YEAR, JOHN TODD

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. I would like to take a moment and recognize an individual who has quietly dedicated his life to serving his community, our national veterans and their families.

While his spirit and dedication are well known where he lives, the impact of his service deserves national recognition by his fellow veterans, their families and survivors.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honor to introduce to you our 2013 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, John Todd. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a video outlining John Todd's service was viewed.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Ladies and gentlemen, our 2013 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, John Todd. (Standing Ovation)

MR. JOHN TODD: First, I want to thank our great and wonderful God for the blessings that He has given me. I want to thank my mother and dad, both World War II veterans, who have since died, for teaching me patriotism.

And, most of all, I want to thank my wife, Joyce. She is my inspiration and my commanding officer. (Laughter) I also owe a great deal of debt to the men with whom I served and to the Veterans Administration Blind Program, the best in the world.

And, last, but not least, I want to thank each one of you because each one of you in this room have been involved in the DAV for many decades and have put in many, many hours serving veterans and so for the last 45 years you've been serving me. And so that is why I am a proud member of the Disabled American Veterans. God bless America. (Standing Ovation)

REMARKS: HONORABLE ERIC K. SHINSEKI, SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

COMMANDER POLZIN: And now is it an honor and a pleasure to introduce Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. (Applause) He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. And he served two combat tours in Vietnam. There he was wounded twice. And he is a life member of the DAV Chapter 5 in Hawaii. (Applause)

During his military career, he served in a variety of leadership and command positions throughout the world. In 1999, General Shinseki was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army. And he retired in 2003 after 38 years in uniform.

On January the 20th, 2009, he was sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Secretary of Veterans Affairs and DAV life member Eric K. Shinseki. (Standing Ovation)

THE HONORABLE ERIC K. SHINSEKI: Thank you all very much. Thank you all very much. It's good to be with you again, DAV. Commander Polzin, I appreciate the kind introduction but, Larry, more importantly, thank you for your leadership of this great organization, DAV, and thank you for being such a great advocate on behalf of the men and women who have worn the uniforms of this nation and kept all of us safe.

Let me also take this opportunity to recognize Joe Johnston, your Senior Vice Commander, Marc Burgess, your National Adjutant. Congratulations, Marc, on your new responsibilities. I look forward to working with you.

Let me also say thanks to Art Wilson for a lifetime of devotion to disabled veterans and their families. Working with Marc over the last four-and-a-half – correction, with Art over the last four-and-a-half years and, Art, I would say from all of us at VA we extend our best wishes to you on your retirement. I know you are back there someplace. (Applause) He left. All right. He took a break. (Laughter)

Donna Adams, Auxiliary National Commander, Judy Hezlep, our National Adjutant for the Auxiliary, Barry Jesinoski, Executive Director – Barry, genuine thanks from me for your support and for standing with this Secretary in what we are all trying to accomplish for veterans.

I am pleased to recognize, as you all just did, John Todd, our 2013 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. And let me add my congratulations to John and thank him for his life's work in service to others.

Last month we marked the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice. Let me just take a moment and acknowledge our veterans who fought in Korea. You don't have to be much of a student of military history to understand that our country asked a lot of them on very short notice.

You don't have to be much of a student of military history to understand in spite of that short notice deployment how magnificently they fought there, performed their missions.

They saved the nation. Let me invite all of our Korean War veterans to stand, if you are able to – put a hand up if you can't – so that we can share our thanks and appreciation with you. Korean War veterans.

(Whereupon, Korean War veterans were recognized with a round of applause.)

SECRETARY SHINSEKI: Thank you all very much. Fellow DAV members, fellow veterans, fellow VA colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, 22 million Americans living today have distinguished themselves by service in uniform.

Their devotion and sacrifice are the bedrock of our sovereignty as a nation, our values as a people, and our security as a democracy. And few have given more than the men and women of DAV.

Whether you served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, or the myriad of other places where Americans have put their lives on the line recently, you couldn't have a better advocate right now than the President of the United States and the First Lady. (Applause)

I know they are going to be joining you shortly. And so I am sort of like the guy at the World Series that gets to sing the National Anthem. (Laughter) No matter how good you are, they didn't come to hear you sing the National Anthem. (Laughter) They are waiting for that first pitch.

But let me tell you a little bit about this. President Obama's leadership has been strong and unwavering over the last four-and-a-half years that I have served him and served all of you. And that leadership is reflected in nearly 40 percent growth in budget requests for VA between the years 2009-2014 – 40 percent increase.

President Obama has said time and again that veterans who fought our wars should not have to fight for jobs when they come home. His goals are reflected in his State of the Union Addresses that he gives every year and the tax incentives he has made available to businesses that hire unemployed veterans and then in his own remarks between – before veterans' service organizations like DAV every year that he appears.

In 2011 the First Lady and Dr. Jill Biden launched their Joining Forces initiative, a tremendously successful nationwide campaign to mobilize all of the sectors in our communities to address the unique needs of military families and veterans in terms of employment, education, and wellness.

When I was appointed in 2009, the President endorsed three priorities. First, increase access to VA's benefits and services. Access. Eliminate the backlog and disability claims. And, three, mobilize a national initiative to end veterans' homelessness in this country, in this rich and powerful country.

I asked for DAV's assistance then in taking on these tough issues. You gave it to me and you continue to do so today. And for that I am extremely grateful.

The President's steady focus on veterans issues, the advice and assistance of veterans service organizations like DAV, and my close personal working relationships with Secretaries of Defense, first Bob Gates then Leon Panetta, and now Chuck Hagel, an old friend of mine, but all of these factors have enabled VA's budget to grow by \$40 billion during a time of economic downturn and fiscal constraint in federal budgets; have enabled outreach and access initiatives that brought in more than 2 million new enrollees to VA; have enabled VA's financial management system to receive, for four years in a row, clean audits; have enabled 60 net new community-based outpatient clinics for a total of 827 C-BOCs today, and a new state-of-the-art medical center in Las Vegas, Nevada, the first major hospital in 17 years; have enabled more than – (Applause) have enabled more than 10,800 caregivers to be trained to care for our most seriously injured, post-9-11 veterans; have enabled more than a million veteran and family member students to receive educational assistance and vocational training

through the VA; have enabled an average of 113,000 veterans a year to be laid to rest, and today nearly 90 percent of all veterans now have a burial option within 75 miles of where they live; have enabled veterans homelessness to be reduced by 17 percent between 2009 and 2012, and we intend that to continue.

Seventy-thousand veteran home mortgage holders who defaulted on their home loans last year were kept from foreclosure and eviction because VA worked arrangements with financial institutions to keep them in their own homes – 70,000. (Applause)

And then the fielding of VBMS – Veterans Benefits Management System – at all 56 regional offices, VBMS is our new audited claim system. We are transitioning out of paper and into electronic processing this year after decades of being astride a river of paper.

This is a major crossover year for us and for our disability claims processing. And I will talk a little bit more about that. So the challenges of the past four-and-a-half years have been daunting. But with your support we have kept our sights on what was best for veterans. And I just gave you a list of things that we were able to get done.

Today I'd like to address three issues that have been much in the news lately: the claims backlog, as I indicated; mental health, is the second topic; and then, thirdly, the health care law. First, the backlog.

So let me be clear up front. No veteran should have to wait to receive earned benefits. The claims backlog is a decades-old problem and we committed to eliminating it, not reducing, not better managing but eliminating it.

We have said all along that it would take some time to solve this correctly. But we're not going to leave this for another secretary or president to wrestle. The President wants this fixed and we are on track to eliminate, once and for all, the backlog in 2015. (Applause)

Four years ago we built a plan and with very minor adjustments we stayed with the plan and so we are executing it. The first thing we did was we committed to taking care of some unfinished business: three new diseases attributed to Agent Orange exposure, primarily for our Vietnam veterans; nine new diseases associated with Gulf War Illness; and the third major decision, service-connected PTSD for combat veterans from all of our wars. (Applause)

So taking care of unfinished business for veterans of previous wars was bound to increase the number of disability claims in our system. That's logical. We opened up access. We expected more claims to come in. The inventory was going to grow.

At that same time we predicted that as that inventory of claims grew a number of backlog claims, those that are older than 125 days, would also increase. And, again, logical. We testified to these projections three years ago in announcing those decisions to grant service connection. But it was the right thing to do, the right thing to do then. It would be the right thing to do today. And I would make the same calls.

But at the same time we also promised that we would develop an automation system to attack this entire idea of backlog claims, having anything called a backlog claim. And we've done that as well.

As mentioned earlier, VBMS, the Veterans Benefits Management System, is now fielded in all 56 of our regional offices, six months ahead of schedule. We projected three years ago that the backlog would increase because of those decisions made three years ago but then it would begin to recede during this year, 2013 and that is, in fact, underway.

The backlog is now declining. In March of this year the backlog reached the all-time high of 611,000 claims. Two days ago it fell below 500,000, a drop of over 114,000 claims. (Applause) A drop of over 114,000 claims in roughly 45 days.

And so by the end of this year, 2013, we expect we will have eliminated most claims over a year. And today VA has the lowest number of total claims in our inventory that we're processing since March of 2011. We're around 780,000. At one time it was 880-plus. So barring any changes in entitlements this number will continue to decline and we remain committed to eliminating the backlog in 2015.

Mental health. More troops are surviving combat today. Fact. Their injuries are, as a result, more serious and complex, requiring prolonged hospitalizations, months and years of surgery, pain, recovery, unpredictability, uncertainty.

As they depart military service warm handoffs between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs assure these veterans the continuity in care they must have. And we have worked for four-and-a-half years now between the two secretaries of these two departments at that warm handoff.

Many of those combat veterans also carry with them the baggage of war. And that's my euphemism for PTS, post traumatic stress, which can include anxiety, increased irritability, sense of numbness, flashbacks, feeling depressed.

You will note I didn't say violence. Most of us who have been in combat and come back with the baggage of war are able to work through PTS on our own with the help of strong families, another support mechanism.

Some, not all but some of those veterans incur the "D," the "D," disorder – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. And that's the more serious form here. That requires professional care. And people generally get better with treatment from us.

During tough economic times like the past few years, increased unemployment exacerbates stress and that prolongs the transition home for returning combatants with PTS and may even, in fact, prolonging treatment for those with PTSD.

So we want to address these issues directly and early, before complications begin a downward spiral towards job loss, depression, substance abuse, anger management, failures in relationships, homelessness and, in the case of a few, suicides.

The longest war in our history and these higher survival rates have raised concerns about the mental well-being of service members and veterans, including the need for more sophisticated methods for identifying and treating their issues.

You know, in the past we often referred to in terms of "normal and healthy" on the one hand and then "mentally ill and unreliable" on the other, sort of a simplistic set of terms but we didn't appreciate how this created an obvious stigma against seeking help.

If you are among the "normal and healthy" you didn't dare seek professional help for any mental or emotional stress because that would move you over into the "mentally ill and unreliable" category and you were always afraid you would never get back to the "normal and healthy."

Today we know much better than to sort people into two mutually exclusive categories based on mental health. Mental wellness is an issue for many people and we all, at times, could use some professional counseling in dealing with life's difficulties.

And that's why at the VA and DoD we make it easier for veterans and service members to get treatment without being ostracized for having the courage to say, "I'm coming in to get some help." But the bottom line here, PTS – Post Traumatic Stress – PTSD – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – even depression, TBI, none of our veterans who are dealing with these issues are damaged goods.

What they do need are jobs, education, quality health care so that they can demonstrate to us a return to full contributions that they have the potential to provide. These things give them a shot at joining the middle class so that they can help all of us rebuild the economy.

With the strong support of the President we have increased access to mental health services. The President's budget – the President's budget requests between 2009 and 2014 raised mental health funding by nearly 57 percent.

For this year alone, for 2014, the next fiscal year, 2014 alone, the VA budget seeks nearly \$7 billion for our mental health programs. Mental health staffing is – (Applause) When I say "VA budget" that's in the President's budget that's been presented to the Congress.

Mental health staffing has also increased to address veterans' requirements. Last August the President directed that we hire an additional 1,600 mental health professionals. We have already exceeded that goal and we are also hiring some 800 peer support specialists – peer support specialists – to augment our clinical capabilities.

And we'll get that done before the end of this year. We're roughly around 500 already hired. We will not leave these veterans adrift, just as we will not leave our homeless veterans without hope. And that's the commitment from the VA. (Applause)

Last month the President hosted a national mental health summit the White House to begin demystifying the issues surrounding mental health, especially the stigma against seeking treatment. The White House quickly followed up with another conference just several weeks ago focusing specifically on the mental health needs of veterans and military families.

At VA we know that when we identify and treat people get better. We have the data to document this. And so to maximize our opportunities for identification and treatment, we are increasing our collaborations locally. In the next two months VA will host local mental health summits at each of our 151 VA medical centers to invite in community partners and to broaden the dialogue between clinicians and stakeholders.

The first summit was held last week in San Francisco. In Florida summits were held this week in West Palm Beach and Saint Petersburg. Others will follow in Orlando, Tampa, Miami, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Lake City, Tallahassee, and Pensacola. But all 151 mental health summits will be completed before October.

Our most successful initiative for caring for veterans in distress is our Veterans' Crisis Line. And I think most of you are familiar with it. The Department of Defense uses the same line and calls it the Military Crisis Line – same number; same trained VA mental health professionals answering the phone – not just an operator – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And it's an example of our partnering to deliver optimal care to those in crisis.

Since start-up in 2007 the Veterans' Crisis Line has answered over 890,000 calls from distressed veterans. Most importantly, 30,000 of those callers were rescued from suicides in progress because our mental health providers were standing by to help.

In 2009 we added an online chat service and in 2011 a texting service to serve veterans who operate in those media. And since then we have engaged almost 118,000 people in online chats and through texting.

Our crisis line Webpage averages about 38,000 hits a month. Whatever way we can, we are reaching out to find veterans who need us and make sure we are getting them in, identifying and treating. If veterans who need help engage us, we stand a great chance of helping them before the onset of crisis.

Now let me touch on the health care law that's about to go into effect. Veterans have put their lives on the line for this country and they deserve the best health care available to them and then to know what this law means to them and what choices they have so I'm going to make six quick points.

Number 1. The law was designed to help provide health care for as many Americans as possible.

Number 2. VA wants all veterans to receive quality health care that improves their health and well-being. They earned it.

Three. All veterans currently enrolled in VA health care do not have to take any additional steps. VA health care meets the new law standard.

Number 4. Veterans not currently enrolled in VA health care can apply for enrollment at any time. And I encourage them to give us a good look. They won't be disappointed.

Number 5. Veterans and family members who are not eligible for VA health care and who do not have health insurance through their employers should use the new marketplace to get coverage under the law.

And sixth and last, and I end up where I began, ensuring that veterans receive quality health care is a fundamental obligation for VA. And we intend to help veterans understand their options as the new law is implemented in the months ahead.

In closing, as I mentioned earlier, last month marked the 60th Anniversary of signing of the Korean Armistice so I'd like to share a short story from Korea.

Jerry Murphy grew up in Pueblo, Colorado. He graduated from college in 1951, right in the middle of the war. Then, as now, the nation was at war and Jerry volunteered to join the Marine Corps. And in a few short months he was commanding a rifle platoon in Korea.

In February 1953 Murphy's was the reserve platoon while the company attacked a heavily fortified hill. And during the assault most company officers and non-commissioned officers were either killed or wounded. The leaderless company was stranded on the hilltop being battered, continuing to take casualties.

Jerry Murphy seized the initiative, went to the aid of fellow marines, and on the objective he found the numbers dead, of dead, dying and wounded was significant. Murphy rallied the survivors in the midst of a still raging battle. He began evacuating the wounded while organizing a withdrawal under fire. He carried many of the casualties out of danger himself and then manned a machine gun to cover the movement of the company off the hill.

And then he led a small group of volunteers back up the hill to look for and to recover any more marines that were left there. Wounded twice he refused medical attention until he had accounted for every marine and led his rescue party back to safety.

Murphy was the last man to leave that bloody hilltop. For voluntarily risking his life to serve his fellow marines, Second Lieutenant Jerry Murphy was awarded the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

Jerry Murphy came home and served with VA for 23 years as a counselor and director of Veterans Services in New Mexico. And when he retired 23 years later from VA he volunteered another 8 years at the Albuquerque VA Medical Center. It is now named after him.

When Jerry Murphy died in 2007 he was buried not in his dress blue uniform but in his VA's volunteers' jacket, as he had stipulated. First and last, a selfless servant, Jerry Murphy was dedicated to the well-being of others. Devotion to fellow marines is what led him back to that hilltop time and again. And it is what motivated how he lived the rest of his life.

VA's accomplishments are a tribute to President Obama's unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans and their families and to the support of the Congress. As a lifetime member of DAV – I'm very proud of that – I know you will give our Commander-in-Chief and First Lady a rousing DAV welcome when they come to speak to you later today.

They earned your respect the hard way – deeds not words – deeds not words. God bless DAV. God bless those who serve today. And God bless all of us who served in uniform in times past. And may God continue to bless this wonderful country of ours. Thank you all very much. (Standing Ovation)

REPORT TO CONVENTION: AUXILIARY NATIONAL COMMANDER

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Every organization needs partners it can count on, especially when it comes to fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served and meeting the needs of their families. And the DAV Auxiliary surely is that partner.

Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams has been a great ally. Donna was elected National Commander of the Auxiliary at DAV's 90th National Convention in Las Vegas. She has been active in the Auxiliary since 1964 and served as the first Junior Auxiliary Commander of her Unit.

The daughter of a combat-disabled veteran, she was elected commander of her local Unit in 1973 and followed in the footsteps of her mother to serve as state commander in 1986.

Wherever DAV goes, our Auxiliary goes with us. They help carry our colors high. Please welcome Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams. (Standing Ovation)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER DONNA ADAMS: Thank you so very much. Thank you. National Commander Polzin, National DAV and Auxiliary Officers, Past National Commanders, guests to this Convention and, most importantly, members of the DAV and its Auxiliary.

One very short year ago I was honored to be elected to represent our Auxiliary as National Commander at the 90th Convention of the DAV Auxiliary. And I began a journey that would take me to all corners of our great country. It was a pleasure visiting members in 17 states and, with the help of the airlines, I spent extended time in four other states. (Laughter)

In the last twelve months I have come full circle: rejoicing in the birth of my grandson right after the Convention, and then weeping as Taps were played at services for a World War II veteran in Arizona.

With Commander Polzin we greeted veterans aboard a riverboat at the source of the Ohio River in Pittsburgh last September and ended the year with a dinner cruise downstream on that same river with the Commanders and Adjutants Association last month.

I watched as a young man held up his hand and swore allegiance to defend our country as a new officer in the Army Medical Corps and I visited with a newly-discharged veteran trying to put his life back together with injuries that only you, our members of DAV, can understand.

You have allowed me to peek into your closets at problems in your Units and your state Departments, and together we have worked on solutions. You included me in your successes and we looked for improvement when we fell short.

We have seen our National Adjutant Art Wilson for DAV retire – and Art, thank you for so very many years of wonderful – 47 years of service to our National Organization. (Applause) Thank you, Art.

And now we've seen Marc Burgess take over that role. And I know that with his, with our help and with your help Art is going to – excuse me, Marc will absolutely succeed in continuing to do the great work of this organization. Congratulations on your appointment, Marc.

Our successes this year have been incredible. This year we have seen record numbers of DAV members join our Auxiliary. And with your recruitment efforts we exceeded our membership quota several months before the end of our membership year.

Because of your dedication, we logged hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours in our VA medical centers, our schools, and our communities. You drove thousands of miles transporting veterans to medical appointments, wrote letters in support of DAV legislative initiatives, and you donated your hard-earned money to help our members in crisis through our Service Support Fund.

Our Units supported the Educational Scholarship Fund, and helped us be a sponsor of the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Our DAVA for Kids program helped transport the children of disabled and deployed veterans to Camp Corral and provided clothes and school supplies to families in need.

Locally, our Units initiated and took part in programs for women veterans, homeless veterans, active military members deployed overseas, and provided invaluable support and information to the families of recently discharged veterans.

And now, here we are again, having come full circle to the 91st Annual Convention of Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary.

During this week we will amend our bylaws, report on our activities, recognize outstanding units and programs, elect new officers for the coming year and, in true DAV fashion, we'll share hours of friendship and eat ourselves stupid. (Laughter)

I urge all of our members to take full advantage of everything this Convention has to offer.

In closing I want to thank my fellow officers and our chairmen for their guidance and their dedication. You've been an amazing group to work with.

Commander Polzin, thank you for your leadership and your kindness – and for not saying the things that you shouldn't be saying right now. (Laughter) I want to thank our Washington staff, Barry Jesinoski, the Service support – the Service staff, and the Legislative staff, our Washington – our Cold Springs Office and especially the Communications folks. Dan Clare and his folks have just been wonderful at putting up with me.

To my very, very special friends, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper, you are simply the best.

And to each and every one of our members of DAV and Auxiliary, thank you for your support, thank you for your friendship, and thank you for your love. You have made this an incredible year.

The key is understanding. Thank you. (Standing Ovation) Thank you.

I have a couple of little things that I want to do. National Commander Larry Polzin visited the great State of Arizona and while he was there he became a member of my parent Chapter, DAV Chapter 20 in Glendale. And I was given marching orders to make sure that everybody saw – it says, "Glendale, Arizona, Life Member, Larry Polzin, National Commander 2012-13." (Applause)

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Adams gave DAV Commander Polzin a cap which he placed on his head.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER ADAMS: And from our National Auxiliary this says – come here. (Laughter) He does follow orders well, too. (Laughter)

"Presented to Larry A. Polzin, DAV National Commander, in appreciation of distinguished service given to the DAV Auxiliary August 10th, 2013. Donna Adams, National Commander. Judy Hezlep, National Adjutant." (Applause)

Larry, it has been fairly wonderful. Thank you very much.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Adams presented DAV Commander Polzin with the plaque.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER ADAMS: And I now invite Auxiliary Past National Commander Carol Gray from the great State of Michigan to step to the microphone for a special presentation. Carol. (Applause)

DAV AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PRESENTATIONS: OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

DAV AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY:

As you know, after several years we have, for the last several years we have also had an Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year.

The Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year is recognized for their contributions, dedication as a member of the Auxiliary whose efforts enhance the goals of the DAV, the Auxiliary, and community activities that are truly above and beyond the ordinary.

The 2013 award is being presented to Rosa Lee Knox of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Applause) Rosa Lee is a life member of Unit 30 in Myrtle Beach. She is a life member with 22 years of service on behalf of injured and ill veterans and their families. She is her Unit's adjutant and currently serves as the Auxiliary senior vice commander at the Department level.

A truly dedicated Auxiliary member, Rosa Lee is being recognized for her commendable efforts in caring for veterans' graves and devoting herself to helping our heroes and their families. Mrs. Knox, if you would come forward, please. (Standing Ovation)

MRS. ROSA LEE KNOX: Oh, thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

DAV AUXILIARY PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: The award reads:

"DAVA Past National Commander's Award to Rosa Lee Knox, Outstanding Member of the Year. Presented August 10, 2013." (Applause)

MRS. KNOX: Thank you. Thank you. (Applause) National Commanders, National Line Officers, delegates, members, and guests, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you and especially Grand Strand Unit 30 and Commander Prosser, along with the Department of South Carolina for the outstanding work you have done over the years which inspired me to undertake the needs of veterans as one of my personal passions. I revere the continuity of your leadership and the dedication of our members for our never-ending efforts dedicated to our Auxiliaries.

I come today with a positive attitude. Remember, the type of attitudes we have towards our veterans will dictate whether we approach the circumstances of our great organization that arise in our lives with a positive approach.

Ask yourself today "What kind of attitude do I have" of noble men and of noble women. As President Lincoln stated:

"We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground for it was the brave men and women, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract."

The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life for our veterans. Attitude in this endeavor to me is more important than money, than circumstances, than successes, than what people think, say or do. To me, it is more important than appearance, gift-ness, or skills.

Today, the remarkable thing is we have a choice. And that choice we demonstrate every day regarding the attitudes we embrace towards our veterans. And so my dears, "If anyone should ever write my life story – for whatever reason there might be – please be there between line of pain and glory," because this is one of the best things that ever happened to me. (Applause)

Oh, this is one of the best things that ever happened to me. I know this is one of the best things that ever happened to me. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Rosa. And thank you Commanders Adams and Gray.

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

Since 1987, the National Organization, Chapters, Departments, National Service Foundation, and Columbia Trust have purchased 2,714 vans at a cost of more than \$57 million. (Applause)

Throughout our history, DAV has received unprecedented support from many source, but there is only one committed who has been with us since the beginning and continues to support our mission, and that is the Ford Motor Company.

Joining us today is a special guest with more news about longstanding Ford/DAV partnership. Linda(sic) Quigley serves as a manager for Community Relations for Ford Motor Company Fund and 9 Community Services.

In this capacity, she is responsible for the development of numerous Ford Motor Fund initiatives. A long-time friend of the DAV, she has been a steadfast advocate whose services have contributed a great deal to our long-standing relationship. Please give a warm welcome to Linda(sic) Quigley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the song "Mustang Sally" was played as Ms. Quigley advanced to the podium.)

REMARKS: LYNN QUIGLEY, FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

MS. LYNN QUIGLEY: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MS. QUIGLEY: Thank you, National Commander Polzin. I am extremely honored to be here with you and the men and women of DAV.

On behalf of Ford Motor Company I would like to join you in thanking retired National Adjutant Wilson for his many years of distinguished service to DAV. In 19 years as National Adjutant, Art has played a key role in transforming DAV into today's preeminent veterans' service organization.

A visionary and a tireless worker, he is completely devoted to those he served and the organization he led. Art truly is one of the architects of the modern DAV. Thank you, sir. (Applause)

I would also like to join all of you in welcoming Marc Burgess to his new position as National Adjutant. We are certain that National Adjutant Burgess will provide continuity in leadership as the CEO of DAV and move your organization forward in your mission to fulfill our promises to the men and women who have served. Good luck, sir. (Applause) We look forward to continuing to support your efforts.

It is so great to be here this morning in the company of all of you, our heroes, and to have the opportunity to hear from the President later today.

As you know, Ford has been supporting DAV since 1922. You are our greatest long-standing community partner. But Ford's support for veterans is not limited to our relationship with DAV.

This year, we are sponsoring three Honor Flights to take World War II veterans to see their memorial in Washington, D.C., and we have provided scholarships to the children of active military through programs in San Diego and in Michigan. (Applause)

We also worked with high school students in 16 cities around the country to help young people understand and appreciate the sacrifices men and women in uniform have made for them through a project called Operation Grateful Nation.

Over 5,000 students drew pictures and wrote messages of thanks, which were made into the mural you now see on the screen. We've brought a copy of the mural with us so we hope you'll stop by the Ford exhibit and take a look at it. The original mural will be on display at the Pentagon in the fall.

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

We are appreciative of the support you have shown for our team as well. Since 2001, DAV members and their families have purchased more than 19,800 vehicles from Ford through the Ford Partnership Recognition Program or X Plan.

Those numbers put DAV among the top three of the 3,000 companies or organizations that utilize the Ford Partnership Recognition Program to purchase vehicles. In fact, DAV participation in this program surpasses participation from corporations like General Electric, FedEx, IBM, and PepsiCo. Now that is impressive.

Be sure to visit my colleagues at the Ford booth. They can help with any questions you have about the X Plan vehicle purchase program, or our aftermarket adaptive equipment program, Mobility Motoring.

While there, we hope you will take the time to complete a short survey for us. Each person who completes the survey will receive a 50th Anniversary Ford Mustang pin and a poker chip, which allows a spin on the Mustang prize wheel for a chance to win one of many prizes, including a notebook tablet valued at \$400, and a miniature scale die-cast Mustang signed by Bill Ford II. Everyone is a winner, so please stop by.

If I may, at this time I'd like to ask National Commander Polzin and National Adjutant Burgess if they would please join me at the podium.

(Whereupon, Commander Polzin and Adjutant Burgess joined Ms. Quigley at the podium.)

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

We are happy to be able to do this to show our appreciation for all of the sacrifices those who have served have made to protect our freedom. Please look at the screen to see this year's map, which shows the vehicle donation locations. (Applause)

This year's recipients are VA medical centers in: Birmingham, Alabama; (Applause) Shreveport, Louisiana; (Applause) Jackson, Mississippi; (Applause) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; (Applause) Charleston, South Carolina; (Applause) Fort Meade, South Dakota; (Applause) and Houston, Texas. (Applause)

And now, on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee, I'd like to present you with this ceremonial check. Here you go.

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented a ceremonial check to Commander Polzin and Adjutant Burgess.)

MS. QUIGLEY: The Ford E-350s already are on duty, here in Orlando, helping transport guests during the Convention. Two are on display here at the front of the ballroom, ready for your inspection. This gift means that Ford Motor Company has donated a total of 171 vehicles to DAV, representing a value of more than \$3.7 million. (Applause)

The Ford Motor Company Fund's primary focus is education. That's why we are so proud to support the families of DAV members through the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program.

Those of you who attended last year's Convention may recall when we announced that in honor of the 90th Anniversary of Ford Motor Company's partnership with DAV Ford would donate \$90,000 to the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program for the 2012-2013 calendar year.

And so this year on the 91st Anniversary of our great partnership and on behalf of every Ford Motor Company employee, I am pleased and proud to present this ceremonial check to National Commander Polzin in the amount of \$45,000 as the second installment of our two-year commitment to this outstanding academic program. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented a ceremonial check to Commander Polzin and Adjutant Burgess.)

MS. QUIGLEY: Thank you, National Adjutant Burgess. National Commander Polzin, would you please stay here with me. And I would like to ask Auxiliary National Commander Adams to please join us at the podium.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Adams joined Ms. Quigley and Commander Polzin.)

MS. QUIGLEY: 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 small gift from Ford Motor Company.

(Whereupon, Ms. Quigley presented gifts to DAV Commander Polzin and DAV Auxiliary Commander Adams.)

DAV AUXILIARY COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Is it a hat? Thank you.

(Whereupon, DAV Auxiliary Commander Adams put on her Ford hat, followed by applause.)

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

In closing, on behalf of the more than 177,000 men and women of Ford Motor Company, this truly is an honor to be here and to be of service to you, the men and women of DAV.

Thank you for your bravery. Thank you for your loyalty. And thank you for helping to preserve our freedom. Please enjoy the Convention and may God bless America. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

AWARDS: JESSE BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. Lynn, 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, Lynn, this generous \$200,000 donation allows DAV to purchase additional vans and continues more than 90 years of cooperation between two great American institutions. And I am pleased to note that since 1996 Ford has donated a total of 171 vehicles worth more than \$3.6 million. (Applause)

And on behalf of more than 1.2 million members of the DAV and Auxiliary, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your benevolent 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 donated \$515,000 to this scholarship program. Thank you, Lynn, and all the dedicated – (Applause) – all the dedicated folks on your team who help support the DAV's services and programs. We are most grateful. (Applause)

Serving those who put their country above themselves is not just a tradition but a way of life for some. Each year DAV, with the support of the Ford Motor Company Fund – rewards a group of dedicated young volunteers for their services to veterans.

This year's top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship goes to 17-year-old Max Freeman of Newport(sic), New York. (Applause)

Max is looking forward to a future of contributing to the lives of injured and ill veterans by using advanced computer technology to protect service members and devoting his time and talents to veterans. To help him realize his goal, he will use the \$20,000 scholarship to study computer science at George Mason University in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Max has been a part of the VA Voluntary Service Program at Northport, New York, for five years and has accumulated 1,200 hours assisting veteran patients. (Applause) Max is a five-time gold recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award for his contributions on behalf of veterans. He is also an academic honor student.

Join me in welcoming Lynn Quigley and Max Freeman to the podium for this scholarship presentation.

(Whereupon, Max Freeman and Lynn Quigley advanced to the podium for the presentation.)

MR. MAX FREEMAN: Thank you, Ford Motor Company, for your continued support for DAV. Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. FREEMAN: And thank you, DAV, for inviting me here today for the 2013 DAV National Convention. I'd like to congratulate Dennis Krulder on receiving the George H. Seal Award as well as thanking Northport VA director, Mr. Moshito, for all of his support.

I'm very grateful to be here in Florida with you all to accept this year's Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship. I'm truly honored and humbled to be able to stand here in a room filled with our nation's heroes who continue to serve every day, despite the fact that you all have already gone above and beyond with your service to our great country.

Your continuing spirit of volunteerism demonstrates true American patriotism. My volunteerism has just begun. In my five years, in 1,200 hours with the VA medical center and DAV are minor compared to the collective hours, years and mileage you have all contributed to DAV. However, I intend to follow in your lead by continuing to volunteer.

I have met some of the most incredible and influential people in my life through VA and DAV. Veterans of all ages continuing to volunteer and support other veterans has shown me what it truly means to be a hero, real-life heroes, heroes that make sure every fellow veteran who needs assistance gets it – getting them to their medical appointments on time or lending an ear when needed. These are the people whom I proudly call my role models.

Volunteering in the VA Northport Nursing Home for several years has shown me not only what war has done to our soldiers and their families but also what it truly means to serve our country. To see men and women leave their families and lifestyles while risking their safety to preserve American freedoms is truly heroic.

I have observed, first-hand, what it has been like for so many veterans who have suffered and are constantly suffering from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange, PTSD, and damage done by IEDs. I have watched as one of my role models succumbed to his battle with PTSD. And I sadly realized that disabilities can come in many forms.

I will be going on to study computer science at George Mason University thanks to the guidance of my role models at Northport VA Medical Center. I hope to use this knowledge I gain from college and VA volunteering to help save the lives of soldiers and strengthen our nation's security through the use of advanced computer technologies.

I will always be thankful to the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service for this life-changing opportunity. I thank Northport VA staff and volunteers for all they've helped me to accomplish in this chapter of my life. And I encourage anyone and everyone that can to become active volunteers with the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service.

Once again, I thank VA – DAV and VA very much for this honor, your recognition, and, of course, your continued service. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Max 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 all of them a big hand. (Applause)

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program each year honors outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service programs. These scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have selflessly donated their time and compassion to injured and ill veterans in their communities.

Now I will ask Adjutant Burgess to the microphone for a special tribute.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED NATIONAL ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander. Retired National Adjutant Art Wilson is the architect of the modern DAV. Today, we honor his contributions that span nearly 50 years. So please enjoy this video tribute.

(Whereupon, a video tribute to Retired National Adjutant Arthur Wilson was viewed.)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: The legacy of the Wilson family is one that will continue to bear fruit for generations of veterans yet to serve. In addition to all Art and his wife, Mary, have contributed to our organization, their name will be remembered and used to address one of the most important issues facing our community.

Beyond receiving earned benefits, employment can be a roadblock separating veterans from the American Dream they fought to defend. A new award has been established to recognize someone who has taken on the challenge of starting his or her own business and has set an example to others who may want to follow in their footsteps.

When Iraq War veteran Alex van Breukelen returned home, he wondered how he would readjust to civilian life. He eventually decided to pursue his dream of opening a restaurant in the Baltimore area. So, he turned to Cornell University's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities Program, or EBV. The program, which is supported in part by the DAV Charitable Service Trust, offers cutting-edge experience and training in start-up and small business management to veterans with disabilities.

As fate would have it, the Marine Corps veteran entered top the business plan competition and won the "Top Venture Impacting Veterans" award. Today, Alex operates a successful business and the restaurant has become a hub for connecting his fellow veterans with much-needed resources and networking opportunities.

The EBV business plan competition is closely aligned with our mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. So it's only natural that we lend our support to this competition by offering a financial award for the specialty category of "Top Venture Impacting Veterans."

Thanks to a contribution and ongoing commitment from one of DAV's true friends, Rick Fenstermacher, chief operating officer for the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, I am pleased to announce the very first Arthur H. and Mary E. Wilson Award for Top Venture Impacting Veterans.

I'll invite Alex van Breukelen, Rick Fenstermacher and Art and Mary Wilson to present this award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Alex van Breukelen, Rick Fenstermacher and Arthur and Mary Wilson advanced to the podium for presentation of a ceremonial check.)

MR. ALEX VAN BREUKELLEN: I didn't know I would be up here speaking today so I didn't prepare a speech so I will keep it very short.

Thank you for your leadership over the years and, equally important, thank each one of you that has served in World War II, Korea. You set the stage for my generation to be able to stand up and open our own business, to integrate back into society, to be able to do what we need to do to succeed.

The Vietnam veterans, I truly admire everything that you have done, not only in combat but I admire the battles that you have had to fight and are continuing to fight since you came back from combat, something that I don't think I would be able to handle.

So thank you all, truly, for setting the stage to allow us, the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, to stand up and contribute to society, to get back into society, open our own businesses, get back into politics, get back into where we need to be which is leadership positions in our country.

So thank you all very much for your service and what you have done for me and my family.
(Standing Ovation)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Art, if I could call you out of retirement just for a few moments to give us a few comments, please. (Applause)

RETIRED ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON: You know it's dangerous when you give me a microphone. (Laughter) You know, Marc, when you took over the adjutant's duties you told me I wouldn't have to do this any more. (Laughter) Well, here we are.

In all seriousness, it's an honor to be here during the first presentation of this great award. I'm especially pleased that Mary, who has been my closest counselor, advisor, and best friend for over 45 years, is named on the award with me. And trust me, I couldn't do it without her being at my side all these years (Applause) and Rick Fenstermacher for being a true friend and ongoing supporter of DAV.

You know when our nation's ill or injured veterans are making the challenge of transition to civilian life they look to leaders and supporters who work to fulfill promises to the men and women who have served. And Rick Fenstermacher is certainly one of those great people.

Alex, I offer my congratulations to you on your achievements and want to personally thank you for the service and fellowship your restaurant is providing to our fellow veterans and their families.

You've demonstrated what a disabled veteran can do once he or she has been empowered. And I challenge you to continue to grow, to share your story with your fellow veterans, and wish you much, much more success.

You know, I'm honored to think that Mary and I will have our names on the initiative to encourage veterans to contribute to fellow veterans. And that's at the heart of what DAV and what DAV means. It's the spirit that fulfills promises and provides hope.

Commander, if you don't mind I'm going to take just a second now that I'm looking at DAV from the other side. I want to share a few feelings about this great organization of yours.

DAV over 47 years has defined my life and the lives of my family. All of my children are in vocations of serving others. They, too, understand what it means to help others. And they take great, great pride in their accomplishments.

For as long as I can remember, my vision has always been to have an America that refuses to let politics and political gain interfere with the way we achieve our sacred obligation to care for our sick and injured veterans. (Applause)

It is an America that is not just grateful to her veterans, but forever indebted. And I learned that vision from DAV. And just a few years ago, when the idea of building a memorial to honor those disabled in service to our country became a real possibility – and, trust me, it wasn't for a long time – I knew then that the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial will stand as a permanent reminder of that obligation, the obligation we all have to serve those who have served.

One thing before I finish, all of the accolades that you have given me are greatly appreciated. But I have to tell you this, none of it, none of it could ever have been possible without a great organization, without a great staff, without great National Service Officers, with all of our employees, and then you, our great members, who are the heart of this organization. And I thank you so much for allowing me to serve you. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

UPDATE ON AMERICANS VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

COMMANDER POLZIN: One cannot look at the legacy of Art Wilson without noticing his leadership as cofounder and president of the Disabled Veterans – American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial. Here is a special announcement on the progress of the Memorial as projected by Executive Barry Owenby. Mr. Owenby. (Applause)

MR. BARRY OWENBY: Oh, I hope the teleprompter is working. (Laughter) Or at least the slide show. National Commander Polzin, National Adjutant Burgess, Auxiliary National Commander Adams, ladies and gentlemen and distinguished guests.

Two years ago in New Orleans I presented an update on the progress we had made in making the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial a reality. Today's presentation will be much briefer. Not only does good news travel fast, it takes much less time to communicate.

As I shared with you in New Orleans, there were two critical site infrastructure projects that had to be completed before Memorial construction could begin, and both required federal funding. And I'm sure you can appreciate the challenges of securing federal funding in Washington these days.

I am very pleased to report to you that the first project was funded. Construction began soon after the New Orleans Convention. And that work was completed in 2012.

At last year's Convention in Las Vegas, Vice President Biden announced to you that the Federal Highway Administration had approved a grant to the District of Columbia to fully fund the second and final phase of the street work.

That work began this past April, and while it won't be completely finished until November, we are scheduled to begin the Memorial construction a week from this Monday. (Applause)

As you know, the Memorial site was selected for its prominent location adjacent to the United States Capitol and the Rayburn House Office Buildings. However, it sits on the top of the Interstate 395 tunnels – as you can see in this slide – making construction both delicate and complex.

Our initial work involves excavation of the site down to the tunnel roof, where we will be applying waterproofing materials, then refilling the site with construction-compatible soils. This is followed by the structural support system and then the Memorial will begin to rise on the site.

For those of you interested in construction, we will be posting progress photos on our newly designed website. To shorten the construction's duration, many of the Memorial's materials and components have undergone fabrication or acquisition for the past 18 months.

All the Memorial's trees have been purchased and are tagged and are ready to be delivered to the site next summer. Seventy percent of the Memorial's granite has been fabricated and will be completely finished and delivered in February.

The first of the three glass walls with images and inscriptions has been completed and is in storage in Washington. The second wall will be finished and delivered next month. And the last wall will be completed in December.

The four bronze sculptures are finished and are in storage at the foundry in Walla Walla, Washington.

Also, as you know, the Memorial has a star-shaped fountain with a flame floating on the water in the center. The flame device and controls have been completed and tested and they are in storage in Washington, which brings me to the truly important news.

On behalf of our Foundation, I am honored to announce that our projected dedication date for the Memorial is October the 12th, 2014 – (Applause) – 10-12-14. It's an easy date to remember.

I must caution you that this date is projected or anticipated and we will do everything possible to stick to the schedule. But as in all construction projects, there are potential delays for weather, unforeseen site conditions, and other totally unpredictable situations.

We will be posting dedication information on our website. And I know DAV will be sharing this information with you in the magazine and in communications to the Departments and Chapters. I sincerely hope that all of you will be able to join us for the dedication.

Before I close, I would like to recognize and say thank you to some wonderful, dedicated people who have made this Memorial possible.

First, I want to thank you. I want to thank you, the DAV, to all members, the Auxiliary, the officers, the adjutants, commanders, Chapters and Departments and the National leadership and the staff. Your support, both financially and in so many other ways, have made this Memorial a possibility. Thank you very much.

Second, I want to recognize and thank our dedicated Board of Directors, starting with our chair, Lois Pope. Lois, would you mind standing.

(Whereupon, Lois Pope stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. OWENBY: Lois has been the driving force for the Memorial. She has donated her time and financial resources for more than 15 years now. And her support has been unwavering.

Also, to our president, Art Wilson – Art's leadership at DAV naturally transcended to our foundation and he has been a constant source of both guidance and inspiration during the long and arduous process.

And to the rest of our board – three of our board members are former DAV National Commanders who are on stage: Dennis Joyner, Gene Murphy and Bobby Barrera. Gentlemen, would you wave or stand up.

(Whereupon, Dennis Joyner, Gene Murphy and Bobby Barrera were recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. OWENBY: We have two other board members – Gunner Kent who couldn't be with us today and Diane Musselmann who will be arriving later this afternoon.

I also want to thank my colleague, good friend, and Foundation CEO, Rick Fenstermacher, who has joined me for the past seven years in moving the Memorial from concept to reality. Stand and wave, Rick.

(Whereupon, Rick Fenstermacher was recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. OWENBY: To the board and all of you, thank you for your continuing support, encouragement, persistence and patience as we move forward to compete this permanent and national tribute to America's disabled veterans – the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial.

In closing, I want to let you know that we will begin dedication planning almost immediately, and one of the first orders of business is to estimate and accommodate attendance.

As you can see on the screen, we would ask that you stop by our booth which is at the bottom of the escalators, our display booth, and fill out a survey regarding the dedication ceremony. There might be a little gift there if you fill out the survey.

This will be immensely helpful in our planning process. So I please ask you to remember the date – 10-12-14. Thank you very much. (Applause)

DAV STATEMENT OF POLICY

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thanks, Barry. That was very encouraging news. I will now ask the National Adjutant to read the DAV's Statement of Policy, the list of Committee advisors who have been appointed and who received the approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting; and to make any further announcements.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Thank you, Commander.

"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."

COMMITTEE ADVISORS

I would now like to read into the record the National Commander Polzin's appointed Convention Committee Advisors: Credentials Committee, Michael Dobmeier, Anthony Baskerville; General Resolutions and Membership, Adrian Atizado, Chad Moos; Legislation and Veterans Rights, Joseph Violante, Scott Trimarchi;

Constitution and Bylaws, Brad Barton, Edward Hartman; Finance, Joseph Lenhart; Employment, Michael Dover, Jeff Hall; Hospital and Voluntary Services, Edward Peters, Joy Ilem; Nomination of National Officers, Gene Murphy, Richard Marbes.

The Committee Advisors can pick up their Committee folders from the Resolution Coordinating Office in Lake Down B.

The Convention will host a number of important events. All day today the DAV and Auxiliary's important partners will be hosting the Camp Corral Kid's Room in the Championsgate on the Lobby Level. Your children and grandchildren are welcome to swing in and enjoy games and activities.

The DAV Auxiliary Luau will be held as part of the festivities starting at 3:00 p.m. We also welcome your feedback on this initiative to help us shape our efforts to welcome families in the future.

The Women Veterans' Seminar will be held Monday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. in Lake Eola on the Lobby Level.

Included in your Convention bags are cards with information on where you can go online to download photos, speeches and follow the Convention. Please use these cards and encourage your fellow members back home to do the same.

We will be holding outreach training to help Chapters and Departments engage the media and spread DAV's message in your communities. Outreach 101 will be held in Championsgate from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Monday.

Beginning this afternoon at 2:45 p.m., Convention Committees are scheduled to meet. Those of you who have been elected to Convention Committees are asked to be on time in

the room assigned for your meeting. We ask the Committees to complete their work as soon as possible.

The National Commander's Reception begins this evening at 7:00 here in the Orlando Ballroom.

As I mentioned earlier, we've altered our schedule to accommodate a visit by President Obama and the First Lady. Our next business session will convene at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

At that time I'll give my report to the Convention. We will also receive a very important report on DAV's legislative efforts, recognize our top VA employees and private employers, and hear reports on membership and voluntary services.

We'll be taking a short break in a moment to receive our honored guests. We'll welcome the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, at noon, and the President thereafter. We welcome you to take a quick break but I advise you to stay in place. We appreciate your patience and we look forward to our special guests. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Marc. Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to take a quick break as we await the visit of our First Lady and the President.

(Whereupon, a short recess convened at 11:02 o'clock, a.m.; the meeting reconvened at 11:56 o'clock, p.m. on Saturday, August 10, 2013.)

MR. CLARE: Ladies and gentlemen, to introduce the First Lady of the United States please welcome National Commander Larry Polzin.

REMARKS: FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA

COMMANDER POLZIN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, and especially my fellow disabled veterans and their families. It is indeed such a privilege and great honor to introduce the first of two distinguished speakers.

A product of Chicago public schools, Michelle Obama studied sociology and African-American studies at Princeton University. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1988, she joined the Chicago law firm of Sidley & Austin, where she later met the man who became the love of her life.

After a few years, she decided her true calling was working with people to serve their communities and their neighborhoods. She served as an assistant commissioner of planning and development in Chicago's City Hall before becoming the founding executive director of the Chicago chapter of Public Allies, the AmeriCorps program that prepares youth for public service.

In 1996, Mrs. Obama joined the University of Chicago with a vision of bringing campus and communities together. As Associate Dean of Student Services, she developed the university's first community service program and under her leadership as Vice President of Community and External Affairs for the University of Chicago's Medical Center, volunteerism skyrocketed.

Promoting service and working with young people has remained a staple of her career and her interest. Continuing this effort now as First Lady, Mrs. Obama in 2010 launched "Let's Move," a campaign to bring together community leaders, teachers, doctors, nurses, moms and dads in a nationwide effort to tackle the challenge of childhood obesity. "Let's Move" has an ambitious but important goal: to solve the epidemic of childhood obesity within a generation.

In 2011, Mrs. Obama and Dr. Jill Biden together launched "Joining Forces," a nationwide initiative that mobilized all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunity and support they have earned, and to raise awareness of military families' unique needs as pertains to employment, education and wellness.

"Joining Forces" has been working hand-in-hand with American businessmen who are committed to answering the President's challenge to hire or train 100,000 unemployed veterans and military spouses by 2013.

As First Lady, Mrs. Obama looked forward to continuing her work on issues close to her heart – supporting military families, helping working women balance careers and families, encouraging national service, promoting the arts and arts of education, and fostering healthy eating and healthy living for children and families across the nation.

We are indeed honored to have with us – have her with us today. So, ladies and gentlemen, please give me – give a rousing DAV welcome to the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama. (Standing Ovation)

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA: Thank you. Thanks so much. Thank you all. Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. It's so good to be here. We are so proud of you all. Thank you all. Please, I know you have been working hard so rest yourselves.

I am beyond thrilled to be here with all of you today. And I want to start by thanking Larry for that very kind introduction but, more importantly, for his tremendous leadership of the DAV and for all of his outstanding service to this country.

But, most of all, I want to thank all of you here today, the men and women who have served and sacrificed so greatly on behalf of all Americans. Truly, one of my greatest joys over these past few years has been spending time with veterans and military families like all of you.

I have laughed with your children at barbecues. I have gone to baby showers with spouses. I have learned so much during my many visits to military bases across this country. I have even smashed a champagne bottle to christen a Coast Guard cutter.

And, let me tell you, day after day I have been so inspired by your stories, so inspired. And I am reminded of one of those stories today, the story of a young man I met at Walter Reed. His name is Sergeant Winder Perez and he is 24 years old.

Now a year-and-a-half ago Sergeant Perez was on a combat mission in Afghanistan when he was hit by an RPG. He collapsed but the grenade stayed lodged in his left thigh and it didn't go off. Sergeant Perez' fellow marines ran to his aid and, together, they chose to carry him off the battlefield to safety, even though they knew that any wrong move would mean certain disaster.

Moments later, four pilots and medics chose to load him onto a helicopter with the live explosive still in his leg, transporting him 65 miles to the nearest medical station. And, finally, when they arrived, a nurse, an explosive expert, chose to rush to his aid, finally dislodging the rocket, by hand, and giving doctors a chance to save his leg, which they did.

Now, just that part of Sergeant Perez' story tells you everything you need to know about the men and women of our armed forces. But, as all of you know very well, stories like these don't end in the combat zone.

Since his injury, Sergeant Perez has endured 30 or 31 surgeries – he doesn't remember the exact number. He has survived a heart attack and an aneurysm and he has fought through hundreds of hours of rigorous physical therapy to strengthen his leg.

And time and again, just when he has regained the strength to walk, his doctors have told him that it's time for another surgery. And then Sergeant Perez is back in a wheel chair, starting all over again from Square 1. But here is the thing. You don't hear about any of that when you talk to Sergeant Perez.

What you do hear about is his mother who he will tell you has stayed by his side every single day. You will hear about his gratitude to those who saved his life, to the family and friends who come from New York to visit, and for the life he has in front of him.

Today Sergeant Perez is walking again. He is three months into an Internship with the Defense Intelligence Agency. And he plans to spend the rest of his career serving his country. And when asked about everything he has been through Sergeant Perez puts it all in perspective by simply saying, "I just think you got to get back up." That's all he said, "You've got to get back up."

And as I look across this room, I see a group of people who know how to get back up, no matter what you've been through. (Applause) No matter what the struggles you have faced, you all get back up. And that is what inspires me. That's why every day I work to push myself harder to live up to your example.

And that's why Jill Biden and I are working so hard on "Joining Forces," because we want to honor and serve you and your families to make sure that you and your families have the educational opportunities you need, the support you have earned, and the good jobs you deserve.

And if there is one thing that I want all of you to know today is this, you will never have to get back up all on your own, not while we are here. Never. (Applause) And it's not just us. You have got families who support you day and night. You have countless neighbors and pastors, business owners – I've met them – even strangers who will snap into action for you.

And one important person you have is a Commander-in-Chief who doesn't simply understand your service and sacrifice. (Applause) Let me tell you something about this man. He carries your stories with him every single day. I have seen it in his eyes when he comes home from a visit to a military hospital. I have noticed the extra energy he gets after a military commencement. And I have heard the emotion in his voice after he talks with the families of our fallen.

That is the well he draws from as Commander-in-Chief. You are that well. And that's why he has stood up for you again and again and again. And it's why he is going to keep fighting for you and your families every single day.

So, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome my husband, our President, Barack Obama. (Standing Ovation)

REMARKS: HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA: Hello, DAV. (Applause) Thank you so much. Thank you. Everybody, please have a seat. Do we have an extraordinary First Lady? (Response of "Yes.")

PRESIDENT OBAMA: We will be celebrating our 21st Anniversary in October. (Applause) The first time I saw her I knew she was something special. She was a little more skeptical about me. (Laughter) But persistence is the key. You've just got to stay on it. Eventually you can marry up. (Laughter)

To Michelle and Jill Biden and "Joining Forces" we are so proud of the work you have done to help rally America around military families and veterans. I'm inspired by what they are doing. So thank you, Michelle, for your extraordinary work.

DAV, I was proud to join at your Convention three years ago. (Applause) It is – it is wonderful to be back. I want to thank your National Commander. Larry Polzin, thank you so much. (Applause) To the entire leadership team, Joe Johnston, Marc Burgess, Donna Adams, all the incredible spouses and families of the DAV Auxiliary, I want to thank Barry Jesinoski (Laughter) – I got it. They used to mispronounce Obama, too. (Laughter)

I want to thank Barry and your great team in Washington. Disabled American Veterans, like all veterans, you carry in your hearts the story of brave service that took you to every corner of the Earth.

As young men and women you left home, left everything and everyone you ever knew because storm clouds gathered far across the sea. You had your whole lives ahead of you

but you were willing to risk all of it for this land that we love, because you know from hard experience what we must never forget.

Our country endures because in every generation there are Americans like you who stand beside her and guide her and protect her. You fought across the Pacific, island by island. You fought into the heart of Europe, mile by mile, freeing millions from fascism. That's your legacy as veterans of the Second World War.

You held the line of the Pusan Perimeter and survived the bitter cold of the Chosin Reservoir. And on this 60th Anniversary of the end of that war we salute all of our veterans of the Korean War. (Applause)

To our Vietnam veterans, (Applause) you served with valor not just in the thick of the jungle but through intense urban combat – and let it be remembered that you won every major battle that you fought in. (Applause)

And so in the decades since whenever our country has needed you, you said, "Send me." From the sands of Desert Storm (Applause) to the mountains of the Balkans, to the villages of Afghanistan and Iraq, and next year your profound sacrifice will be recognized in the heart of our nation's capital when our country dedicates the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial. (Applause)

That memorial will honor your courage in a war. But it will also pay tribute to your bravery in the other battle you have fought, the fight to recover from the wounds of war. And this may be your greatest triumph of all because rather than being defined by what you lost, by what you can't do, you have inspired America with what you can do.

And maybe you lost your sight but you can still see the truth that our disabled veterans make extraordinary contributions to our country every single day. Maybe you lost an arm but you still have the strength to pick up a friend or a neighbor in need. Maybe you lost a leg but you still stand tall for the values and freedoms that make America the greatest nation on Earth. (Applause)

I think of the wounded warrior who spoke for so many of you when he said, "Your life will never be the same but that doesn't mean you can't go on to do amazing things with the second chance you were given." I think of wounded warriors across America and how they've used that second chance, volunteering in communities, building homes, being a mentor to local kids, showing up after tornadoes, after Hurricane Sandy, to help folks rebuild.

I think of the wounded warriors who reached out to the survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing with the example of their own recovery and with a simple message: we stand with you.

I think of all the inspiring wounded warriors that Michelle and I have met, their resilience, their resolve, their determination to push through and to carry on. That's the fighting spirit of our wounded warriors. That's the spirit of DAV – dedicated, (Applause) dedicated not just to your own recovery but to taking care of each other.

Every day you work to ensure that America is fulfilling its promises to our men and women who have served. That's your mission. And I want you to know it is my mission, too. I believe that this work is more important than ever because this time of war that we have been in is coming to an end. (Applause)

For nearly – for nearly 12 years, ever since we were attacked on that clear September morning, our nation has been at war. Our fight in Afghanistan is now America's longest war. At the same time our troops fought courageously in Iraq for nine long years. And among us today are proud veterans in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Now we have marked another milestone in Afghanistan. As of this past June Afghan forces have taken the lead for security across their entire country. So instead of leading the fight our troops now have a different mission, supporting Afghan forces.

Our war in Afghanistan has entered the final chapter. More of our troops are coming home. This winter we will be down to 34,000. By the end of next year the transition will be complete. Afghans will take full responsibility for their security and our war in Afghanistan will be over. (Applause)

For this progress we thank all who have served in Afghanistan, including DAV members here today. Just a few I want to mention. We salute folks like Timothy Duke. Where is Timothy? Right here.

[TIMOTHY DUKE]

(Whereupon, Timothy Duke stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA: In the early days of the war Timothy's helicopter unit served in some of the most remote parts of Afghanistan. On another tour in Iraq his convoy was hit by an IED. He endured three spinal surgeries. Then he went to school on the Post-9-11 GI Bill. Today he is helping at the DAV, helping veterans and their families access their benefits. That's the kind of spirit that DAV represents. Thank you, Timothy, for your outstanding service and work. (Applause)

We salute Staff Sergeant Jakari Hogan. Where is Jakari?

[JAKARI HOGAN]

(Whereupon, Jakari Hogan stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA: In Iraq she was hit by IEDs three times. She has endured surgeries, rehab, which continue to this day. But she refused to stop serving. She deployed again to Afghanistan as a logistics specialist. She served at forward operating bases, keeping them running, flying between bases, getting shot at along the way. At those remote outposts she was often the only woman on base. She proudly wears the Combat Action Badge. (Applause)

But her service hasn't stopped so here at DAV she counsels others as they recover. "Helping troops is what I'm about." That's what she says. And we are grateful to you, Jakari, for your extraordinary service. (Applause)

And we salute Jason Hassinger. Where is Jason? Right here.

(Whereupon, Jason Hassinger stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA: When Jason's unit was ambushed and pinned down he was hit five times in the chest. But he pushed on, helped lead his men to safety, for which he earned the Silver Star. After months – (Applause) After months of care and rehab, he returned to his unit, going out on patrol, gritting his teeth through the pain in his chest.

And today at DAV Jason helps his fellow vets access the benefits that they have earned. (Applause) "It is my job to help people heal." That's what Jason says. Thank you. (Applause)

So Timothy, Jakari, Jason, they're just examples of all who have served in these years of war, the 9-11 Generation. And now you are beginning the next chapter in your lives, wearing a proud new title: veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

So this time of war may be coming to an end but the job of caring for our veterans goes on. And our work caring for our newest veterans has only just begun. Think about it. We lost the last veteran of the First World War two years ago. But we still care for the children of our World War I veterans.

To this day we still help care for children of men who fought in the Spanish-American War, even the daughter of a Civil War veteran. So when we – (Applause) So when we talk about fulfilling our promises to all who serve, we're not just talking about a few years; we're talking about decades, for as long as you and your families walk this Earth.

With a new generation joining your ranks, I believe that now is the time to make sure our nation is truly ready, organized and structured to get this right, not just for this year, not just for next year, but for decades to come. Not just for the veterans of today's wars but for all wars. And I believe we need to focus on five key priorities.

Number 1. We need to make sure we've got the resources, the budgets, our veterans deserve. (Applause) Since I took office we have made historic investments in our veterans. Even in these tough fiscal times we've boosted the VA budget by more than 40 percent.

We now budget for veterans' health care a year in advance. (Applause) And I have proposed a further increase in veterans' funding for next year. (Applause) Now, some of you may be aware right now we've got these reckless across-the-board budget cuts called the Sequester that is hitting a lot of folks hard. And it has cost jobs. It is hurting our military, slashing investments in education and science and medical research.

I made it clear that your veterans' benefits are exempt from this year's Sequester. (Applause) I have made that clear. (Applause) But I want to tell you going forward the best way to protect the VA care you have earned is to get rid of this Sequester altogether. (Applause)

Congress needs to come together and agree on a responsible plan that reduces our deficits and keeps our promises to our veterans and keeps our promises to future generations. That's what I'm fighting for. That's what you deserve. (Applause)

Number 2. We need to make sure you're getting the veterans health care you have been promised. We're already making record investments: more outreach, more clinics, more service. For our Vietnam vets we made sure that you and your families finally got the disability pay you deserve because of your exposure to Agent Orange. (Applause)

For our Desert Storm veterans we made it easier for you to get the care that you need for illnesses connected to your service. For our veterans with PTSD we made it easier for you to get the VA care you need as well, regardless of the war that you served in. (Applause)

For our women's veterans – and there are more of you (Cheers) – more of you than ever, we're offering more tailored care, more clinics just for women, more clinicians trained to treat you with respect and dignity. (Applause) So all told we have made VA health care available to more than 2 million veterans who didn't have it before.

I have proposed more funding for prosthetics for our disabled vets, to help you work and walk and run again. And for you, the caregivers and families, we're going to keep empowering you with the skills and support you need as you care for the veterans that you love. (Applause)

We also need to keep improving mental health services because we've got to end this epidemic of suicide among our veterans and troops. (Applause) Last year I said this had to be an "all hands on deck" approach, not just at DoD and the VA but across our government.

I issued an Executive Order to step up our game and we have – hiring more counselors, hiring more mental health providers, new awareness campaigns – so that those who are hurting know that asking for help is not a sign of weakness, it's a part of staying strong. It's a part of getting back up. (Applause)

Hundreds of medical and nursing schools have committed to improving research and care for our veterans and their families. And I've proposed more funding for mental health. We can't just promise better care. We've actually got to deliver better care.

So today I'm proud to announce the next step in this fight. We're unveiling a new National Action Plan to guide mental health research across government, industry and academia so that we're going to focus on developing more effective ways to prevent, diagnose and treat mental health conditions like TBI and PTSD. And to get it done we're moving ahead with more than \$100 million in new research. (Applause)

So I'm not going to be satisfied until every veteran and every man and woman in uniform gets the support and the help they need to stay strong. (Applause) Now, on the subject of veterans' health care, you may have noticed there is still a lot of misinformation out there about the new health care law, Affordable Care Act.

Some folks are out there trying to scare people, including veterans. So let me say this as plainly as I can. If you already have health insurance or health care from the VA, you do not

have to do a thing. Your VA health care does not change. It is safe. There are no new fees. Don't let them hoodwink you.

But the good news is if you are among one of the more than one million veterans who don't have health insurance, starting October 1st you will have a new option: online marketplaces where you shop and compare and buy private health insurance plans just like you can go online to compare prices when you buy a TV or airplane ticket or a car.

And because of the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate against you or deny you coverage because of preexisting conditions, like PTSD (Applause) so you will have more security in being able to get health insurance.

So don't let them fool you. No one is taking away your benefits. Your veterans' health care is safe. We're not reducing veterans' access to health care. We're expanding it. That's the truth. And that – that leads me to the third priority we've got to focus on.

We've got to attack this claims backlog. (Applause) Now, the last time I was with you I pledged to cut the backlog, slash those wait times and deliver your benefits sooner. And I'm going to be honest with you. It has not moved as fast as I want it. Part of it is all these new veterans in the system who came in: Agent Orange, PTSD.

It meant a lot more claims, and despite additional resources, it has resulted in longer waits. And that has been unacceptable. Unacceptable to me. Unacceptable to Secretary Shinseki. So we put more of our VA folks to work as claims processors. We hired more claims processors as well.

We've got them working overtime, completing more than a million claims a year. We prioritized the oldest claims. Veterans' groups like the DAV have pitched in as well, helping vets with their claims, getting them ready so that when they bring them they're in better shape and they can move a little quicker.

And today I can report that we are not where we need to be but we are making progress. (Applause) We are making progress. So after years when the backlog kept growing, finally, the backlog is shrinking. In the last five months alone it is down nearly 20 percent. We're turning the tide. And we're not going to let up until we eliminate the backlog once and for all.

And we'll keep moving ahead with paperless systems so the backlog doesn't come back and so your claims are processed right the first time, on time. (Applause) After years of military service, you shouldn't have to wait for years for the benefits you have earned.

Fourth. Just like you fought to defend our rights and freedoms, we need to uphold the dignity and rights of every veteran. And that starts by keeping up our campaign to end homelessness among veterans. (Applause)

We're not just bringing our veterans off the streets. We're doing more to reach at-risk and low-income vets so they don't become homeless in the first place. And we're not going to rest until every veteran who has fought for America has a home in America. (Applause)

You know, yesterday I was proud to sign into law the Helping Heroes Fly Act to end those intrusive airport screening so you, our wounded warriors and disabled vets, especially those of you with prosthetics, can travel with dignity. And I know how disappointing it was last year when the Senate failed to approve the Disabilities Treaty, despite the fact that we had a former Senator and World War II veteran, Bob Dole, in the Senate Chamber.

But we're going to keep fighting to ratify that treaty because the United States has always been a leader for the rights of the disabled. We believe that disabled Americans like you deserve the same opportunities to work and to study and to travel in other countries as any other American. It's the right thing to do. We need to get it done. (Applause)

Which brings me to the final priority we need to stay focused on and that's making sure that our veterans have every opportunity to pursue the American Dream, starting with the education and jobs worthy of your extraordinary talents. With our new Transition Assistance

Program, we're doing more to help departing service members and their spouses plan their careers and find that new job.

We're going to keep helping our newest veterans and their families pursue their education under the Post-9-11 GI Bill. We're building on the Executive Order I issued last year to protect you as you go looking for schools.

I said we're going to stand up against dishonest recruiting and predatory practices that target our veterans so we set new standards. And so far more than 6,000 schools across the country have signed on and pledged to do right by you and your families. We don't want our veterans cheated. (Applause)

I also said that schools need to step up their support so we're doing more to help our veterans succeed on campus. So today we're announcing what we call Eight Keys to Success, specific steps that schools can take to truly welcome and encourage our veterans.

And so far more than 250 community colleges and universities have signed on. And today I'm calling on schools across America to join us in this effort. Let's help our veterans get that degree, get that credential, and compete for the high-skilled jobs of tomorrow. (Applause)

Now, I'm also going to make sure that the federal government keeps doing its part. I'm very proud of the fact that since I took office the federal departments and agencies have hired nearly 300,000 veterans, including many disabled veterans. (Applause) And I'm going to keep calling on Congress to pass the Veterans' Job Corps to put our veterans to work protecting and rebuilding America.

And we're also doing everything we can to help you get those private sector jobs. More help with job searches. More tools like our Online Jobs Bank to connect veterans to jobs that are open right now. Making it easier for you to transfer your skills to the licenses and credentials you need for civilian jobs.

And because tens of thousands of our veterans have already been helped, Congress needs to make permanent tax credits for companies that hire our veterans and wounded warriors. It's the right thing to do. (Applause)

And we're going to keep urging companies across America to do the smart thing: hire some of the best workers you will ever find, hire a vet. Now, Michelle and Jill have done great work on this. And responding to our challenge, working with "Joining Forces," America's businesses have already hired or trained 290,000 veterans and military spouses.

And they've committed to hiring over 400,000 more. More companies are signing up all the time. We are going to get companies to understand that you can't get a better deal than hiring a veteran. (Applause)

Because of all the efforts I have described and because of a growing economy veterans' unemployment is going down. More veterans are finding jobs. And we're going to keep at this because with your skills and drive we don't just want you fighting for America overseas, we want you to be right here building a stronger America, fighting for a better future for our kids.

So, ensuring the resources and budgets you deserve; delivering on the health care that you have earned, making sure you can count on it; continuing to reduce the backlog; standing up for your rights and dignity; creating jobs and opportunities so you can realize your dreams, that's what I'm focused on. That's what I have told my entire administration to be focused on.

That's what our country needs to stay focused for the many years to come. And nobody knows this better than you, our disabled veterans. The road of recovery is often such a long haul. And America needs to be there for you during that long haul.

And that's the lesson of the extraordinary young man I told you about when I spoke to you three years ago, an Army Ranger, Sergeant First Class Corey Ramsburgh. A massive IED in Afghanistan nearly killed him. He was in a coma for months with severe traumatic brain injury.

[COREY RAMSBURGH]

And I told you then how when I saw him in the hospital he had come out of the coma but he still couldn't speak. And when I asked him how he was feeling, he slowly brought his hand up and he pulled his fingers together and he gave a "thumbs-up." His mom was sitting there with him.

A few days ago, I saw Corey and his family again, this time in Phoenix where they live. So I wanted to give you an update on how he is doing. I suspect it won't surprise you to know that for Corey the years since he was injured have been very hard, you know, brain surgeries, half-a-dozen of them, surgeries to replace part of his skull, eye surgeries, special procedures on his lungs, skin grafts, skin flaps, all told, dozens of surgeries and procedures.

Rehab has been grueling. On a typical day Corey wakes up and spends hours in therapy: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy. The progress has come closely. But it has come. He had to learn the simple things all over again: how to speak, how to write his name, how to throw a ball.

And this past spring he reached another milestone. After years in the hospital and rehab facilities, he finally came home, greeted by hundreds of neighbors and friends waving American flags. And so when I saw Corey a few days ago he is still blind in one eye. He still struggles to move his left side.

But the young man I had seen in that hospital bed, unable to speak, barely able to move, this time he was in a chair sitting up, alert, smiling, talking. And then he wanted to show me something. And he learned out of his chair and he reached out and he grabbed his walker.

And with the help of his parents he pulled himself forward and he stood up and he looked at me. And he gave me a sharp salute. (Applause) And he said – he said, "Rangers lead the way." And his step-mom held one arm for balance and I held the other. And then Corey took a step. And then another. And then another one after that. All the way across the room.

Little by little Corey is learning to walk again. (Applause) And he is starting to get good on his recumbent bike. He hopes to bike in a race this fall, 42 miles. He is scheduled to move into his own home, adapted to his needs, with the help of a caregiver. Another step towards the greater independence he seeks.

And so Corey says, "You know, my recovery has not been easy. Nothing in life that's worth anything is easy." But he says, "I don't give up. I don't give up." The war in Afghanistan may be ending but for Corey and our disabled vets, the work has only just begun. Corey is 30 years old.

His recovery, like so many of yours, will last a lifetime. But he won't give up because you haven't given up. (Applause) And when it comes to our work, to making sure that our nation is fulfilling its promises to the men and women who served and sacrificed, America cannot give up either. I will not give up. We cannot give up.

So long as I am the United States President, I will make it my mission to make sure that America is right there beside you every step of the way, every step with Corey, every step with the DAV. God bless you. God bless our veterans. God bless the United States of America. (Standing Ovation.)

(Whereupon, President Obama and Mrs. Obama greeted veterans on his way out of the ballroom.)

RECESS

COMMANDER POLZIN: The Convention stands in recess until 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 12:51 o'clock, p.m. on Saturday, August 10, 2013.)

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

August 11, 2013

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The First Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 92nd National Convention convened in the Orlando Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Sunday morning, August 11, 2013, and was called to order at 8:33 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Larry A. Polzin.

CALL TO ORDER: COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN

COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN: The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder, I would like to ask everyone to please turn off their cell phones and any portable devices.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. Hand Salute.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Two. I now ask National Chaplain to lead us in the prayer as we prepare to undertake this morning's business. Chaplain Ringo.

CHAPLAIN RINGO, JR.: 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 our organization's business and that we will give honor to the service of our fellow man. We are grateful for all those who served and honored to assist in fulfilling the promises made to them. We humbly pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER POLZIN: Please be seated. In order for a delegate to be heard 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 number and the state they represent.

Commander(sic), the rules are a continuing part of our Bylaws. They are the part and parcel of Article 3 and remain in effect continuously. They are subject to amendment as provided by the Bylaws, and do not require re-adoption.

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

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WARREN TOBIN: Comrade Commander, delegates, the National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on August 10th, 2013, by Committee advisors Michael E. Dobmeier and Anthony Baskerville.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Warren Tobin was elected chairman and Jim, James Guglielmoni was elected secretary. The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Clear Lake Room at the Hilton Orlando.

Roll call showed 1,095 delegates and 51 alternates have registered and that includes 46 Departments and 431 Chapters registered. There are 8 National Officers, 29 National Executive Committeemen and 11 Past National Commanders currently registered for a total of 7,948 votes.

This partial report is for informational purposes only and it reflects the registration at the close of business of 4:00 p.m. on August 10th, 2013. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN POLZIN: Thank you. At this time I would also like to introduce and recognize my National Chief-of-Staff Frederick Powers, Officer-of-the-Day Leigh Polzin, Sergeant-at-

Arms James Boggen. And I would like to thank you for your support that has made my job easier this year. Thank you.

As you know, these are exciting times for the DAV. Part of that excitement is a direct result of the leaders who are being mentored and those who are assuming new roles in the organization. I believe our future will be a bright one, indeed, with Marc Burgess at the helm of this great organization.

When Art Wilson told me of his retirement plans earlier this year, he strongly recommended Marc to take over as your National Adjutant. It was an easy decision for me and for every member of the National Executive Committee. As you may know, Marc is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and is only an either – is only the eighth National Adjutant in DAV history. So, believe me, that he is in rare company.

Marc was appointed Executive Director at National Headquarters in August 2010. A life member of Chapter 19 in Cold Springs, Kentucky, he began his DAV career as a National Service Officer in our Baltimore and Washington, D.C., National Service Offices.

His career includes services as: National Service Office Supervisor in Atlanta; Appellate Counsel before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Associate and Assistant National Director at Washington Headquarters; Director of Human Resources at National Headquarters; and Assistant Director and Executive Director at National Headquarters.

With such a strong background in service, as well as his skills in executive management, he is the right person for the job. I know our members are going to enjoy their interactions with him, and DAV is going to be a better organization thanks to his business skills and deep knowledge of the organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our National Adjutant Marc Burgess. (Applause)

REPORT TO CONVENTION: NATIONAL ADJUTANT, J. MARC BURGESS

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

Filling the shoes of someone like Art Wilson can't be done. You don't replace a man like him. But I'm blessed to have his mentorship, continued counsel, and the example he has set for me throughout my career. I am grateful for and humbled by the opportunity to continue the legacy he and other veterans have established for our organization.

Times change. The ways wars are fought change. But the needs of those who fight our wars and defend our nation continue. So, too, does our purpose, mission and commitment.

Going back to the days of Judge Marx, our values and mission remain transfixed and true. Our commitment has earned tremendous respect as a strong and influential advocate for veterans' rights.

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

In the context of our values, let's look back on some of the many highlights of another year of achievement and fulfilled promises. I believe you'll find a lot to be proud of in this video. (Whereupon, the video "Year in Review" was viewed.)

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I can't take credit for what you've just seen, nor would I want to. Our success is due to your support at every level. Rest assured, I will continue to build on what DAV has accomplished under Art Wilson's leadership. And I promise I will remember where our strength has always come from – the men and women in the field who make our services and mission of hope possible.

With your help, DAV advanced and strengthened our service programs that help hundreds of thousands of veterans each year in obtaining the benefits they deserve. That is an enviable record that we all can be proud of. But we can't and won't stop there.

As you know, DAV has the best-trained National Service Officers, and our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification program is second to none. We are determined to raise the bar even higher by continually improving our training programs and upgrading the tools needed in this important work on behalf of the men and women that we serve.

When it comes to protecting veterans' rights, we are the foremost leaders in the world of veterans' services. We are not only well respected by lawmakers and their staffs for their experience and expertise in veterans' affairs, but for our premiere grassroots advocacy.

Our membership is the most well-informed and actively engaged in the veterans' community and that is a legacy carried forward from our early efforts to bring order to the chaos that marked health care and benefits for veterans of World War I.

Also deeply rooted in our history is the concept of veterans helping veterans, which takes many forms. All across the nation our members continue to serve injured and ill veterans and their families by volunteering at VA hospitals and nursing homes, providing free rides for veterans to and from their medical appointments, and offering a helping hand when it is needed in their communities.

The compassion our volunteers demonstrate in so many ways is a DAV tradition and an inspiration for all of us to continue serving our nation's veterans. Our legacy contributes to our strength. And together we will continue to build an even stronger DAV.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me. And thank you, Commander, for your leadership. And this concludes my report. (Applause)

ACCEPT NATIONAL ADJUTANT'S REPORT

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

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES E. SURSELY: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SURSELY: **Jim Sursely, delegate, Central Florida Chapter 16, so moves that we accept the National Adjutant's report.**

COMMANDER POLZIN: May I have a second?

MR. JOSEPH PARSETICH: Mic 2. Joe Parsetich from the Department of Montana, seconds it.

AWARDS: GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. DAV and Auxiliary members are among the most dedicated volunteers in our nation. They give countless hours of compassion and care to our injured and ill veterans.

To honor their services and self-sacrifices, the 2013 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 goes to Dennis Krulder. Dennis is the Hospital Service Coordinator at Newport(sic), New York, VA medical center and manages the activities of 135 DAV volunteer drivers and staff. He's given more than 44,000 volunteer hours over the past 21 years.

As a member of Chapter 125 in Malvern, Dennis directs 15 of(sic) 19 Transportation Network vans each day taking veterans to their VA medical appointments and returning them home.

In addition to running the transportation program, he manages programs for amputees and blind veterans. He's proud to go the extra mile to do the things that need to be done.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to present the George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Dennis Krulder. Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Dennis Krulder came forward to accept the DAV George H. Seal Trophy.)

MR. DENNIS KRULDER: Thank you very much. Commander Polzin, Line Officers, Adjutant Burgess, Director Jesinoski, members, guests, I am both humbled and honored to receive this award. I wish to thank the Department of New York for all the support that they have given me over the 21 years that I have done this.

I want to thank the late Ed Gagnon, Retired Adjutant Sid Siller who, 21 years ago, gave me the opportunity to be the HSC at the Northport VA medical center. I'd like to thank all those volunteers who volunteer for me out at the Northport VA medical center for what they do.

[ED GAGNON]

But, most of all, I'd like to thank all the volunteers in the State of New York and all the volunteers from the Disabled American Veterans throughout the country. I would ask them all to stand up and be recognized because without them I would not be standing here accepting this award.

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

MR. KRULDER: There is one other person in my life that I would like to thank. She has been my wife for over 40 years, my best friend, my soul mate, my sounding board. When I come home and I'm upset, she comforts me. She has been there for 40-something years.

I love her. I love her to death. (Laughter) I am not the easiest person in the world to get along with sometimes but she's put up with me for 45 years. And I thank her for what she allows me to do. (Applause) She is my strongest supporter. I thank you. And I am honored and humbled for this award. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Dennis, and congratulations, again. This year's DAV Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy winner is Melody Angelini, who has volunteered more than 15,000 hours over the past 32 years. She serves as a front desk receptionist and provides support to the Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Hines VA medical center in Illinois.

Melody is a member of the Department of Illinois Auxiliary. Much of what she does helps veterans to practice the skills they learn in the Blind Rehabilitation Center's social events. She coordinates and escorts patients to outings at zoos, museums, concerns and theaters.

Helping blind veterans is personal for Melody. Her late husband, Lou, was a blind veteran. They both founded the Hines Blind Center Alumni Association as a supporting network for the blind and visually impaired veterans who have completed training at the Hines VA center.

I am very pleased to present the Auxiliary George H. Seal Memorial Trophy to Melody Angelini. And I'd ask that Commander Adams to join us at the podium for this presentation. (Applause)

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

MS. MELODY ANGELINI: I'm honored to receive this award. I can tell you, I'm scared to death to be up here. (Laughter) But what I would like to do is present to you, to our Commander, a medallion that was created with a logo that was designed and carved in wood by one of our blinded veterans from Hines VA Hospital.

(Whereupon, Ms. Angelini presented Commander Polzin with the medallion.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: I will put this with my collection. (Applause)

MS. ANGELINI: There you go.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Melody. For all our veterans(sic) in VA hospitals, Transportation Network drivers, and Local Veterans Assistance Program, we thank them for their compassionate service to injured and ill veterans. Thank you all for the helping hands and kind hearts. Please join me, again, in giving them all a big hand for their service. (Applause)

PRESENTATION: JUST B KIDS/CAMP CORRAL/GOLDEN CORRAL

As Adjutant Burgess mentioned in his report, the DAV and its Auxiliary is very excited about our involvement with Camp Corral – a charitable initiative to send our children and grandkids to camp that was started by our longtime partners at the Golden Corral.

The Auxiliary began supporting Camp Corral several years ago, working at the Unit, Department and National levels, to find campers and raise funds for camp fees.

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 on Monday following Veterans Day every year.

But through that program the DAV has reach out to sources of veterans and benefited from millions of dollars of support for Chapters and Departments nationwide.

To assist with Camp Corral, DAV established the Just B Kids program to provide scholarships to send more of our kids and grandchildren to attend 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 for a few very special guests to join us for a special presentation.

Please welcome to the podium Golden Corral's Customer – Consumer Promotion and National Events Marketing Manager Dolly Mercer, Camp Corral Executive Director Betsey Ford-Lewis, and Charitable Service Trust President Dick Marbes.

On behalf of DAV's Just B Kids program, please accept this donation of \$124,380. These funds come from many hands: \$100,000 was donated through DAV by a grant from the DAV Charitable Service Trust; \$15,000 was donated by our DAV Auxiliary and DAV Juniors; \$4,690 was collected by DAV members and matched by the National organization for a total of \$9,380. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a check was presented to Ms. Fort-Louis and Ms. Mercer by Commander Polzin and Charitable Service Trust President Richard Marbes.)

MS. BETSEY FORT-LEWIS: Wow. Well, it is truly an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to thank every single person in this room for your compassion and your generosity and your support that has allowed us to grow Camp Corral to 18 camps in 14 states this year and give 2,200 children the week of a lifetime. So really we, from the bottom of all of our hearts, thank you so much.

And we are very much committed to sending even more kids to camp next year. And if you want to learn more, we have a booth right outside of this door so please come and visit us. Thank you so much. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. Camp Corral recognizes something important that DAV has known for more than 90 years. They know that the sacrifice in service is usually shared.

Through this initiative and Chapter and Departments' support of Just B Kids, we honor the sacrifices of our families and give them the opportunity to enjoy an all-American experience and an earned break for themselves and their parents.

DAV services – services all veterans and their families. And that, of course, includes children of veterans as well.

When a military member is sent forward to conduct America's business, the children of our veterans also bear a significant burden on their small shoulders while their loved ones are away.

This year, we took an added step and set aside some special activities for DAV children and junior members. I'd like to take a moment to extend my deep appreciation and warmest thanks to our partners at Camp Corral for sponsoring our first ever Camp Corral Children's Fun Day.

Each year the DAV recognizes two exceptional employers who are committed to and understand the value of hiring veterans and disabled veterans, in particular.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LARGE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

This year's Outstanding Large Employer of the Year is ICF International in Fairfax, Virginia. And HELP Electric, Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Outstanding Small Employer of the Year.

ICF is being recognized for attracting qualified veterans for employment and features disabled veterans in its consumer and personal recruitment advertisements. Last year the company sponsored a symposium on hiring disabled veterans. ICF also seeks out disabled-veteran-owned businesses as contractors, subcontractors, vendors and suppliers.

And here to accept the Outstanding Large Employer of the Year award is Doug Beck, Senior Vice President and Director of Corporate Development. Congratulations, Doug. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Beck came forward to accept the DAV Outstanding Large Employer of the Year award.)

MR. DOUG BECK: On behalf of ICF International's 4,500 employees, I thank DAV for this tremendous honor. As a management and technology consulting firm serving a broad range of industry and government clients, we at ICF try every day to tap the enthusiasm and passion of our employees, not only for serving their clients, but also for helping organizations that make such a difference in the lives of others.

In January 2011 we invited our employees to choose a single non-profit among dozens of nominees for company-wide support in each of three areas: veterans' services, as well as health, and the environment. Our employees chose DAV. And that was the beginning of a fulfilling and productive partnership.

It has been fulfilling and productive, in part, because we can support your incredibly valuable efforts annually, both financially and through service resources, thereby helping our community in meaningful ways.

But it also reinforces the impact we try to make and the value we receive throughout our entire company by actively recruiting and hiring veterans across all of our business areas and partnering with veteran- and disabled-veteran-owned small businesses, as we have done more than 100 times in the past three years.

As employees, veterans' contributions enrich our perspective and strengthen our work product. And as partners, veteran-owned businesses offer reliability and trust. These experiences in our relationship with you enhance our work and allow us to give back to those who have made such incredible sacrifices serving our country.

So thank you, again, DAV, for this wonderful honor, it is a privilege to support such a great organization. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Congratulations, Doug, and thank you for your commitment to our nation's injured heroes.

HELP Electric, Plumbing, Heating and Cooling has 14 veterans and disabled veterans in its 106-person workforce, and 40 percent of its leadership team is also veterans. It seeks veterans for employment and emphasizes veterans in marketing and media. In the past four years, HELP has been a strong supporter of the DAV.

The company's dedication as it works on behalf of veterans exceeds what is expected. Its efforts are both based on the deep gratitude they have for the contributions of illness – of injured and ill veterans and the skills they bring to the workforce.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SMALL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

And here to receive the Outstanding Small Employer of the Year Award is Dave Hannah, Human Resources Director and an Air Force veteran. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Mr. Hannah came forward to accept the DAV Outstanding Small Employer of the Year award.)

MR. DAVID HANNAH: As a veteran I take great pride in accepting this honorable award on behalf of HELP Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Electric. Back in 2009 we began honoring veterans in a ceremonial breakfast on Veterans Day.

In 2010 we decided to include veterans that worked for HELP. That's when we realized 10 percent of our workforce and 40 percent of our leadership team had military experience, including me. Because of this we put veterans on the fast-track in our hiring process.

We also give back to our community in many ways. Last year we honored a fallen hero, Nicholas Olivas. Nicholas Olivas passed away and left behind a three-month-old son. Employees of Thompson, or HELP – we recently changed our name, sorry – the employees of HELP donated over \$6,000, personally, to Connor Olivas, Nicholas' son, while HELP donated \$10,000 to the Fisher Home.

This year we installed an air conditioner at Mike Dinkel's house. Mike Dinkel is a soldier who lost a leg in 2007. The owner of HELP Heating, Cooling and myself went to his home to talk to him and heard his story. And when we walked away we tore up his contract and said, "You owe us nothing. We are happy to give this to you." (Applause)

We just met the family of Sergeant Sam Shockley. Sam Shockley recently lost both legs and part of his right hand due to an IED back in March. Sam will be recovering over the next two-and-a-half years at Walter Reed Hospital. And he is eligible to come home twice a month for the two-and-a-half years.

He can't do that because his current home doesn't support his needs. So right now, as we speak, we have a team of volunteers going over to modify two rooms in his house so that he can be comfortable when he comes home. And we hope he is home by Labor Day. (Applause)

After every service call we perform, and we do residential plumbing, electric, heating and cooling, we leave behind a yard sign and it's not a "help" sign. It is a "thank a veteran" sign. Over the last two years we have left 50,000 yard signs and some of them have stayed up over a year, so. (Applause)

These are just a few of the things that we do. And we believe that – we are a firm believer that little things don't make a big difference, little things make all the difference. So, once again, I am honored to receive this award and proud to work for a company that improves peoples' lives through the services we provide.

I want to thank the DAV for all its great work and all the great programs that they offer. But, most of all, I want to thank my fellow veterans and active military around the world for their dedication, their sacrifice and their courage. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Both of these firms have emphasized that disabled veterans are professional, dedicated employees, who perform amazing work.

They look for veterans and disabled veterans to join their workforce because of the outstanding skills that they possess, the knowledge they have, and the dedication they demonstrate as employees. Let's give them both a big round of applause. (Applause)

At this time I'd like to call on the Board of Directors' Treasurer Joseph R. Lenhart for his report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER'S REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER JOSEPH R. LENHART: National Commander Polzin, DAV members and guests, the members of the Board of Directors join me in this report and they are Chairman Donald L. Samuels of Tennessee; Vice Chairman Joseph W. Johnston of Ohio; Secretary J. Marc Burgess; Directors Tim Timmerman of New Mexico, Chad Richmond of Alabama, Marlowe Benner of California along with National Commander Polzin and National Judge Advocate Dobmeier who serves 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, 2013. DAV's total solicited support through that date was \$48.7 million. Direct marketing contributions were \$42.4 million, primarily from mailing 37.5 million solicitation pieces.

Bequests were an all-time – were an all-time, six-month high of \$5.4 million. By year's end we expect to send 76 million pieces of fundraising mail and generate an estimated \$106.7 million in total solicited support.

Under the Department Fundraising Program distributions to Departments in December of 2012 and June of 2013 totaled \$2.8 million. Since the program began in 1994, \$82.4 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 2013, DAV received total support and revenue from all sources of \$82.6 million. Through June 2013, DAV had total expenditures of \$93.7 million, of which \$68.3 million were for service programs – 72.9 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 fundraising increased by 3.3 percent due primarily to mailing 600,000 more solicitation pieces. Administrative outlays were \$5 million, \$1.5 million, or 42 percent, over this time last year. This increase is due to a Membership Development mailing sent to 1.6 million prospective new members in February of 2013. This resulted in 9,500 joining the DAV and paying \$1.1 million in dues.

As of June 30th, 2013, the market value of our general fund long-term investment portfolio is \$331.7 million. This is a 6.8 percent increase over the \$310.6 million reported the same period in 2012.

DAV's unrestricted net assets or net worth has stabilized at \$245.1 million since the start of this calendar year. It is also exciting to report that our unrestricted net assets have grown from \$38.2 million at December the 31st of 1992 to \$248.7 million on December 31st, of 2012, an increase of 550 percent.

DAV's hard-working staff nationwide and at both headquarters has been able to grow our sources of support and expand our exemplary programs, yet control our operating expenses.

We continue to see a recovery in our financial position from its recessionary low in early 2009. We are pleased to report that at June 30th, 2013, the Life Membership Fund Reserve was \$62.6 million. At a projected earnings rate on investments of 6.7 percent we estimate that the fund will be depleted by the year 2021 with 559,000 members remaining for distribution.

Commander, it is also my privilege to present DAV's proposed 2014 Annual Budget for ratification by the Convention. At the June 11th, 2013, meeting of the Board of Directors held at National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Board was presented the 2014 proposed budget.

The budget was assembled by the DAV Accounting Department with the assistance of Department Directors and was reviewed by Retired National Adjutant Wilson, National Adjutant Burgess, and Executive Director Jesinoski. 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 their hard work which makes this report possible. Let me thank you, Commander Polzin, for the support I received in my role as the Board of Directors Treasurer. It has been an honor to hold this position on this important committee.

Commander, that concludes my report to the National Convention, a report I feel honored to offer to our delegates. I thank you and move for the adoption of my report and approval of the proposed 2014 Annual Budget.

Disabled American Veterans

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2012, and
Independent Auditors' Report



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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, 2012, 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, 2012, 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.

March 29, 2013

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	
CASH	\$ 8,674,919	LIABILITIES:	\$ 5,322,551
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	1,439,580	Accounts payable	2,617,934
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	27,211	Accrued expenses	21,671,112
SOLICITATION MATERIALS	1,173,071	Pension liability	86,269,039
PREPAID EXPENSES	3,414,753	Postretirement benefit obligation	709,401
INVESTMENTS	348,155,732	Other liabilities	2,563,229
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT — Net	5,915,134	Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance	1,087,709
OTHER ASSETS	103,500	Deferred revenue	123,524
LIFE MEMBERSHIP:		Life membership:	
Cash	2,344,369	Accounts payable	
Receivables	4,201	Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	56,727,454
Investments	54,502,408		
TOTAL	\$ 425,754,878	Total liabilities	177,091,953
		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	248,662,925
		TOTAL	\$ 425,754,878

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Support:

Contributions received primarily from direct mail solicitations	\$ 97,236,860
Contributed services and facilities — primarily services	43,430,164
Bequests	<u>9,345,205</u>
Total support	<u>150,012,229</u>

Revenue:

Membership dues and fees	5,231,562
Income from investments — net	10,960,165
List royalties	437,021
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>35,974</u>
Total revenue	<u>16,664,722</u>

Realized investment gains	<u>4,488,265</u>
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Total support and revenue	<u>171,165,216</u>
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EXPENSES:

Program services:

National service program	45,034,564
Legislative service program	1,581,317
Voluntary service program	43,480,118
State services and disaster relief	4,052,249
Publications and other communications	8,763,247
Membership program	5,792,312
Public awareness outreach	<u>21,837,391</u>

Total program services	<u>130,541,198</u>
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Supporting services:

Fundraising costs	32,374,861
Administrative and general	<u>7,628,513</u>

Total supporting services	<u>40,003,374</u>
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Total expenses	<u>170,544,572</u>
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EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	620,644
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CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>21,190,662</u>
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EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE AND CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS OVER EXPENSES	21,811,306
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PENSION LIABILITY AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION ADJUSTMENT	<u>(9,555,611)</u>
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CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	12,255,695
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UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>236,407,230</u>
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UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 248,662,925</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	National Service Program	Legislative Service Program	Voluntary Service Program	State Services and Disaster Relief	Publications and Communications	Membership Program	Public Awareness Outreach	Total Program Services	Fundraising Costs	Administrative and General	Total Supporting Services	Total
Salaries	\$20,125,003	\$ 613,891	\$ 308,337		\$ 857,968	\$ 1,222,349	\$ 461	\$ 21,228,009	\$ 3,641,404	\$ 3,495,367	\$ 7,136,771	\$ 30,864,780
Employee benefits	14,074,220	377,160	360,189		543,059	861,953		16,216,561	4,143,692	2,432,986	6,576,678	22,993,239
Payroll taxes			25,347		65,716	81,979		1,846,349	304,445	264,316	568,761	2,415,110
DAV transportation network — volunteers	1,629,884	43,423	41,503,914					41,503,914				41,503,914
DAC & Transport Network Grants			55,018					55,018				55,018
Travel			55,088					55,088				55,088
Washington Field Office			88,725					88,725				88,725
Columbia Trust			1,100	72,604		43,050		201,570	460	4,466	4,926	206,496
Other grants	84,816			199,744				199,744				199,744
Disaster relief				3,779,901				3,779,901				3,779,901
State service program												
Scholarships			110,000					110,000				110,000
Expenses of national convention						951,652		951,652				951,652
Expenses of national commander and committees						509,460		509,460				509,460
Food, clothing, and relocation	2,286,490	37,353	79,026		71,166	35,749		2,370,684				2,370,684
Freight, training, and relocation	1,926,250							1,926,250	90,393	127,201	217,594	2,134,093
Postage and shipping	709,925	6,470	17,882		1,081,718	182,751	1,506	2,000,250	8,843,182	34,155	8,877,337	10,877,589
Equipment rental and maintenance	338,370	376	17,233		20,129	35,356		411,464	699,853	392,240	1,092,093	1,503,557
Supplies	666,200	101,485	45,062		525,184	297,875	1,289	1,637,095	433,462	174,937	608,399	2,245,494
Insurance	87,655	1,487	2,133		31,810	1,101		124,186	28,540	100,630	129,170	253,356
Telephone	90,450	5,253	3,489		7,848	15,416		124,456	20,081	117,254	137,335	259,791
Outside services	759,774	111	10,922		659	2,708		774,527	167,651	591,650	759,301	1,533,828
Project costs			1,622		2,590,697	23,163		2,594,441	71,580	1,456	73,036	2,668,977
Printing					907,782			907,782				907,782
Cost of mailing materials	256	475	299		47,002	22,141		701,173	34,788,389	39,800	34,828,189	34,898,362
Heat, light, water, and power	204,004							204,004	393,216	563	393,779	597,783
Security service	164,843		466					164,843	149,891		149,891	314,734
Depreciation of property and equipment	452,893	2,073			65,837	11,468		532,737	325,589	588,635	914,224	1,446,961
Legal fees	12,008	391,680	863		3,566	29,611		396,030	7,460	135,800	143,260	172,871
Professional fees	161,456		24,936		1,188,560	22,149		1,763,845	535,219	1,065,048	1,416,267	3,180,112
Other expenses	1,097,829	80	3,798		365,577	1,437,060		2,504,380		1,152,910	1,152,910	3,657,290
Allocations from (to) other departments	1,180,088		18,291		717,519			1,915,900	(22,098,102)	(3,088,501)	(25,181,010)	1,308,555
Total	\$45,034,564	\$ 1,581,317	\$43,480,118	\$4,032,249	\$8,763,247	\$5,792,312	\$21,837,791	\$130,541,198	\$32,374,581	\$7,628,513	\$40,003,374	\$170,544,572

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in unrestricted net assets	\$ 12,255,695
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Noncash contributions	(236,337)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(25,049,727)
Pension liability and other postretirement benefit obligation adjustment	9,555,611
Depreciation	1,446,961
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	6,981
Realized investment gains	(4,488,265)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	(462,976)
Interest and dividends receivable	30,884
Solicitation materials	366,825
Prepaid expenses	(1,273,756)
Other assets	313,900
Accounts payable	2,108,086
Accrued expenses	11,433,717
Other liabilities	(333,879)
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advanced	4,305
Deferred revenue	(55,785)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	<u>1,875,470</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>7,497,710</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Payments for property and equipment	(610,169)
Proceeds from the sale of property and equipment	(1,816)
Purchases of investments	(120,091,754)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>115,617,388</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(5,086,351)</u>

NET INCREASE IN CASH 2,411,359

CASH — Beginning of year 8,607,929

CASH — End of year \$ 11,019,288

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

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.

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and IFRS. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. DAV adopted ASU 2011-04 for the year-ended December 31, 2012 and it had no material impact on DAV's financial position, cash flows or change in net assets.

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, 2012, are composed of the following:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements	\$ 965,730	\$ 425,628	540,102
Buildings and improvements	10,729,217	7,770,061	2,959,156
Machinery and other equipment	21,742,907	19,509,787	2,233,120
Construction in process	182,756		182,756
Total	<u>\$33,620,610</u>	<u>\$27,705,476</u>	<u>\$5,915,134</u>

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

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

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

Contributed Services and Facilities — DAV operates extensive programs through which volunteers contribute many hours of service to veterans; however, only the portion of those hours that are donated to veterans at medical facilities of the VA are tabulated. Of the 2,007,479 hours accounted for in 2012, 1,904,723 are for the DAV's Nationwide Transportation Network. Using a value per hour of \$21.79 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 \$41,503,914. This value, together with the value of certain contributed facilities, is recorded as support and expenses in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses. The remaining 102,756 hours, valued at \$2,239,053, are contributed to the DAV VA Voluntary Service Program. This amount

and the value of any other volunteer time has not been recorded in the accompanying statement of activities and statement of functional expenses, because such hours do not meet the technical requirements set forth in accounting standards for recognizing contributed services.

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

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

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, disclosure, and transition. DAV applies ASC Topic 740 and notes no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. 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 2012, DAV incurred joint costs of \$48,519,227 for informational materials and activities that included fundraising appeals. Of those costs, \$21,833,652 was allocated to public awareness outreach (program services) and \$26,685,575 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 2012 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues are summarized below:

Balance — January 1, 2012	<u>\$ 54,851,984</u>
Additions:	
Membership dues received	4,516,451
Earnings on invested assets — net	1,790,842
Gain on sale of investments	<u>1,061,749</u>
Total additions	<u>7,369,042</u>
Distribution of membership dues:	
National headquarters	5,235,867
Local chapters	2,044,183
State departments	2,071,372
Other expense	<u>1,215</u>
Total distribution of membership dues	<u>9,352,637</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>3,859,065</u>
Balance — December 31, 2012	<u>\$ 56,727,454</u>

Life membership net earnings on invested assets of \$1,790,842 are comprised of gross interest and dividends of \$1,799,018 — net of investment fees paid of \$8,176.

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, 2012, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,833,372	\$ 4,833,372	\$
Commercial paper	2,245,707	2,248,901	3,194
U.S. Government agency notes	20,218,209	20,274,543	56,334
Common stocks	20,300,731	23,361,472	3,060,741
Mutual bond funds	121,477,909	128,142,689	6,664,780
Mutual equity funds	<u>156,010,650</u>	<u>169,294,755</u>	<u>13,284,105</u>
Total	<u>\$ 325,086,578</u>	<u>\$ 348,155,732</u>	<u>\$ 23,069,154</u>

The General fund income from investment- net, \$10,960,165, is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$11,072,328, reduced by investment management and custody fees of \$112,163.

The cost and fair value of life membership fund investments in securities and the net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2012, are summarized below:

	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 158,784	\$ 158,784	\$
Common stocks	3,405,402	3,921,389	515,987
Mutual bond funds	17,469,911	18,398,859	928,948
Mutual equity funds	<u>29,003,279</u>	<u>32,023,376</u>	<u>3,020,097</u>
Total	<u>\$ 50,037,376</u>	<u>\$ 54,502,408</u>	<u>\$ 4,465,032</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 2012.

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 and Level 2 during 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 general fund, life fund and pension plan assets recorded at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2012.

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 during the year ended December 31, 2012, 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	\$ 4,833,372	\$ _____	\$ 4,833,372
Commercial paper	_____	2,248,901	2,248,901
U.S. Government agency notes	_____	20,274,543	20,274,543
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	2,279,304		2,279,304
Energy	2,790,842		2,790,842
Finance	2,730,924		2,730,924
Healthcare	3,464,772		3,464,772
Industrials	3,665,579		3,665,579
Materials	743,732		743,732
Consumer staples	3,269,560		3,269,560
Technology	3,864,808		3,864,808
Utilities	551,951		551,951
Total common stocks	23,361,472	_____	23,361,472
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	114,914,472		114,914,472
International fixed-income funds	13,228,217		13,228,217
Domestic equity funds	109,675,580		109,675,580
International equity funds	53,244,892		53,244,892
Real estate equity funds	6,374,283	_____	6,374,283
Total mutual funds	297,437,444	_____	297,437,444
Total general fund assets	<u>\$ 325,632,288</u>	<u>\$ 22,523,444</u>	<u>\$ 348,155,732</u>

The major categories of life membership fund financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis during the year ended December 31, 2012, 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	\$ 158,784	\$	\$ 158,784
Common stocks:			
Consumer discretionary	378,962		378,962
Energy	462,921		462,921
Finance	452,242		452,242
Healthcare	584,545		584,545
Industrials	627,094		627,094
Materials	122,584		122,584
Consumer staples	557,858		557,858
Technology	634,720		634,720
Utilities	100,463		100,463
Total common stocks	3,921,389		3,921,389
Mutual funds:			
Domestic fixed-income funds	15,047,990		15,047,990
International fixed-income funds	3,350,869		3,350,869
Domestic equity funds	20,316,876		20,316,876
International equity funds	10,631,123		10,631,123
Real estate equity funds	1,075,377		1,075,377
Total mutual funds	50,422,235		50,422,235
Total life membership fund assets	\$ 54,502,408	\$	\$ 54,502,408

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 2012, 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, 2012. Summarized information for the plans is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 66,044,704</u>	<u>\$</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 76,437,493	
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO)		\$86,269,039
Fair value of plan assets	<u>(54,766,381)</u>	<u></u>
Unfunded status recognized	<u>\$ 21,671,112</u>	<u>\$86,269,039</u>

Summarized information of the plans for the year ended December 31, 2012, is as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Components of net periodic benefit cost:		
Service cost	\$ 2,603,046	\$ 3,322,143
Interest cost	2,923,691	3,527,771
Expected return on assets	(3,546,021)	
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	2,469,283	1,331,682
Amortization of prior service cost	31,964	(122,991)
Settlement cost	<u>3,197,651</u>	<u></u>
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 7,679,614</u>	<u>\$ 8,058,605</u>
Components of pension and postretirement benefit changes:		
Amortization of prior service cost	\$ 31,964	\$ (122,991)
Amortization of net loss from earlier periods	2,469,283	1,331,682
Actuarial net loss during the year	(941,327)	(15,521,873)
Pension settlement loss	<u>3,197,651</u>	<u></u>
Pension and postretirement benefit changes	<u>\$ 4,757,571</u>	<u>\$ (14,313,182)</u>

Amounts not yet recognized as a component of periodic pension cost at December 31, 2012, are as follows:

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
Prior service cost (benefit)	\$ 319,639	\$ (1,193,718)
Net actuarial loss	<u>28,418,183</u>	<u>28,955,009</u>
Amounts recognized as reduction in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$28,737,822</u>	<u>\$27,761,291</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 2013 are \$1,862,803 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 2013 will result in a cost of \$1,692,055 and gain of \$122,991, respectively.

	Pension	Other Postretirement Benefits
For the year ended December 31, 2012:		
Benefit expense (net periodic benefit cost of \$7,679,614 offset by \$639,414 reimbursed by DAVA)	\$ 7,040,200	\$ 8,058,605
Actual return on plan assets	6,130,181	
Employer contribution	2,586,276	2,109,116
Plan participants' contributions		214,401
Benefits paid	7,792,554	2,323,517
Weighted-average rate assumptions used for the December 31 valuation:		
For year-end benefit obligation:		
Discount rate	4.00 %	4.25 %
Rate of compensation increase	3.50 %	3.50 %
For annual benefit cost:		
Discount rate	4.25 %	4.75 %
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 9% in 2012 to 5% in 2016, after which the trend rate is expected to stabilize.

The DAV expects to contribute \$4.3 million to its pension plan in 2013.

The DAV's pension plan investment allocation at December 31, 2012, is as follows:

Asset Category	Percentage of Plan Assets
Equity securities	61 %
Fixed-income securities	34
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>5</u>
Total	<u>100 %</u>

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

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 during the year ended December 31, 2012, 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	\$ 2,977,730	\$	\$ 2,977,730
Corporate bonds		13,240,255	13,240,255
U.S. Government securities	5,205,274		5,205,274
Common stocks:			
Communication	325,146		325,146
Consumer discretionary	1,722,773		1,722,773
Energy	1,276,980		1,276,980
Finance	2,467,512		2,467,512
Healthcare	1,595,835		1,595,835
Industrials	1,746,278		1,746,278
Materials	486,303		486,303
Consumer staples	666,648		666,648
Technology	2,504,877		2,504,877
Utilities	266,628		266,628
Total common stocks	13,058,980		13,058,980
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	14,741,857		14,741,857
International equity funds	5,542,285		5,542,285
Total mutual funds	20,284,142		20,284,142
Total pension plan assets	\$41,526,126	\$ 13,240,255	\$ 54,766,381

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

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

Fiscal Years Ending	Benefit Payments
2013	\$ 4,002,537
2014	4,633,604
2015	4,957,606
2016	5,219,025
2017	3,998,986
2018–2022	21,192,704

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

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

Fiscal Years Ending	Gross Benefit Payments	Gross Subsidy Receipts	Net Benefit Payments
2013	\$ 3,282,062	\$ (164,911)	\$ 3,117,151
2014	3,385,145	(191,932)	3,193,213
2015	3,406,181	(226,736)	3,179,445
2016	3,555,429	(248,909)	3,306,520
2017	3,756,684	(280,333)	3,476,351
2018–2022	21,510,075	(1,887,403)	19,622,672

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 2012 were \$2,016,213 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, 2012, net assets of the Foundation were \$94,089,373. During 2012, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, DAV charged the Foundation \$110,780. DAV provides the Foundation with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge. Additionally, in 2012, DAV contributed \$88,725 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 2012, The Columbia Trust also received \$80,000 from the DAV for a bequest that was designated to assist in meeting medical needs of veterans.

In 2012, the Foundation distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$73,274 - National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund
- \$47,014 - National Service Office Copier Fund
- \$25,000 - National Service Office Reference Manuals
- \$68,199 - Construction of fraternal merchandise store front

At December 31, 2012, the Foundation owed \$137,774 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, 2012, net assets of the Trust were \$16,422,620. 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 \$201,091. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2012, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

- \$53,000 - National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- \$265,000 - Mobile Service Office Program
- \$45,000 - Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program
- \$200,000 - National Transportation Network
- \$225,000 - Disaster relief efforts
- \$100,000 - DAV "Just B Kids" Scholarship
- \$41,640 - Assistance to disabled veterans and their families

At December 31, 2012, the Trust owed \$211,686 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, 2012, net assets of DAVA were \$7,594,485. 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 2012. 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, 2012, DAVA owed approximately \$771,150, for such costs.

Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation — The President of Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation (the Foundation) also serves on DAV’s Board of Directors. DAV personnel assist the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations at no charge. No other transactions occurred between the Foundation and DAV during 2012.

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2012 but before March 29, 2013, the date the financials were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Joe, for that very important report. You have heard the motion. May I have a second to that motion. Go to a mic.

MR. ERIC MCGINNIS: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MR. MCGINNIS: Eric McGinnis, Chapter 3, Indiana, so moves.

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

It's my pleasure to introduce our Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski for his report. Barry is a Gulf War-era veteran and a native of Ottertail County, Minnesota. He was appointed National Service and Legislative Headquarters Executive Director in July 2011.

An intelligent and thoughtful leader, Barry has earned the respect of key leaders and associates in and around the beltway whose decisions impact veterans. He has considerable expertise in dealing with the legislative and service issues necessary to operate our Washington Headquarters. He has become a powerful leader for injured and ill veterans before Congress and the administration.

Barry's responsibilities include oversight of the National Service and Legislative programs. He also is the organization's principal spokesperson before Congress, the White House and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A life member of Chapter 2 in San Diego, California, Barry is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who was medically discharged in 1993.

Please join me in welcoming Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski for his report to the Convention. (Applause)

REPORT TO CONVENTION: BARRY JESINOSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WASHINGTON HQ

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY JESINOSKI: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: National Commander Polzin, distinguished guests and delegates to the 92nd National Convention of DAV, it's an honor to come before you today with my annual report as Executive Director of your National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

First, I want to thank National Commander Polzin for his leadership and his dedication to DAV and our mission to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served, as well as their families. Over the past year he has represented DAV superbly across the nation, and particularly in Washington.

Of course, I want to recognize National Adjutant Burgess. His skillful leadership and his steadfast support have meant so much to all of us as we strive to serve you and your families. I've known and worked with Marc for years, and I can think of no better person to be our new National Adjutant.

And how could I not pay – (Applause) and how could I not pay my respects to Past National Adjutant Art Wilson, a man I admire greatly. I am truly blessed to have him as a mentor and as a constant leadership example. He is the architect of the modern-day DAV.

His leadership and stewardship have put DAV on the right track, both in terms of our strong financial position and new and more robust service and advocacy programs. Thanks to his leadership, our organization has forged ahead toward the future, but firmly rooted in the finest traditions of our noble calling.

I also want to commend Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep. Under their direction the Auxiliary has been invaluable to the success of our mission this past year.

At Washington Headquarters our Service, Legislative and Communications staffs work closely together toward the goal of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who have served our country.

National Service Director Garry Augustine and his staff direct our unmatched program of service to injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors, leading our corps of National Service Officers and our Transition Service Officers, while National Legislative Director Joe Violante and his team excel at advancing the legislative goals of DAV in a very difficult political environment.

DAV's largest endeavor remains our National Service Program. And, in fact, although the Commander asked for this to be done yesterday, let's take a moment to recognize every Service Officer here today. If you are or were a Chapter, Department, National Service Officer or Transition Service Officer, please stand, if you can, for a moment to be recognized.

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

WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JESINOSKI: I thank you so much for your service to your fellow veterans. In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico we employ about 270 NSOs and 34 TSOs, counseling and representing veterans their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and other government agencies.

In the past year, our NSOs and TSOs counseled and represented nearly a quarter-million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them more than \$5.2 billion in new and retroactive benefits. (Applause)

We put a great deal of emphasis in hiring, training and retaining the very best. Every candidate goes through a rigorous screening process before being hired as an NSO trainee. The trainees then receive the highest quality instruction and must be able to prove themselves worthy to earn the DAV NSO pin.

Every NSO continues training through his or her career to stay abreast of the most recent laws, regulations and policies governing veterans' benefits. And DAV is the only service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

As our business practices continue to evolve with technology, we will do everything possible to ensure all of our country's injured and ill veterans and their families receive the rights and benefits they have earned and deserve.

As the premier veterans service organization, we are a vital voice in addressing concerns with the VA's Veterans Benefits Management System, or VBMS, and the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, or SEP, by participating in the initial development of these programs and by being involved in the test phases before release of these products nationwide.

I am proud of the strong working relationship we've built with General Allison Hickey, the Under Secretary for Benefits. And through that, as well as our strong reputation for being professional experts in the business of veterans' benefits, DAV has meaningful input in the VA's present path.

The Board of Veterans' Appeals, which is responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits, decided some 44,300 cases this past year. More than 96 percent of the claims involved disability compensation issues. And DAV maintains the largest staff of any advocacy group at the Board, representing about a third of all the cases decided by the BVA in 2012.

We continue our pro bono representation program for clients seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Through the DAV National Appeals Office in 2012 these attorneys extended an offer of free representation before the veterans' court in 1,253 appeals and provided personal representation at the court in almost 1,060 of those cases. That's a sharp increase over the past years.

The substantial growth of this program has been possible with the coordinated efforts of two top-notch law firms – Finnegan Henderson and Chisholm, Chisholm, and Kirlpatrick. 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.

Next year we hope to report still another substantial increase in the number of offers of this spectacular free representation.

For those service men and women making the often-difficult transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Disabled Transition Assistance programs, providing benefits, counseling and assistance to service members filing initial claims for VA benefits at more than 100 military installations throughout the country.

Over the past year our TSOs conducted nearly 3,000 formal presentations to more than 63,000 transitioning service men and women. They also filed over 18,000 claims for VA benefits.

We continue serving more veterans by putting our service offices on the road, assisting veterans where they live, increasing their access to benefits. With 10 specially equipped Mobile Service Offices visiting communities across the country in 2012 they traveled well over 100,000 miles, visiting some 900 cities and towns.

This outreach is possible, in part, thanks to the generous support from the Harley-Davidson Foundation. Harley-Davidson has pledged \$2 million over eight years to partner with DAV, maintaining the Harley's Heroes program.

During 2012 the MSOs helped veterans at events at 155 individual Harley-Davidson dealerships, reflecting a 6 percent increase in Harley-Davidson dealership participation.

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. And our DSO and CSO Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs.

We are very fortunate to have this support from DSOs and CSOs around the nation, and we want to ensure that each of them continues to receive the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. In 2012 DAV trained and certified about 2,000 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 38 states, the most of any year.

During 2012 we conducted 29 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, informing about 3,000 additional individuals about important benefits which may be available to them.

These Information Seminars provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community while also giving Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

Women are serving our country in record numbers and they make up nearly one-fifth of today's active duty, Guard and reserve military forces. More than 150 service women have made the ultimate sacrifice in combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands more were wounded by visible as well as invisible injuries.

After service, women veterans are enrolling in VA health care in unprecedented numbers. And they are seeking a wide array of VA benefits and services that they have fully earned. And, as a consequence, the VA is experiencing a large influx of new women veterans, including those of childbearing age who are in need of gender-specific services that VA traditionally has not provided.

DAV is helping the VA make the internal cultural changes, 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 throughout the nation.

We continue our determined advocacy, leading the veterans' community in promoting the needs of women veterans. In addition, DAV's own Women's Advisory Committee, made up of women veterans from across the country, meets annually here, at our National Convention, to help set our agenda on women veterans and their needs.

The Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 in the Lake Sheen Room on the Lobby Level. And I encourage you all to attend – all of you, men and women.

To ensure women's unique experiences in – 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 54 women now serving in our NSO and our TSO corps.

Our National Service Program, in conjunction with our National Legislative Program, is responsible for the organization's employment-related activities to ensure our injured and ill veterans are treated fairly and equitably in the work force. 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, the Office of Personnel Management, and other governmental agencies. Through active involvement and oversight we are empowering our veterans to live high-quality and fulfilled lives in the job market.

In accomplishing DAV's mission, our Legislative staff works closely with DAV's Service Department and Communications Department staffs. We count on DAV National Service Officers, DAV and Auxiliary officers and members, and our Department Legislative Chairmen to keep us informed and for support with our grassroots lobbying.

Many of you are signed up for our grassroots program, the DAV Commander's Action Network – or DAV CAN. If you're not, please understand there is no easier way to be involved with our legislative efforts. If you have not done so already, please join DAV CAN on our website at dav.org. Click on the "Help DAV" button at the top of the page.

Through more efficient use of our membership database, our network of grassroots advocates increased in strength dramatically over the past several months, jumping from 13,000 advocates to more than 200,000 advocates. I hope that every one of you, again, will join us if you haven't already.

In addition, we use numerous organizational resources to achieve our goals, including the latest innovations in electronic communications and social media to carry our message to legislators and the American public, leveraging the power of the Internet to communicate with public officials, our membership and the public at large. In today's fast-paced, competitive world, we must take advantage of every single tool at our disposal.

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.

They cannot do it alone. They need your support so that their message on Capitol Hill resonates back home in every state and in every congressional district. We need your voices.

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 National

Convention, the DAV Legislative staff testified at 16 Congressional hearings, covering 87 bills and draft measures, as well as multiple other issues.

Although more information regarding specific legislative efforts can be obtained from my written report to this Convention, which is more lengthy than the report I'm giving now – believe it or not – I would like to make note of one of our most serious but newer concerns.

We are greatly concerned about the budget proposal for construction and infrastructure maintenance. For Fiscal Year 2014 the budget proposes only \$342 million for major construction projects. That would support just one project in Washington State.

VA's Strategic Capital Investment Planning process estimates that between \$21 and \$25 billion must be invested over the next ten years to maintain VA's existing infrastructure, which would require between \$2.1 and \$2.5 billion per year.

However, funding requests for major construction projects have taken – have fallen from \$1.5 billion in 2008 to just \$1.1 billion in 2011, to now \$342 million proposed for Fiscal Year 2014, significantly below what is needed.

Since VA's ability to deliver health care services depends on maintaining an adequate and safe infrastructure, these shortfalls in construction funding are a serious deficiency that Congress must correct.

Since releasing the Independent Budget, DAV has participated in a number of meetings with the leadership of key committees and their staffs to offer our views and concerns on a number of vital issues. These include appropriations for veterans' programs and services and the VA's transitioning to an electronic claims process.

We are creating a pathway to better coordinate combined efforts of several veterans and military organizations to address key issues affecting multiple sections of the community. This is something that we need to do. And I am proud to say that we are making headway.

By coordinating and collaborating with our fellow veterans' organizations and all those groups committed to fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served, we strengthen our position exponentially.

DAV's legislative staff has been actively involved with members of Congress and their staffs on a weekly basis to discuss the VA's claims backlog, possible solutions to it, and pending or draft legislation intending to resolve the situation.

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.

We firmly believe that DAV's legislative program is a success because of our ability to sit down with the leadership, discuss the issues, and, along with other members of the veteran, military and family community, thereby convince Congress of the importance of enacting our priorities into law.

Your Washington staff continues its excellent work staying on top of issues and policies affecting our nation's injured and ill veterans and their families. We enjoy a stellar reputation as the top-notch professional veterans' service organization, committed to protecting and preserving veterans' rights.

You can be proud that your program directors and their staffs have spent years as advocates and NSOs representing veterans on a daily basis. And as wartime, service-connected veterans themselves, they also have credibility that others who represent particular groups don't have.

To be sure, the staff at your National Service and Legislative Headquarters continues to provide the very best services to you and your families. But without you, our members, we in Washington would not be able to accomplish all that we have.

So on behalf of the entire National Service and Legislative Programs, thank you for making it possible for us to serve you. Thank you. (Applause)

(The following written annual report was submitted by DAV Executive Director of Washington Headquarters Barry Jesinoski:)

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**Annual Report of
Barry A. Jesinoski
Executive Director, Washington Headquarters
to the 92nd National Convention
of the Disabled American Veterans
Orlando, Florida
August 10, 2013**

National Commander Polzin, distinguished guests, and delegates to DAV's 92nd National Convention:

As Executive Director of National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, it is an honor and a privilege to present this annual report to the membership.

First, I want thank National Commander Larry A. Polzin for his leadership and dedication to DAV and our mission to fulfill our promises to the men and women who served and their families. Over the past year he has represented DAV very well as our National Commander and is a fine example of leadership to the entire veterans community.

I also want to recognize our National Adjutant Marc Burgess. His skillful leadership and steadfast support have meant so much to all of us as we strive to serve you and your families.

And how could I not pay homage to past National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson, who truly is the architect of a modern DAV. Art's leadership and stewardship have put DAV on the right track, both in terms of our strong financial position and new and more robust service and advocacy programs. Thanks to his leadership, our organization has forged ahead toward the future but firmly rooted in the finest traditions of our noble calling.

I also want to commend Auxiliary National Commander Donna Adams and Auxiliary National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, who have been extremely supportive of our efforts. The Auxiliary's support and hard work in our cause has been invaluable to the success of our mission.

I would like to recognize the achievements of our team at National Service and Legislative Headquarters. National Service Director Garry Augustine directs our outstanding program of service to disabled veterans and their families.

Garry and his staff have done a superb job leading our corps of National Service Officers (NSOs) and Transition Service Officers (TSOs) in the successful completion of their mission. National Legislative Director Joseph Violante and his staff have excelled at advancing the legislative goals of DAV in a very difficult political environment.

I also want to recognize a valued member of our very fine team at Washington Headquarters, Executive Secretary Sally Miller, who keeps things running smoothly. My heartfelt thanks to Sally and the entire support staff for the tremendous job they do and their dedication to our mission.

Our entire team in Washington — Service, Legislative and Communications — professional and support staffs, alike — all pull together toward our goal to empower all injured and ill veterans and their families to live high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Service

National Service Program

Our largest endeavor in fulfilling DAV's mission is our National Service Program. In 100 offices throughout the United States and in Puerto Rico, we employ a corps of approximately

270 National Service Officers (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.

Between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2012, our NSOs and TSOs counseled and represented nearly a quarter million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them more than \$5.2 billion in new and retroactive benefits.

Our NSOs are highly trained professionals with the skills needed to effectively develop and prosecute veterans' claims. An NSO's development begins with 16 months of initial training and continues through his or her career. That continuous training ensures that our NSOs stay abreast of the laws, regulations and policies that govern veterans' benefits.

We also keep our NSOs supplied with state-of-the-art technology and keep their cutting-edge advocacy skills up to date. DAV is the only veterans' service organization to have a training program certified for college credit by the American Council on Education.

And as our business practices continue to evolve based upon the rapidly changing advancements in technology, we will do everything possible to ensure all our country's injured and ill veterans and their families receive the rights and benefits they have earned and deserve.

Because of our position as the premier veterans service organization, we have been a vital voice in addressing concerns with the VA's Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP) by participating in the initial development of these programs and by being involved in the test phases before release of these products nationwide. DAV also filed the first fully electronic benefits claim in VA using the SEP. And what a milestone that is.

The VBMS and SEP not only have the potential of reducing the amount of time a veteran will have to wait for a decision to be rendered on a claim, but will provide many new opportunities such as applying for benefits online, accessing VA payment history, checking on the status of a pending claim and much more.

National Appeals Office

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) is the highest appellate level within the VA responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits. In 2012 the BVA decided some 44,300 cases, in which more than 96 percent of the claims involved disability compensation issues. We maintain the largest staff of any advocacy group at the board, representing more than 31 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2012.

Judicial Appeals

DAV continues its pro bono representation program for clients seeking review in the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Through the DAV National Appeals Office, in 2012, these attorneys extended an offer of free representation before the veteran's court in 1,253 appeals, which were denied by the BVA, and provided personal representation at the Court in almost 1,060 of those cases.

Since the inception of DAV's pro bono program before the federal courts, those attorneys have made offers of free representation in more than 3,750 cases and provided free representation before the court in approximately 2,260 cases.

The substantial growth of this program has been possible with the coordinated efforts of two top-notch law firms – Finnegan Henderson of Washington, D.C., and Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick of Providence, R.I., and Washington, D.C. Robert Chisholm (of the Chisholm firm) and Ron Smith (of Finnegan) are two of the nation's most accomplished members of the veterans bar, and DAV is pleased to have them in prominent roles in our enlarged program at the court. Next year we hope to be able to report still another substantial increase in the number of appealed cases.

Transition Service Program

For those service men and women making the often difficult transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Disabled Transition Assistance programs.

Our TSOs provide benefits counseling and assistance to service members filing initial claims for VA benefits at more than 100 military installations throughout the country. Over the past year, our TSOs conducted 2,760 formal presentations to 63,215 transitioning service men and women. They also filed 18,214 claims for VA benefits. We devoted approximately \$1.95 million to this program in 2012.

Mobile Service Office Program

Our Mobile Service Office Program continues to reach out to veterans in their own communities. By 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 in 2012, they traveled more than 102,288 miles, visiting 872 cities and towns.

Our NSOs interviewed 17,352 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 2012, the MSOs participated in 183 days of activities for 164 individual Harley-Davidson dealerships as part of this program, compared to 155 dealerships in 2011, reflecting a 6 percent increase in Harley-Davidson dealership participation. Nearly \$857,000 was expended for the Mobile Service Office program in 2012.

Outreach Programs

The National Service Department is fortunate to have the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. Each receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve.

Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs. This enables our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department and Chapter Service Officers and volunteers to work together for the common goal of service to injured and ill veterans. In 2012, DAV trained and certified 1,956 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 38 states.

During 2012, we conducted 29 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 2,959 individuals in attendance. These Information Seminars provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community, giving Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

Since 2006, DAV NSOs have offered services at other community-based events, including participation with state and county fairs, air shows, Major League Baseball and National Football League games and NASCAR races.

Women Veterans

Women are serving our country in record numbers and 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 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 that they have fully earned.

As a consequence, the VA is experiencing a large influx of new female veterans, including those of childbearing age, who are in need of gender-specific services that VA traditionally did not provide.

The 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 work-

ing 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.

We continue our determined advocacy for women and, DAV is the leading veterans service organization in promoting the needs of women veterans at the national, Department and Chapter levels. In addition, DAV's own Women Veterans Advisory Committee, made up of women veterans from across the country, meets annually at our National Convention 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 54 women now serving in our NSO and TSO corps.

Employment Program

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

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, 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's cities, towns and rural areas for many years. Since the early 1980s, homelessness has been a regular focus of media interest and a topic of policy debate and remains one of America's most complicated and important social issues.

DAV's Homeless Veterans Initiative 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 I extend thanks for all that each of you do to make a significant difference in the lives of homeless veterans and their families across the nation.

Legislation

In accomplishing DAV's mission, the legislative staff works closely with DAV's Service Department and Communications Department staffs. We also rely heavily on DAV National Service Officers, DAV and Auxiliary officers and members and our Department Legislative Chairmen to keep us informed and for support with our grassroots lobbying.

We also rely on the efforts of the members of our grassroots program, the DAV Commanders Action Network—DAV CAN. In addition, we use numerous organizational resources to achieve our goals, including the latest innovations in electronic media to carry our message to legislators and the American public.

Further, we continue to use the power of the Internet to communicate with public officials, our membership and the public. In today's fast-paced, competitive world, we must take advantage of every tool at our disposal.

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 National Convention, the DAV Legislative staff testified at 16 Congressional hearings, covering 87 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues.

Enacted Legislation

Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012

On August 6, 2012, H.R. 1627, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, was enacted into law. This bill provides hospital care and medical services for veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, between 1957 and 1987.

A veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for not fewer than 30 days during the period beginning on January 1, 1957, and ending on December 31, 1987, is eligible for hospital care and medical services for a number of illnesses or conditions, unless there is not sufficient medical evidence to conclude that the illness is service connected. Some of the diseases included in the list are esophageal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, and leukemia.

Among its many provisions the legislation also provides hospital care and medical services for family members of such veterans, if the family member, including unborn children, who resided on base for 30 days or more, during the period specified above.

This comprehensive legislation also covers many other issues of benefit to disabled veterans:

- Requires VA to ensure each individualized rehabilitation and reintegration plan for veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) includes the goal of maximizing the individual's independence and quality of life, and improving such veterans' behavioral and mental health functioning.
- Requires the inclusion of rehabilitative services in a VA comprehensive program of long-term care for veterans with TBI.
- Temporarily expands eligibility for specially adapted housing (SAH) for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty with ambulating.
- Expands eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for veterans with vision impairment.
- Removes assistance provided for Temporary Residence Assistance (TRA) from lifetime total benefit for SAH grant eligibility.
- Increases amounts of TRA for permanent and totally disabled veterans from \$14,000 to \$28,000 and provides for annual cost-of-living increases.
- Extends eligibility for VA Home Loan guaranty benefit to surviving spouses of veterans whose deaths were not service connected, but whose service-connected disabilities were permanent and total for 10 years prior to death.
- Waives loan fee for individuals with disability ratings issued during pre-discharge programs.
- Automatically waives agency of original jurisdiction (AOJ) review of new evidence by the Board of Veterans' Appeals unless it is requested that the AOJ review the evidence first.

- Authorizes retroactive effective date for awards of disability compensation, up to one year prior to the receipt of the application based on the facts, in connection with claims that are fully developed at submittal.
- Combines amount of education benefits up to 81 months for those who receive both Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance (Chapter 35) and other education assistance.
- Requires the Secretary to provide a plan for regular assessment of skills and competencies of VBA employees who handle processing of disability claims, to include training, testing, and appropriate personnel action for unsatisfactory improvement.
- Allows VA to waive copays for VA telehealth and telemedicine.
- For only three years, VA would be allowed to pay beneficiary travel to veterans traveling to and from Vet Centers to receive their services.
- Reinforces VA's requirement to document, track and control incidence of sexual assaults that occur on the Department's grounds and properties.
- Requires VA to implement a tele-consultation program to assess mental health and TBI at facilities that are unable to provide such assessments without utilizing contract or fee-basis care.
- Allows the use of service dogs on VA property that have been trained by accredited entities.
- Establishes the authority for VA to form and operate from one to five new "Centers of Excellence for Rural Health Research, Education, and Clinical Activities," to organize resources and concentrate energy to solve myriad issues of VA health care in rural and remote areas.
- Extends for an additional year to September 30, 2013, copayment requirements of \$10 for every day a veteran receives hospital care and \$5 for every day the veteran receives nursing home care.
- Extends for an additional year to October 1, 2013, VA's authority to collect from a veteran's health insurance for treatment of a non-service-connected disability.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment Approved by the President

On November 27, 2012, the President approved legislation to grant a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in VA compensation payments to wounded, injured and ill veterans, their dependents and survivors. The law became effective on January 1, 2013.

The COLA is 1.7 percent, rounded down to the nearest whole dollar. As you know, we strongly support realistic COLA payments that keep pace with inflation, but we disagree with the rounding-down policy because it is a tax on disabled veterans and their survivors, those who can least afford more taxes.

Key Legislative Initiatives

Since the end of the second session of the 112th Congress and beginning of first session of the 113th Congress, our Legislative staff has held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs, to educate them about DAV and our legislative priorities.

We have particularly focused on the new members of Congress and the Senate who were elected in 2012, and 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.

On January 31, 2013, DAV participated and spoke at a news conference sponsored by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, to express DAV's opposition to adoption of the so-called "chained CPI," as a basis for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to veterans' disability compensation payments, and to call for more realistic COLAs for wounded, injured and ill veterans.

In February 2013, The Independent Budget for fiscal year 2014 was released. The four co-authoring organizations, DAV, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, have worked in collaboration for 27 years to honor veterans and their service to our nation.

Throughout the year, each organization works collaboratively to identify and address legislative and policy issues that collectively affect the organizations' memberships, the broader veterans' community, the work of the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Health Administration and the National Cemetery Administration, always with an eye to protecting and enhancing the federal benefits veterans have earned and deserve.

The Independent Budget also presents our carefully developed estimates of adequate funding needed to ensure that VA, the Department of Labor and the Federal Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims are sufficiently funded to ensure protection and enhancement of veterans' benefits and services.

Since releasing The Independent Budget, DAV has participated in a number of meetings with the leadership of key committees and their staffs to offer our views and concerns on a number of vital issues. These include appropriations for veterans programs and services and the VA's transitioning to an electronic claims process.

DAV's legislative staff has been actively involved with members of Congress and their staffs on a weekly basis to discuss the VA's claims backlog, possible solutions and pending or draft legislation intended to resolve the backlog in VA's compensation claims.

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.

We 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, thereby convince Congress of the importance of enacting our priorities into law.

Conclusion

Your Washington staff continues its excellent work keeping on top of issues and policies affecting our nations injured and ill veterans and their families. They enjoy a stellar reputation as the top-notch professional veterans service organization, committed to protecting and preserving veterans rights.

You can be proud that your program directors and their staffs have spent years as advocates and NSOs representing veterans on a daily basis. And as wartime, service-connected veterans themselves, they also have credibility that others who represent particular groups don't have.

To be sure, the staff at your National Service and Legislative Headquarters continues to provide the very best services to you and your families. But without you, our members, we in Washington would not be able to accomplish all that we have.

So, on behalf of the entire National Service and Legislative Programs staff, thank you for making it possible for us to serve you. We couldn't do it without every one of you and the support you provide as we carry on DAV's proud mission of service and hope for America's injured and ill veterans and their families.

* * *

ACCEPT WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Barry. May I have a motion –

MR. ROY SPICER: Mic 3.

COMMANDER POLZIN: – to accept Mr. Jesinoski's report?

MS. DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Mic 2.

MR. SPICER: Mic 3.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 3.

MR. SPICER: **Roy Spicer, delegate, Chapter 3, Virginia, moves the adoption of Mr. Jesinoski's outstanding report.**

COMMANDER POLZIN: Do I hear a second?

MS. METCALF-FOSTER: Mic 2. Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Chapter 21, Valero, California, seconds that report.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried. (Applause) Thank you, Barry. Each year DAV recognizes those who distinguished themselves in making sure veterans get an even break in the job market.

OUTSTANDING LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE

This year's Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative is Bobby Bryant of Oklahoma. Bobby is a DAV life member of Chapter 32 in Oklahoma. Our National Service Office staff in Muskogee will present him with the award in the near future as he is not able to be with us today.

OUTSTANDING DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

The person selected as the Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist for 2013 is Keli Berglund with Job Service North Dakota. She is here today.

As a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, Keli is determined to improve the quality of life for injured and ill veterans. She conducts a thorough assessment of veterans referred to her and that enables her to develop an individual employment plan to guide them through their job search, educational opportunities and, ultimately, a successful career.

Keli spends many hours with area employers to learn their human resources needs and the required skill sets for those jobs. She uses these outreach visits as opportunities to promote veterans looking for jobs and reminds employers of the tremendous knowledge, qualifications and leadership skills that veterans bring to the job.

And because veterans with barriers to employments can't always come to the customer service office, Keli will go to – will go look for them herself. Homeless shelters, job fairs, and anywhere else she can, she can make sure veterans get the employment help that they need.

She is a life member of Adam Klein Chapter 3 in Bismarck, North Dakota, and is actively involved in the veterans' community, so please welcome DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist of the Year, Keli Berglund.

(Whereupon, Keli Berglund was presented with the Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist of the Year award.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: This may have been a difficult year for the Department of Veterans Affairs, with both political and public attention centered on the claims processes, but DAV recognizes that there are many VA employees who have dedicated their lives to serving our nation's veterans.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING VA EMPLOYEES

Each year we select three public servants to recognize them with the National Commander's Outstanding VA Employee awards. This year's recipients are fine examples of the best the VA has to offer.

OUTSTANDING NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE

The National Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration Employee goes to Gene Castagnetti for his 23 years as director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

His leadership there involves honoring our nation's veterans in one of the most beautiful burial grounds in the world. He's overseen the burial of Medal of Honor recipients and U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and directs the care given to the graves and memorials of many other

Medal of Honor recipients and hundreds of Korean War unknowns burned at what is commonly called "The Punchbowl."

Mr. Castagnetti is a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel and truly serves as a bridge for dignity for us, fellow veterans. He ensures families of veterans being interred at The Punchbowl are respected and have as much information as possible about their benefits.

And we are pleased to have a special guest, Under Secretary Steve Muro, his boss, to join in the presentation. Please welcome General(sic) Castagnetti and Mr. Muro to the podium to accept this award. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Gene Castagnetti and Under Secretary Steve Muro advanced to the podium and Mr. Castagnetti was presented with the National Commander's Award for Outstanding Department of Veterans' Affairs National Cemetery Administration Employee.)

MR. GENE CASTAGNETTI: Well, first and foremost, I thank you very much for this very distinct honor. I represent the National Cemetery and this award is really shared by all my employees who work so diligently on your behalf.

And I also represent and would like to say for my Under Secretary Steve Muro, this award recognizes all of the 1,650 men and women that make up the National Cemetery Administration and provide services at 131 national shrines around this nation.

So this is more than just recognition for this individual. It's recognition for what the VA National Cemeteries do for all of you at your final time of need and that of your families and loved ones.

As Abraham Lincoln said, "We have to take care of those who have borne the battle, their widow and their orphan." And we try to do that. And I feel my contemporaries throughout the National Cemetery system under Mr. Muro's leadership and guidance fulfill that promise.

Now if I may just deviate for a moment and have my good friends – where is the Hawaii delegation? Would you please stand. Hawaii, thank you for coming a long distance.

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

MR. CASTAGNETTI: Danny Soto, Bob Kemp, all my other good friends, thank you for all the support you've given us over the years. Now, certainly I'd be remiss if I didn't thank your National Commander. All right, Larry, thank you for all you do and, Barry, for all you do.

Now for you in the audience, let me just remind you of something. Yes, the National Cemetery provides dignified burials to our national veterans and their families. But I'd like to share with you what I heard from an unknown source, a quote is, "What is a definition of a veteran?" And I'd like to share this with you for a moment because this is the definition.

"A veteran is an individual who has signed a blank check payable to the United States government for an amount up to and including their life." That's commitment. That's dedication. That's why Secretary of VA Shinseki says our veterans are our finest citizens. I salute you all for your service and dedication.

Service to the community, service to your nation, I've been told by a former Supreme Court Justice, service is the rent we pay for living on this planet. You have all paid with many forms of service. Some of you have left your blood on foreign lands. Your families have serviced and sacrificed while you have gone to war and done battle.

The families are part of what makes the DAV a great nation. And I want to take just a moment to point out to you that there are many, many beneficiaries of your direct service. I'm going to have my bride – she doesn't know this but my bride, Nina, would you please stand and be recognized. She is a direct beneficiary of your benefits.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Nina Castagnetti stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

MR. CASTAGNETTI: Nina was born in Vietnam and evacuated out of Vietnam three days before the fall of Saigon. And she is a direct beneficiary, being able to come to the United States and have a new life. I thank you all for that benefit for her.

There is another statement I'd like to share. They say, "Yesterday is the past; tomorrow, a mystery. Today is the present. That's why it's called a gift." Along that line, if Mr. Muro would join me, I'd like to present your National Commander with a little gift of our token of our appreciation from the National Cemetery system.

(Whereupon, Mr. Castagnetti and Under Secretary Muro presented Commander Polzin with a commander's cap.)

MR. CASTAGNETTI: This is a commander's cap. It says, "The Punchbowl" on it. And I know he will wear it with pride. And it's a representation for all that you have done for us. Thank you and God bless. (Applause)

OUTSTANDING VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE AWARD

COMMANDER POLZIN: The Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee Award is being presented to Christopher "Buzz" Buchan, a rating specialist as a service representative in the Chicago VA regional office.

Buzz has been a leader in promoting the fully developed claims process and has a remarkable success in getting claims decided in a timely manner. He considers every case folder as a veteran in need and makes certain that everything is correct.

Buzz's close communications with DAV has spread throughout the Chicago regional office, and his enthusiasm to fully develop claims has made him(sic) to a program that works. Please join me in welcoming Christopher "Buzz" Buchan.

(Whereupon, Christopher Buchan was presented with the Outstanding Veterans Benefits Administration Employee Award followed by a round of applause.)

MR. CHRISTOPHER "BUZZ" BUCHAN: I would first like to just say how humbling this is. Thank you, everybody. This is a great – grateful and I'm honored to be here. I just want to say thank you very much. Thank you for all that you do to ensure that veterans' benefits are fought in D.C.

Thank you to all the local Chapters for helping those veterans maneuver through the difficult process that the VA has. I look forward to the continued process, partnership. And I want to say thank you to all of DAV. I am truly honored and blessed to be here today. Thank you. (Applause)

OUTSTANDING VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE AWARDS

COMMANDER POLZIN: Doctor Andrew Schally is a lead medical research scientist at the Miami VA medical center. He is the recipient of the Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee Award for his remarkable 50-year career of research and development of new methods of treatment of veteran cancer patients at VA medical centers.

Dr. Schally received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1977 for his contribution to the fight against cancer. He has continued ever since working to help veterans. His discoveries are also leading to possible new treatments for diabetes and heart disease. The compounds he has developed could also speed healing.

A man who deeply respects veterans, he traces his dedication to his father – dedication to his father, who was a member of the Polish forces serving at Allied Headquarters under General Eisenhower in Europe during World War II.

Dr. Schally, unfortunately, was not able to make it here today. However, accepting on his behalf is Luis Gonzalez, Administrative Officer at the Research and Development at the Miami VA medical center.

(Whereupon, Luis Gonzalez came forward to accept the Outstanding Veterans Health Administration Employee Award on behalf of Dr. Andrew Schally, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. LUIS GONZALEZ: Thank you. Good morning.
(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. GONZALEZ: On behalf of Dr. Schally who expresses his condolences, you know, for not being able to be here, he wants to express sincere thanks to Commander Polzin and DAV Service Officer Andy Marshall.

Knowing Dr. Schally for the last seven years, it's extraordinary to be able to work with an individual who has dedicated his life to finding cures for cancer, not only cancer but diabetes and also work which is coming through with Alzheimer's Disease.

But, again, I thank you on his behalf. I accept this on his behalf. And I will make certain he gets it in one piece. Again, I thank you and the Miami VA health care system. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: We are pleased to honor this distinguished group of VA employees who serve as examples to all those they need(sic). They certainly deserve the recognition from the DAV. So please join me in giving them a big round of applause. (Applause)

It is now time to hear from National Membership Director Tony Baskerville with his report on the status of DAV membership.

For the 1.2 million-member organization, like DAV, a membership strategy is very important. To craft and execute a membership engagement plan successfully takes a lot of creative thinking, foresight, and a knack for reaching people with the right message.

Sine 2005 we have seen our membership numbers follow some very positive trend lines. This year we have seen more success than we have enjoyed in decades. The man behind these efforts is Marine Corps veteran and National Membership Director Tony Baskerville. Tony. (Applause)

REPORT TO CONVENTION: ANTHONY BASKERVILLE, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR ANTHONY BASKERVILLE: Commander Polzin, National Officers, Adjutant Burgess, Executive Director Jesinoski, delegates and guests to the 92nd DAV National Convention, greetings.

Over the past few years DAV Membership Department has focused on ways to solidify our foundation and growth of our membership base. We are constantly testing new methods of reaching out to our members and prospective members. This year we have taken a more strategic and scientific approach to our recruiting.

We've expanded our collection of e-mail addresses of members and of prospective members which allow us to begin testing an e-mail newsletter with vital information defining who we are and what we do, along with highlights on community events and our programs of service and advocacy.

We quickly realized the impact of our message to our – to our message and our new look as many prospective members joined without being formally asked. We learned many of our veterans are comfortable receiving information in cyberspace, and we are able to track them forwarding our messages through their personal networks.

We launched a digital membership campaign, with new branding and logo, specifically aimed at urging veterans and supporters to join DAV. We achieved more than 39 million views across all of DAV's digital media outlets and the membership campaign sent 22,279 visitors to our "DAV Join" web page. These visitors spent an average of two minutes on our page. To put this in perspective, the average time spent on any web page is about eight seconds.

In addition to digital outreach, we began a new approach to solicitation that more closely mirrored our direct mail efforts. We're customizing messages to prospective members based on their individual service eras and tailoring our message based on their experience.

We have seen every indication that our rebranding – the new look of our materials and our consistent use of language – has had a significant positive impact in our membership efforts. We have consistently received positive feedback from the veterans who have joined through

our campaign and seem to be attracting a new audience who have previously been reluctant to join.

This has been quite an exciting membership year. And for the first time in decades, Commander Polzin, I can report to you and the delegates at this Convention that all our of Departments have met or exceeded goal. (Applause)

We concluded 2012-2013 with 197,920 trial members; 212,685 part-life; and 823,449 full-life members, for a grand total of 1,248,150 members. That put us 14,096 members above goal. (Applause)

We could not have experienced such success if it were not for you ambassadors for DAV who remembered the mantra, "You never know who will join until you ask." It works. And it has worked well this year for our Hall of Fame recruiter.

Commander, for the third year in a row Mr. Ronald Holtberg of Wilmington, North Carolina, is our top recruiter for the year. Ronald couldn't be here with us this year so accepting the award would be his Department Commander. Please welcome Cleveland Bryant, Department of North Carolina.

(Whereupon, North Carolina Department Commander Cleveland Bryant Jr. advanced to accept the Membership Recruiter of the Year Award on behalf of Ronald Holtberg.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Each year DAV Departments compete within their divisions for the coveted title of Department and Commander of the Year. The 2012-2013 winners are, Division 1, Departments with more than 35,000 members: The Department of California and Past Department Commander Kirk Johnson has taken top honors, at 101.72 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 1,092 life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department of California Past Department Commander Kirk Johnson advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER KIRK JOHNSON: California. (Applause)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: In Division II, Departments with 18,000 to 34,000 members, the Department of Minnesota and Past Department Commander Robert Erickson lead the pack with 107.50 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 1,237 life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department of Minnesota Past Department Commander Robert Erickson advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Division III, Departments with 10,000 members to 17,000 members, the Department of New Mexico under the leadership of Past Department Commander Tim Timmerman takes the award with 101.76 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 162 life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department of New Mexico Past Department Commander Timothy Timmerman advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER TIMOTHY TIMMERMAN: Thank you, New Mexico. (Applause)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Division IV, Departments with 5,000 to 999 – to 9,999 members, the Department of Nebraska, Past Department Commander Virgil Hagel takes the top spot with 105.90 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 331 Life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department of Nebraska Past Department Commander Virgil Hagel advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Division V, with 5,000 members or less, the Department of South Dakota, Past Department Commander Harold Muilenburg has, are the winners, are the division winners. Excuse me. I think it's fitting to mention that Commander

Muilenburg also took this award home last year. This year they are 104.62 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 199 life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department of South Dakota Past Department Commander Harold Muilenburg advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: The next award is the General Jonathan H(sic). Wainwright Award. This award is presented to the Department whose members recruited the highest number of eligible veterans, part and fully paid. Commander Polzin, this year's Wainwright Award recipient is the Department of Texas with a total of 2,736 new part and life members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a delegate from the Department of Texas advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Texas all the way. (Applause)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: The Judge Robert S. Marx Award is presented to the Department with the highest percentage increase in life membership over goal.

And there is no question that last year's recipients are back with their goal-busting 1,237 life members over goal. That's a 107.5 percent increase. This year's Robert S. Marx Award once again goes to the great State of Minnesota and Past Commander Bob Erickson.

(Whereupon, Department of Minnesota Past Commander Robert Erickson advanced to the podium to accept the award.)

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT ERICKSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BASKERVILLE: Each year we randomly select three member recruiters and three National Service Officers who have recruited 100 or more new members during the membership year and allow them to choose from a selection of very nice prizes. Those prizes will be handed out if you will see Rojean in the Membership Office during the week. And if not, we will mail these awards out.

This year's lucky winners are Ron J. Holtberg, Chapter 11, Wilmington, North Carolina; Prospero M. Sodano, Glendale, New York; and George Roso, Pittsburg County Chapter 20, Krebs, Oklahoma.

NSO winners are, and, again, please hold your applause, would be Guy D. Anastasia, Escondido, California; Carroll Clay Saucier, Woodrow Wilson 4, West Columbia, South Carolina; and Daniel Knabe of Saint Louis 1, Saint Louis, Missouri. (Applause)

Commander Polzin, as an NSO yourself, you know members are our most valuable asset, and with the strength of 1.2 million members behind us, we represent the voices of ill and injured veterans before Congress, aggravating – ag – I can't talk right now – for much-needed services for those veterans and their families.

NSOs are depended upon to help in the growth of DAV. And I am proud to report that under the leadership of National Service Director Garry Augustine and his staff NSOs have once again demonstrated their commitment to DAV's future in exceeding their set goal by recruiting 11,584 part and full life members. (Applause) Thank you, Garry.

Three NSOs, Carroll Saucier of South Carolina, Eric J. Van Emmerick, and – of South Dakota, and Linda Mingo of Oklahoma each achieved the Hall of Fame Award this year and will be recognized along with top NSO recruiter Nicholas Bernardi of New Jersey at the DAV National Service Office meeting.

Nick Bernardi recruited an amazing 328 part and full – full and part life members. In all, 22 National Service Officers have signed 100 or more members this year. (Applause)

General Eisenhower once said, "Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."

Because of your efforts, we have built our organization for future generations. You realize it is in the best interests of every veteran and his and her family to have a united and strong DAV. That's what we have inherited. And that's what we intend to pass on.

Commander Polzin, this concludes my report to the National Convention. (Applause)

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

* * *

**ANNUAL REPORT of
ANTHONY L. BASKERVILLE
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
to the 92ND NATIONAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUG. 10-13**

Commander Polzin, National Officers, Adjutant Burgess, Executive Director Jesinoski, delegates and guests to the 92nd DAV National Convention—greetings:

Over the past few years DAV's Membership Department has focused on ways to solidify our foundation and growth of our membership base. We are constantly testing new methods of reaching out to our members, and prospective members.

This year, we've taken a more strategic and scientific approach to our recruiting. We've expanded our collection of e-mail addresses of members and prospects, which allowed us to begin testing an e-newsletter with vital information defining who we are and what we do, along with highlights of community events and our programs of service and advocacy.

We quickly realized the impact of our messages, as many prospective members joined without being formally asked. We learned many of our veterans are comfortable with receiving information in cyberspace, and we are able to track them forwarding our messages to their personal networks.

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I have seen every indication that our rebranding – the new look of our materials and our consistent use of language – have had a significant, positive impact in our membership efforts. We have consistently received positive feedback from the veterans who've joined through our campaign and seem to be attracting new audiences who had previously been reluctant to join.

This has been quite an exciting membership year, and for the first time in decades, Commander Polzin, I can report to you and the delegates at this convention that all of our Departments have met or exceeded goal.

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We could not have experienced such success if it were not for you ambassadors for DAV who've remembered the mantra, "You never know who will join until you ask."

It works, and has worked well for this year's Hall of Fame recruiter. Mr. Commander, for the third year in a row I have the pleasure of introducing DAV's 2012 - 2013 Membership Recruiter of the year, from Wilmington, N.C., Mr. Ronald Holtberg.

Each year DAV Departments compete within their division for the coveted title of Department and Commander of the Year. The 2012 - 2013 winners are:

Division I, Departments with more than 35,000 members—The Department of California and Past Department Commander Kirk Johnson take top honors, at 101.72 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 1,092 life members.

Division II, Departments with 18,000 to 34,000 members—The Department of Minnesota and Past Department Commander Robert Erickson lead the pack with 107.50 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 1,237 life members.

Division III, Departments with 10,000 to 17,000 members—The Department of New Mexico under the leadership of Past Department Commander Tim Timmerman takes the award with 101.76 percent of goal exceeding goal by 162 life members.

Division IV, Departments with 5,000 to 9,999 members—The Department of Nebraska and Past Department Commander Virgil Hagel takes the top spot with 105.90 percent of goal exceeding goal by 331 life members.

Division V, Departments with 5,000 members or less—The Department of South Dakota and Past Department Commander Harold Muhlenberg are the division winners. I think it's fitting to mention that Commander Muhlenberg also took this award home last year. This year they are 104.62 percent of goal, exceeding goal by 199 life members.

The next award is the **General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award**. This award is presented to the Department whose members recruited the highest number of eligible veterans, part and fully paid. Commander Polzin, this year's Wainwright Award recipient is the Department of Texas, with a total of 2,736 new part and full paid members.

The **Judge Robert S. Marx Award** is presented to the Department with the highest percentage increase of Life members over goal. And there's no question that last year's recipients are back with their goal-busting 1,237 life members over goal. That's a 107.50 percent increase.

Each year, we randomly select three member recruiters and three National Service Officers who've recruited 100 or more new members during the membership year and allow them to choose from a selection of very nice prizes. Please hold all applause until the end.

This year's lucky winners are:

Ronald J. Holtberg	Wilmington Chapt. 11	Wilmington, N.C.
Prospero M. Sodano	Lt. Alfred Lucia Chapt. 118	Glendale, N.Y.
George Roso	Pittsburg County Chapt. 20	Krebs, Okla.

NSO Winners are, and again, please hold your applause until the end:

Guy D. Anastasi	Thomas F. Durbin 70	Escondido, Calif.
Carroll Clay Saucier	Woodrow Wilson 4	West Columbia, S.C.
Daniel I. Knabe	St. Louis 1	St. Louis, Mo.

Commander Polzin, as an NSO yourself, you know members are our most valuable asset, and with the strength of 1.2 million members behind us, we represent the voices of ill and injured veterans before Congress, advocating for much-needed services for these veterans and their families.

NSOs are depended upon to help in the growth of DAV and I'm proud to report that under the leadership of National Service Director Garry Augustine and his staff, NSOs have once again demonstrated their commitment to DAV's future by exceeding their set goals by recruiting 11,584 part and full paid members.

Three NSOs, Carroll Clay Saucier of S.C., Eric J. Van Emmerik of S.D. and Linda Mingo of Ohio will be recognized later this week along with the top recruiter Nicholas Bernardi of New Jersey, who signed a total of 328 part and full paid members. In all, 22 NSOs have signed 100 or more members this year.

General Eisenhower once said, "Neither a wise nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." Because of your efforts, we are building our organization for future generations. You realize it is in the best interests of every veteran and his or her family to have a united and strong DAV. That's what we inherited, and that's what we intend to pass on.

Commander Polzin, this concludes the report of the National Membership Department.

* * *

ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Tony, for a great report. I'll entertain a motion to accept Mr. Baskerville's report.

MR. MANUEL LOZANO: Mic 3.

MR. DANIEL STACK: Mic 2.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 3.

MR. LOZANO: **Mic 3. Manny Lozano, Department of Georgia Judge Advocate and Chapter 28, Georgia, makes that motion.**

COMMANDER POLZIN: May I have a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MR. STACK: Dan Stack –

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MR. STACK: Mic 2. Dan Stack, Department of Massachusetts, Chapter 3, seconds that report.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried. (Applause) Thank you. Ron Minter joined the DAV's professional staff as a member of Class Eight at the National Service Officer Training Academy at Denver in 1999. Upon his graduation, he was assigned as an NSO trainee at the DAV National Service Office in his hometown of Waco, Texas.

As a U.S. Navy veteran who was medically discharged in 1995 as a result of his services, he heads up a corps of DAV volunteers who, along with Auxiliary volunteers, donate more than 2 million hours annually to support veterans.

He also directs his nationwide DAV Transportation Network in which Hospital Service Coordinators arrange transportation for veterans who have no way to get to and from VA medical centers.

Ron also coordinates DAV's co-sponsorship of the annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic which promotes physical rehabilitation and therapy for veterans struggling to overcome the impact of injuries through sports and other activities.

The Clinic is the largest rehabilitation event of its kind in the world. He also coordinates corporate sponsorships of the program. Please welcome our National Director of Volunteer(sic) Services, Ron Minter. Ron. (Applause)

REPORT TO CONVENTION: RON MINTER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES RON MINTER: National Commander Polzin, National Officers, distinguished guests, and delegates, it is my pleasure to report to you on the progress we have made in DAV's Voluntary Services Programs.

Each year, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers are called upon for an even greater commitment to their time and talents. Each year, they come through magnificently, not only meeting every new challenge but going well beyond everyone's expectations.

In my submitted report, you'll find statistics totaling the money spent, the hours donated, and the number of people who participated in our volunteer effort. These figures can never fully represent the leadership and unselfish assistance provided by State VAVS chairpersons, Hospital Representatives, Deputies and individual volunteers. No one can put a price on programs like transportation to a medical treatment, direct patient care, entertainment and recreational and sporting activities.

No one can place a monetary value on doing for older veterans what they can no longer do for themselves. Nor could we place a dollar sign in front of the friendship one veteran extends to another or the love an Auxiliary member holds out to a family much like their own.

The statistics in this report merely measure what DAV and our Auxiliary members, families and friends have done in accomplishing our organization's purpose.

DAV's 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 health care facilities. Under this program, 11,897 DAV VAVS volunteers donated 1,850,476 hours in the 12 months ending September 2012. (Applause)

With a group this large and the number of assignments they perform, you can imagine the extensive management effort that's carried out on a local level by 16 State chairpersons, 140 VAVS Representatives, 144 Deputy Representatives, 7 Associate Representatives and 3 Deputy Associate Representatives.

Our efforts are enhanced by a very active corps of 1,700 Auxiliary volunteers who donated more than 157,000 hours last year. All told, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers provided more than 2 million hours of VAVS service over the past year – considerably more than any other service organization. This is the equivalent to the VA having an additional 965 full-time employees with an estimated value of more than \$43 million in hourly wages alone. (Applause)

Our transportation program continues to show tremendous growth as an indispensable resource for veterans, getting them to and from VA health care facilities.

Across the nation, DAV Hospital Service Coordinators operate 198 active programs. They've recruited more than 9,000 volunteers who drove 27 million miles last year providing more than 770,000 rides for veterans to and from VA health care facilities. (Applause)

It's hard to wrap your mind around the contributions of our drivers, but this should give you some idea. Since 1987 they've driven more than 551 million miles, providing 14 million rides for veterans. Many of these veterans rode in vans DAV purchased and donated to VA health care facilities for use in the Transportation Network.

DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the National Organization, have now donated 2,714 vans to VA health care centers nationwide at a cost of more than \$57.5 million.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our partners at Ford who have already been recognized. Ford Motor Company Fund has donated 164 vehicles to the Transportation Network.

It's also my honor to congratulate our 2013 George H. Seal Memorial Award recipients: Dennis Krulder of West Babylon, New York, and Melody Angelini of Forest Park, Illinois. They are both amazing individuals who deserve our recognition. (Applause)

Rehabilitative sports programs for ill and injured veterans have always been important to DAV. Working together with the VA, DAV provides profoundly disabled men and women with opportunities to participate in sports that would not be possible otherwise through the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, which is the largest rehabilitative event of its kind.

Veterans involved in sports generally experience fewer medical problems than those who aren't, therapists say. Athletics help maintain cardiovascular conditioning, increase circulation to the extremities, and avert skin breakdowns.

At this year's event, more than 300 severely disabled veterans took part in the 27th event of its kind at Snowmass Village, Colorado. With hundreds of volunteers – including ski instructors who are certified in teaching the disabled – it was one of the best winter sports clinics ever conducted.

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 2013 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic for their generous support. They are listed in my written report. I add a special note of thanks to the ever-increasing number of DAV and Auxiliary entities who are committed to this event.

Each year, the DAV Freedom Award for Outstanding Courage and Achievement is given to a participant who embodies the meaning of the clinic. Just months before the event, on July 18, 2012, our 2013 Freedom Award recipient was at death's door. Already a veteran of the war in Iraq, he was on patrol in Afghanistan when he took a direct strike by an improvised explosive device.

Several days later he awoke to discover a laundry list of injuries: he lost his right leg below the knee, suffered muscle and artery loss in his left thigh, broke his hands and six fingers, broke his nose, dislocated his jaw; shattered several teeth and severely damaged his left eye.

When he showed up at the event, he wasn't a particularly happy camper. In fact, he wanted to go home. But that changed as he participated. After just one day of coaching the soldier was not only back on his feet, but was surpassing everyone's expectations.

He became the first Freedom Award recipient to date who was still on active duty. Sergeant Kristian "Deno" Cedeno embodied the spirit of the event and has since volunteered to support DAV in a variety of ways.

Continuing to provide a morale boost to disabled veterans, the DAV Celebrity Entertainment Program had another great year. Celebrity Volunteers and Major League Baseball Umpires Larry Barnett and Jerry Layne made more than 80 hospital visits last year alone.

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 and others have special skills or prefer non-traditional volunteerism.

L-VAP 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 4,000 volunteers from 34 states have donated over than 1.2 million hours of service through L-VAP. We invite all Departments and Chapters to get involved and help make a difference.

Volunteer incentives apply to all of 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 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.

And at this time we would ask that the Commander join me as we present our Division leaders for their L-VAP efforts over the last year.

(Whereupon, Commander Polzin joined Director Minter at the podium.)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES MINTER: From Division I, the Department of Virginia, Past Department Commander Allan McCroskey with 144,842 hours. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Department of Virginia Past Department Commander Allan L. McCroskey advanced to the podium to receive his award.)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES MINTER: Accepting Division II's award on behalf of the Department of Tennessee, Past Department Commander Doug Shepherd, with 15,056 hours is Robert Lee. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Robert Lee advanced to the podium to receive the award for Department of Tennessee Past Department Commander Shepherd.)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES MINTER: Accepting the award for Division III, Department of Alabama, Past Department Commander Charles B. Fisher with 25,129 hours is David Riley. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander David Riley advanced to the podium to receive the award for Department of Alabama Past Department Commander Fisher.)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES MINTER: Division IV, accepting the award for the Department of Connecticut, Past Department Commander Wilfred Wheeler with 9,560 hours, is Ronald Werlich. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Robert Werlich advanced to the podium to receive the award for Department of Connecticut Past Department Commander Wheeler.)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES MINTER: And accepting the award on behalf of Division V, the Department of North Dakota, Past Department Commander Richard Krajewski with 2,051 hours, is Thomas Sadler. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Thomas Sadler advanced to the podium to receive the award for Department of North Dakota Past Department Commander Sadler.)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES MINTER: 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank recently-retired Laura Balun who, until recently, led the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services Program. Her staff, and the VAVS leadership team across the nation are owed a debt of gratitude from our organization.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention our National leaders, and a few other key supporters including The Columbia Trust, the National Service Foundation, DAV Auxiliary and Charitable Service Trust.

We've experienced outstanding support from DAV's corps of National Service Officer and Hospital Service Coordinators who have played a vital role in support of the Voluntary Services Programs.

I thank everyone here for your support and for recognizing the sacrifices of our nation's heroes through your continued service. Commander, this concludes my report. (Applause)

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

* * *

**ANNUAL REPORT
RON MINTER
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES
to the
92ND NATIONAL CONVENTION, ORLANDO FLORIDA
AUGUST 10-13, 2013**

National Commander Polzin, National Officers, Distinguished Guests and delegates, it is my pleasure to report to you on the progress we've made in DAV's Voluntary Services Programs.

Each year, DAV and Auxiliary volunteers are called upon for an even greater commitment of their time and talents. Each year, they come through magnificently, not only meeting every new challenge but going well beyond everyone's expectations.

In my submitted report, you'll find statistics totaling the money spent, the hours donated and the number of people who participate in our volunteer effort. These figures can never fully represent the leadership and unselfish assistance provided by State VAVS Chairpersons, Hospital Representatives, Deputies and individual volunteers. No one can put a price on programs like transportation to medical treatment, direct patient care, entertainment and recreational and sporting activities.

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With a group this large and the number of assignments they perform, you can imagine the extensive management effort that's carried out on a local level by 16 State Chairpersons, 140 VAVS Representatives, 144 Deputy Representatives, seven Associate Representatives and three Deputy Associate Representatives.

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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, Allan L. McCroskey, with 144,842 hours.

Division II – The Department of Tennessee, Past Department Commander, Doug Shepherd, with 15,056 hours.

Division III – The Department of Alabama, Past Department Commander, Charles B. Fisher, with 25,129 hours.

Division IV – The Department of Connecticut, Past Department Commander, Wilfred Wheeler, with 9,560 hours.

Division V – The Department of North Dakota, Past Department Commander, Richard Krajewski, with 2,051 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank recently-retired Laura Balun, who until recently led the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program. Her staff, and the VAVS leadership team across the nation are owed a debt of gratitude from our organization.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also mention our national leaders and a few other key supporters including The Columbia Trust, National Service Foundation, DAV Auxiliary and Charitable Service Trust. 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.

I thank everyone here for your support and for recognizing the sacrifices of our nation's heroes through your continued service.

Thank you. This concludes my report.

(The following written annual report was submitted by Joseph A. Violante, National Legislative Director:)

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**ANNUAL REPORT of the
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
for 2012-2013 by
JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
for presentation to THE 92ND NATIONAL CONVENTION
Orlando, Florida
August 10-13, 2013**

NATIONAL COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

Before beginning my legislative report to you, I want to pause to recognize the fabulous career of our Past National Adjutant and Chief Executive Officer, and our mentor, Art Wilson.

Art has retired after 47 years of creative, innovative work at DAV. In so many ways in his leadership positions at DAV, Art contributed to the passage of some of the most important legislation affecting veterans and their families since the end of the War in Vietnam, including laws that advanced VA ambulatory, primary and specialty care services; established hundreds of new VA community-based outpatient clinics and Vet Centers to bring VA care closer to home; and constructed new or replacement VA hospital and clinic facilities in every corner of the country.

He led our charge to bring greater government financial resources to VA, in both health care and benefits, and helped us get Congress to enact legislation into law that brought major new programs to VA in mental health, women's health, caregiver supports and services, advance appropriations for VA health care, and other accomplishments too numerous to mention in any detail.

Under Art's visionary guidance, DAV was given a multi-million dollar grant by a private organization that launched our award-winning "Stand Up for Veterans" campaign in 2006 to elevate care for women, improve VA mental health, authorize advance appropriations, and create family caregiver support programs at VA.

Art's leadership gave us the backing, encouragement, vision and sure knowledge that the power of DAV's thriving membership would help me and my staff get the job done for injured and wounded veterans. With his help and yours, DAV did it, and millions of wounded, ill, and injured veterans and their families have benefited.

Also it's important to note Art not only led DAV in its current inter-generational leadership transition, but he spearheaded our most recent effort to re-brand DAV with a contemporary motto, new language, a bold color scheme and new symbols. This DAV internal "re-fresh" effort is aimed at making us more attractive to younger generations of veterans but still respects the traditions and culture of DAV's rich past.

Art's shoes are going to be hard if not impossible to fill, but I believe the National Commander made the right choice in selecting Marc Burgess as our new National Adjutant and

Chief Executive Officer. Marc, like many of our staff and NSOs, joined DAV as a young disabled veteran.

Marc went through VA Vocational Rehabilitation, trained as a DAV National Service Officer, worked that job in an outstanding manner for years, and was promoted to Supervisory National Service Officer and later Area Supervisor for DAV. Three years ago, Marc was selected as our National Headquarters Executive Director.

In his new role, Marc and Barry Jesinoski, our National Service and Legislative Headquarters Executive Director, have become an effective team of young, enthusiastic executives and have been pushing, and frankly sometimes pulling, DAV into the future with them.

Marc's promotion to National Adjutant and CEO is but the latest signal that DAV is determined to redouble its efforts to provide effective services and representation to our older veteran generations, while reaching out assertively to our newest wartime veterans to show them the welcoming place that is DAV, and one that you know so well. This bodes well for the future of DAV and the important work we do.

On behalf of the DAV Legislative staff, my heartiest congratulations and deepest thanks to Art on the occasion of his well-earned retirement, and to Marc as he begins his rewarding journey at the helm of the DAV.

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 National Convention, the DAV Legislative staff testified at 16 Congressional hearings, covering 87 bills and draft measures, as well as myriad other issues. Below is a summary of all of these hearings.

On September 14, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health regarding VA's purchased health care programs.

On December 4, 2012, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning veterans' military and VA records and how they are being transferred to digital files.

On February 26, 2013, DAV National Commander Larry Polzin testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to present DAV's legislative agenda for the year.

On March 13, 2013, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA's) claims processing transformation efforts.

On March 20, 2013, DAV submitted testimony for the record of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning the mental health needs of veterans.

On April 11, 2013, DAV testified on behalf of the Independent Budget, before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

On April 15, 2013, DAV submitted testimony for the record on behalf of the Independent Budget to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

On April 16, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning eight pieces of pending legislation.

On June 12, 2013, DAV testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee concerning 38 pieces of pending legislation.

On June 18, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning the claims process.

On June 28, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs concerning 10 pieces of pending legislation.

On July 9, 2013, DAV testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health concerning five pieces of pending legislation.

Enacted Legislation

Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012

On August 6, 2012, H.R. 1627, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, was enacted into law. This bill provides hospital care and medical services for veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, between 1957 and 1987.

A veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for not fewer than 30 days during the period beginning on January 1, 1957, and ending on December 31, 1987, is eligible for hospital care and medical services for a number of illnesses or conditions, unless there is not sufficient medical evidence to conclude that the illness is service connected.

Some of the diseases included in the list are esophageal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, and leukemia. You can read the full text of the legislation here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr1627enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr1627enr.pdf>.

The legislation also provides hospital care and medical services for family members of such veterans, if the family member, including unborn children, who resided on base for 30 days or more, during the period specified above.

This comprehensive legislation also covers many other issues of benefit to disabled veterans:

- Requires VA to ensure each individualized rehabilitation and reintegration plan for veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) includes the goal of maximizing the individual's independence and quality of life, and improving such veterans' behavioral and mental health functioning.
- Requires the inclusion of rehabilitative services in a VA comprehensive program of long-term care for veterans with TBI.
- Temporarily expands eligibility for specially adapted housing (SAH) for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty with ambulating.
- Expands eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for veterans with vision impairment.
- Removes assistance provided for Temporary Residence Assistance (TRA) from lifetime total benefit for SAH grant eligibility.
- Increases amounts of TRA for permanent and totally disabled veterans from \$14,000 to \$28,000 and provides for annual cost-of-living increases.
- Extends eligibility for VA Home Loan guaranty benefit to surviving spouses of veterans whose deaths were not service connected, but whose service-connected disabilities were permanent and total for 10 years prior to death.
- Waives loan fee for individuals with disability ratings issued during pre-discharge programs.
- Automatically waives agency of original jurisdiction (AOJ) review of new evidence by the Board of Veterans' Appeals unless it is requested that the AOJ review the evidence first.
- Authorizes retroactive effective date for awards of disability compensation, up to one year prior to the receipt of the application based on the facts, in connection with claims that are fully developed at submittal.

- Combines amount of education benefits up to 81 months for those who receive both Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance (Chapter 35) and other education assistance.
- Requires the Secretary to provide a plan for regular assessment of skills and competencies of VBA employees who handle processing of disability claims, to include training, testing, and appropriate personnel action for unsatisfactory improvement.
- Allows VA to waive copays for VA telehealth and telemedicine.
- For only three years, VA would be allowed to pay beneficiary travel to veterans traveling to and from Vet Centers to receive their services.
- Reinforces VA's requirement to document, track and control incidence of sexual assaults that occur on the Department's grounds and properties.
- Requires VA to implement a tele-consultation program to assess mental health and TBI at facilities that are unable to provide such assessments without utilizing contract or fee-basis care.
- Allows the use of service dogs on VA property that have been trained by accredited entities.
- Establishes the authority for VA to form and operate from one to five new "Centers of Excellence for Rural Health Research, Education, and Clinical Activities," to organize resources and concentrate energy to solve myriad issues of VA health care in rural and remote areas.
- Extends for an additional year to September 30, 2013, copayment requirements of \$10 for every day a veteran receives hospital care and \$5 for every day the veteran receives nursing home care.
- Extends for an additional year to October 1, 2013, VA's authority to collect from a veteran's health insurance for treatment of a non-service-connected disability.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment Approved by the President

On November 27, 2012, the President approved legislation to grant a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in VA compensation payments to wounded, injured and ill veterans, their dependents and survivors. The law became effective on January 1, 2013.

The COLA is 1.7%, rounded down to the nearest whole dollar. As you know, we strongly support realistic COLA payments that keep pace with inflation, but we disagree with the rounding-down policy because it is a tax on disabled veterans and their survivors, those who can least afford more taxes.

Key Legislative Initiatives

Since the end of the second session of the 112th Congress and beginning of first session of the 113th Congress, my staff and I have held dozens of meetings with members of the House and Senate and their staffs, to educate them about DAV and our legislative priorities.

We have particularly focused on the new members of Congress and the Senate who were elected in 2012, and 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.

On January 31, 2013, DAV participated and spoke at a news conference sponsored by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, to express DAV's opposition to adoption of the so-called "chained CPI," as a basis for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to veterans' disability compensation payments, and to call for more realistic COLAs for wounded, injured and ill veterans.

In February 2013, the Independent Budget (IB) for FY 2014 was released. The four co-authoring organizations of the IB, DAV, AMVETS, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, have worked in collaboration for 27 years to honor veterans and their service to our nation.

Throughout the year, each organization works collaboratively to identify and address legislative and policy issues that collectively affect the organizations' memberships, the broader veterans' community, the work of the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Veterans Health Administration and the National Cemetery Administration, always with an eye to protecting and enhancing the federal benefits veterans have earned and deserve.

The IB also presents our carefully developed estimates of adequate funding needed to ensure that VA, the Department of Labor and the Federal Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims are sufficiently funded to ensure protection and enhancement of veterans' benefits and services.

On April 9, 2013, DAV, VFW, and the American Legion met with Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders to discuss our collective views on VA's transitioning to an electronic claims process.

On April 15, 2013, DAV, VFW, PVA, the Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America met with House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Mike Michaud to discuss the issues the Committee would examine over the course of the year.

On April 16, 2013, DAV participated in a veterans organizations roundtable hosted by Chairman Jeff Miller of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, to discuss DAV's national legislative and oversight priorities within the jurisdiction of the committee. Also in attendance were House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan. Numerous other members of the Veterans Committee attended this roundtable.

On April 25, 2013, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi held her veterans' roundtable in which the DAV participated. This roundtable included the leadership of important House committees, including the Appropriations Committee, Armed Services Committee, Budget Committee, Military Construction and VA Appropriations Subcommittee and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

On April 25, 2013, DAV, VFW, and the Legion met with Chairman Miller to discuss our collective views on VA's transformation progress and to support VA's initiatives, including a paperless claims process, better training for claims adjudicators, quality review teams at all VA Regional Offices, and other means to reduce the backlog.

On May 17, 2013, DAV participated in a bipartisan roundtable, hosted by Chairman Jeff Miller. This roundtable included outside groups, such as insurance companies and VA, and focused on potential solutions to the claims backlog.

On June 3, 2013, DAV, VFW, and the Legion met with Chairman Sanders on issues affecting VA's claims backlog and potential solutions.

The DAV legislative staff has been actively involved with members of Congress and their staff on a weekly basis to discuss the VA's claims backlog, possible solutions and pending or draft legislation intended to resolve the backlog in VA's compensation claims.

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.

Completing the Transformation of the Veterans Benefits Claims Processing System

The problems plaguing the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) claims processing system for disability compensation are well known: the number of claims filed each year is growing, the complexity of claims filed is increasing, the backlog of claims pending is staggering, and the accuracy of claims decisions remains far too low. Although VBA has processed

record numbers of claims in recent years – more than a million claims last year – the number of new claims being filed has risen even faster, and that created today's enormous backlog.

Recognizing that its infrastructure was outdated and ineffective, and that a rising workload could no longer be managed, VBA leadership in 2010 determined that it would be necessary to completely and comprehensively rebuild and modernize its claims infrastructure and processes. Establishing the goal of zero claims pending more than 125 days, and all claims completed to a 98 percent degree of accuracy standard, and VBA outlined a five -year strategy to achieve that goal.

At the outset, VBA made a critical decision to reach out and partner with DAV and other VSOs accredited to represent veterans in the claims process. Because of our experience and success in representing more than 250,000 veterans each year, VBA recognized that close collaboration would not only reduce its workload, but also increase the quality of its work.

In the past three years, we have been consulted on dozens of initiatives proposed by VBA, including fully developed claims (FDCs), disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs), the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), and the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP) to name a few.

VBA's transformation efforts have been focused in three areas: people, process and technology. The most prominent transformation element has been the development and deployment of VBMS to all VA Regional Offices (VAROs), recently completed in June. Although it will continue to have new functionality added on a regular basis, VBMS is already being used to create electronic claims files and manage workflow during claims processing.

DAV has been regularly consulted, and many of our recommendations have been incorporated, particularly those focused on the vital role VSO service officers play in the claims process. Although there have been obstacles to overcome in providing us with full access to VBMS, we will continue to work with VBA to ensure that veterans are fully represented in this new digital environment.

DAV is partnering with VBA to encourage as many claimants as possible to file electronically, either through e-Benefits, or with a DAV National Service Officer (NSO) who can file through the SEP. For those who previously filed claims on paper, or those who file electronic claims but also have existing paper claims files, VBA will convert those documents into electronic files for fully digital processing in VBMS.

We had long called for VBA to commit to a fully paperless system which may require more upfront investment, but in the long run it will pay dividends for VBA, but more importantly, for veterans. DAV will continue working with VBA and Congress to ensure that the Appeals Management Center, the Board of Veterans Appeals, and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims also come online with VBMS to create an end-to-end digital claims process.

Equally important as VBMS is the new Transformation Organizational Model (TOM) developed over the past few years and now deployed at every VARO. VBA's traditional triage function has been replaced with a new Intake Processing Center that puts an experienced Veterans Service Representative at the front end of the process to divide claims along three separate "lanes:" Express, Core, and Special Ops.

The Express lane is for simpler claims, such as fully developed claims, claims with one or two contentions, etc. The Special Ops lane is for more difficult claims, such as those with eight or more contentions and other complex claims, such as for traumatic brain injury and special monthly compensation.

The Core lane processes the balance of claims involving three to seven contentions, upwards of 60 percent of all claims processed. While the new TOM is showing some early and positive improvements, VBA must not put more resources and personnel in the Express lanes

solely to generate greater production and artificially lower the pending backlog of claims, forcing longer delays for veterans with more complex claims.

Of course, even with new technology and processes, it is ultimately the people who must make the system work properly. With so much national attention now directed at eliminating the backlog, there is tremendous pressure on VBA employees to meet production goals even if it is to the detriment of accuracy.

Such an approach might lower the backlog temporarily, but bad decisions lead to appeals, re-filed claims and veterans continuing to wait for their earned benefits. To change this cultural norm, VBA leadership and management must change how they measure and reward performance so accuracy and quality are at least as important to success as production.

To develop a lasting culture of quality, VBA should increase the quality of and hours devoted to annual training for all employees, coaches and managers, followed by regular testing. One of the more hopeful signs of culture change over the past year at VBA was the creation of full-time quality review teams (QRTs) at every regional office.

In the first half of 2013 VBA completed the implementation of its new organizational model (TOM) and IT system (VBMS), and there are some early indications that progress is being made. In June 2012, there were over 900,000 claims awaiting decisions, about 600,000 pending longer than 125 days. The number of claims pending on June 24 had dropped to approximately 802,000, and the number pending over 125 days has fallen to approximately 524,000 claims.

More important than the number of claims processed is the number of claims processed correctly. The VBA quality assurance program, known as the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR), shows that over the most recently reported 12-month period through the end of April 2013, rating claims accuracy was 87 percent, up from 86 percent a year earlier.

In the last three months measured (February, March, April), the STAR accuracy measure was almost 89 percent, continuing an upward trend. There is still a long way to go if VA is to achieve its established goal of having all claims completed within 125 days at 98 percent accuracy, but the recent progress is a positive sign that VBA is on the right track. While it is still too early to judge whether VBA will ultimately be completely successful in reaching its goals, there has been sufficient progress to merit continued support of the current transformation efforts.

Throughout the transformation process, DAV's National Service staff has collaborated closely with VBA, providing direct input into the design of VBMS, SEP, FDC, DBQs and other key initiatives. Over the past year, DAV's Legislative staff also continued its advocacy by participating in meetings and roundtables with VBA officials, as well as presenting numerous testimonies before the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees to promote our core goals for reforming the claims processing system. Building upon this success, DAV will urge Congress and VBA over the next year to:

- Increase the quality and hours devoted to annual training, strengthen certification examinations, and in consultation with labor representatives, develop accountability measures for employees who repeatedly fail to pass the exams.
- Change how VBA measures and rewards performance at every level in order to create a culture focused on quality and accuracy rather than speed and production.
- Encourage the use of private medical evidence by releasing disability benefits questionnaires for medical opinions and post-traumatic stress syndrome claims.
- Pass legislation requiring VA to give due deference to private medical evidence that is competent, credible, probative, and otherwise adequate for rating purposes.
- Faithfully implement sections 504 and 505 of P.L. 112-154 as Congress intended in order to protect veterans' rights during the claims process.

- Ensure that simplified notification letters or any other automated rating processes provide sufficient and specific information to inform veterans and their advocates about the reasons and bases for rating decisions.
- Ensure that sufficient funding is provided to complete the development and implementation of the Veterans Benefits Management System, as well as the digital conversion of all active paper claims files.

DAV will continue working closely with VBA, Congress and our VSO colleagues to complete this essential transformation while continuing to ensure that this new claims-processing system remains focused on deciding each claim correctly the first time.

DAV 2013 Mid-Winter Conference

The DAV Mid-Winter Conference held February 24-27, 2013, 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, 2013, the focal point of the conference was National Commander Larry A. Polzin'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 Polzin 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 2014 Mid-Winter Conference, February 23-26, 2014.

Conclusion

In the upcoming year, we will deal with VA-related benefits and health issues from a position of strength and a devotion to purpose. DAV will continue to lead the way in helping solve the complex problems that have plagued the VA benefits claims process to ensure that all wounded, injured and ill veterans receive the full range of benefits they have earned through their service, and in a timely manner.

We will also work to ensure that the health, benefits, transition assistance, education, insurance and other provisions from Public Law 112-154, the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, are implemented fully and faithfully.

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 of our membership.

We need your active participation and dedication to help us achieve our goals. We need you to Stand Up for Veterans. If we don't, then who will? If you haven't already done so, I would strongly encourage you to sign up for the DAV Commander's Action Network (DAV CAN) on the DAV website, www.dav.org. This will ensure that you receive up-to-date alerts on important issues and will gain an 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. I call upon you to continue engaging with us, Congress, and the Administration in fulfilling our organizational mission of fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

* * *

(The following written annual report was submitted by Garry J. Augustine, National Service Director:)

* * *

ANNUAL REPORT
Garry J. Augustine
NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR
to the DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
92nd NATIONAL CONVENTION
August 10 – August 13, 2013

“Transformation”

The one unchangeable certainty is that nothing is certain or unchangeable ~ President John F. Kennedy

It is my sincere pleasure as National Service Director to present to the delegates my report on the continued success of the National Service Department. This annual report provides details about the DAV National Service Programs during 2012. Since the 1920's, DAV has long understood and has laid the foundation for establishing a strong voice to advocate for the rights, and interests of injured and ill veterans and their dependents across all eras and generations. With this being said, President Herbert Hoover once stated, "The words without action assassinate the idealism." Through our commitment and dedication, our words have instilled both change and action throughout 2012, and we will continue to do so for however long our services are needed by 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. As such, we have been a vital voice in addressing concerns with the VAs Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP) by not only participating in the initial development of these programs, but by being involved in the test phases before release of these products nationwide.

Our unique understanding, from the perspective of experienced veterans that have been through the VA adjudicative process and as advocates who have represented clients before both state and federal governments has aided the Department of Veterans Affairs in developing technological advances which will greatly benefit veterans, and service men and women alike. The VBMS and SEP not only have the potential of reducing the amount of time a veteran will have to wait for a decision to be rendered on a claim, but will provide today's heroes opportunities which have not been possible in the past. This cutting-edge technology is providing our defenders of freedom with opportunities such as applying for benefits online, accessing VA payment history, checking on the status of a pending Compensation and Pension claim and much more.

Throughout DAV's history, we have continually adapted to the ever-changing needs of our nation's heroes, their dependents and survivors. As our business practices continue to evolve based upon the rapidly changing advancements in technology, we will do everything possible

to ensure all of our country's injured and ill veterans and 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 speak toward a few of our 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 270 National Service Officers (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.

Our heroes need not be members to take advantage of our assistance, which is provided free of charge. With outlays of \$45,034,562.36 in 2012, these direct services make up the largest item in our budget for program activities. Between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2012, our NSOs and TSOs, who have defended the American way of life, represented nearly a quarter million veterans and their families in their claims for VA benefits, obtaining for them nearly \$5.2 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) is the highest appellate level within the VA responsible for the final decision concerning entitlement to veterans' benefits. In 2012, the BVA decided 44,300 cases in which more than 96 percent of the claims before the board involve compensation issues. Our highly skilled National Appeals Officers serve appellants in the preparation of written briefs for BVA review and conduct formal hearings before Veterans' Law Judges. We maintain the largest staff of any advocacy group, representing more than 31 percent of all cases decided by the BVA in 2012. Approximately 76 percent 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. Through the DAV National Appeals Office, in 2012, these pro bono attorneys extended an offer of free representation before the veteran's court in 1,253 appeals, which were denied by the BVA, and provided personal representation at the Court in almost 1,060 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 3,750 cases and provided free representation before the court in approximately 2,260 cases.

The substantial growth of this program would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of two top-notch law firms – Finnegan Henderson of Washington, D.C., and Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick of Providence, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C. Robert Chisholm (of the Chisholm firm) and Ron Smith (of Finnegan) are two of the nation's most accomplished members of the veterans bar, and DAV is 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 appealed cases.

TRANSITION SERVICE PROGRAM

For the defenders of freedom making the all-important transition back into civilian life, DAV participates in Transition Assistance and Transition Goals Planning Success (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 2,760 formal presentations to 63,215 transitioning service men and women. During that same time they filed 18,214 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 approximately \$1.95 million to this program in 2012.

MOBILE SERVICE OFFICE PROGRAM

The Mobile Service Office Program continues to reach out to veterans in their own communities. Not all veterans are willing or able to visit a DAV office due to distance, transportation, health or other reasons. By literally putting our service offices on the road, assisting veterans where they live, DAV is increasing their 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 2012, our MSOs traveled more than 102,288 miles, visiting 872 cities and towns. Our NSOs interviewed 17,352 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 2012, the MSOs participated in 183 days of activities for 164 individual Harley-Davidson dealerships as part of this program, compared to 155 dealerships in 2011, reflecting a 6 percent increase in Harley-Davidson dealership participation. Nearly \$857,000 was expended for the Mobile Service Office program in 2012.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The National Service Department has the cooperation, support and assistance of Department and Chapter Service Officers across the country. Each receives the training and information necessary to assist those we serve. Our Department and Chapter Service Officer Certification Training Program guarantees the vitality and growth of our local service programs. This provides an environment where our Hospital Service Coordinators, Department and Chapter Service Officers and volunteers work together for the common goal of service to our defenders of freedom. In 2012, DAV trained and certified 1,956 Department and Chapter Service Officers in 38 states.

During 2012, we conducted 29 Information Seminars at various Chapters across the country, with 2,959 individuals in attendance. These Information Seminars provide the opportunity for veterans to discuss VA benefits with our NSOs in their own community, giving Chapters an opportunity to recruit new members and encourage their involvement.

Since 2006, DAV NSOs have offered services at other community-based events, including participation with state and county fairs, air shows, Major League Baseball, the National Football League and NASCAR.

WOMEN VETERANS

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 that they have fully earned. As a consequence VA at all levels is experiencing a large influx of new women veterans, including those of childbearing age, 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 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 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 54 women now serving in our NSO and TSO corps.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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

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, 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's cities, towns and rural areas for many years. Since the early 1980s, homelessness has been a regular focus of media interest and a topic of policy debate and remains one of America's most complicated and important social issues.

DAV's Homeless Veterans Initiative 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 to 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.

This year we only had one retirement from our National Service Officer Corps but it was undeniably a significant one. After 47 years of service to our organization, Arthur H. Wilson announced his retirement effective June 1, 2013. In addition to his many contributions to include those as a National Service Officer, most recently Art served for 19 years as the National Adjutant. Art retired with a legacy of commitment and dedication of serving veterans, service members and survivors. His daily presence will be greatly missed but his contributions as a leader in providing direction to our organization will be seen for many years. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many sacrifices that Art has made in his 47 years with DAV. We wish him well in his retirement and know that we will continue to see him at future events. We take great relief in knowing we will be able to seek his counsel well into the future.

DEATHS

We call to remembrance our National Service Officers whose demise occurred 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 helped improve the quality of life for scores of injured and ill veterans, their dependents and survivors. We shall recall and preserve the legacy of the following departed NSOs: James Bennett, William Gearhart, Richard Krueger, Paul Majo, John Regan, and Bruce Burgess.

CONCLUSION

At this time, I wish to recognize the leadership, professionalism and personal sacrifices made by our National Commander Larry Polzin and all of the National Line Officers; members of the National Executive Committee; the National Finance Committee; and the Officers and Board of Directors for both the National Service Foundation and Charitable Service Trust. I extend my thanks and appreciation and salute you for a job well done.

I thank National Adjutant Marc Burgess and recently retired National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson for their continued leadership, vision and direction. Our success is a reflection of their tireless efforts to inspire and ensure quality and professionalism in all that 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 Barry Jesinoski. The Service Department has gained a leader who has been involved in the service side of our organization for many years, and his knowledge and passion for the National Service Program have proved to strengthen everything that we have done this past year as a result of his support and contributions.

Appreciation is extended to the National Service Department staff members with whom I have the pleasure of working: Deputy National Service Director Jim Marszalek; Assistant National Service Directors, Scott Trimarchi, Chad Moos and John Maki; and Associate National Service Director Justin Hart; and our staff of devoted Service Support Specialists, Emily Hall, Amanda Evans and Angela D'Aguilar-Kauffin.

Our successes are not single-handed. We receive the dedicated and capable assistance and cooperation of the DAV Auxiliary, Department and Chapter Service Officers, and Hospital Service Coordinators. Thank you all for your support.

Last and most important of all, I wish to thank our loyal and dedicated corps of National Service Officers, Transition Service Officers and support staff members who advocate on behalf of America's injured and ill veterans, and their families. The National Service Department will continue to do everything possible 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 the service.

* * *

Office: National Totals			Office: Phoenix, Arizona			Office: Sacramento, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	90,075		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,736		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	97	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	55,862		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,063		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	96	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	88,026		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,959		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	92	
4. PENSION	3,563		4. PENSION	73		4. PENSION	2	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5,261		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	2		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	59,606		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,418		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	3,085		8. MISCELLANEOUS	21		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2,751		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	93		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	153		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	22		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	1,068		12. DEATH PENSION	6		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	5		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1,108		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	32		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	11		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	310,601		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,433		16. TOTAL AWARDS	293	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$296,244,891.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,728,443.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$478,048.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$3,351,536,753.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$114,681,024.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$13,937,106.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$3,647,781,644.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$121,407,467.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$14,415,154.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	328,762		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,494		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,285	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	116,946		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,289		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,030	
22. INTERVIEWS	188,823		22. INTERVIEWS	7,216		22. INTERVIEWS	1,927	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	290,482		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,281		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	969	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	49,349		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	23		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	39	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	20		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	225,308		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,031		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,386	
27. MEMBERSHIP	8,297		27. MEMBERSHIP	176		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	1790		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	58016		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Montgomery, Alabama			Office: Little Rock, Arkansas			Office: Oakland, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,972		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,248		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,341	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,552		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,422		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,660	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,256		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,903		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,916	
4. PENSION	108		4. PENSION	69		4. PENSION	57	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	137		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	65		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	38	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,306		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	627		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,356	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	88		8. MISCELLANEOUS	67		8. MISCELLANEOUS	45	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	51		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	53		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	70	
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	26		12. DEATH PENSION	17		12. DEATH PENSION	12	
13. INSURANCE	1		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	30		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	67	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,507		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,501		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,562	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,210,209.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,430,329.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,122,092.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$115,153,648.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$78,785,025.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$118,825,663.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$122,363,857.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$84,215,354.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$125,947,755.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,628		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,703		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,106	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,077		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	839		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,525	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,496		22. INTERVIEWS	4,258		22. INTERVIEWS	10,155	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,184		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,559		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,090	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,007	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,787		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,179		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,444	
27. MEMBERSHIP	145		27. MEMBERSHIP	43		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	105	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	1395	

Office: Anchorage, Alaska			Office: Los Angeles, California			Office: San Diego, California		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	367		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,394		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,639	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	243		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	743		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,714	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	229		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,046		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,513	
4. PENSION	4		4. PENSION	92		4. PENSION	47	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	74		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	46	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	499		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	3,850		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	220	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	8		8. MISCELLANEOUS	6	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	17		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	26		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	47	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	16	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	3		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1	
12. DEATH PENSION	1		12. DEATH PENSION	5		12. DEATH PENSION	9	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	14		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	8		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,376		16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,251		16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,271	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$716,834.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,195,110.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,876,833.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$16,476,883.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$107,247,449.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$158,501,218.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$17,193,717.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$116,442,559.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$167,378,051.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,341		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,373		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	11,900	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	117		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,466		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,997	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,195		22. INTERVIEWS	5,035		22. INTERVIEWS	7,338	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,278		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,759		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	10,878	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,672		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	16,032	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,183		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,373		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,839	
27. MEMBERSHIP	16		27. MEMBERSHIP	293		27. MEMBERSHIP	11	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	41		28. BRIEFINGS	438	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	1145		29. PARTICIPANTS	21886	

Office: Denver, Colorado

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,615
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,333
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,482
4. PENSION	63
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	63
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,350
8. MISCELLANEOUS	90
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	68
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	19
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	7
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	19
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,115
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,924,143.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$71,329,102.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$76,253,245.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,130
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	5,160
22. INTERVIEWS	6,847
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,766
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,398
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	8,765
27. MEMBERSHIP	89
28. BRIEFINGS	23
29. PARTICIPANTS	599

Office: Washington, D.C.

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	36
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	68
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	51
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5
8. MISCELLANEOUS	7
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	2
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	172
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$201,258.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$3,602,487.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$3,803,745.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,268
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	507
22. INTERVIEWS	2,768
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,299
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,799
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,267
27. MEMBERSHIP	230
28. BRIEFINGS	76
29. PARTICIPANTS	991

Office: Judicial Appeals

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	0
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	0
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1
22. INTERVIEWS	1
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Newington, Connecticut

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,068
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	630
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	971
4. PENSION	20
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	40
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	271
8. MISCELLANEOUS	13
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	18
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	13
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,048
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,746,583.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$44,691,945.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$47,438,528.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,327
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,445
22. INTERVIEWS	2,630
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,139
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,220
27. MEMBERSHIP	147
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Board of Veterans Appeals

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	25
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	31
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	18
4. PENSION	1
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	3
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	81
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$67,454.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$1,426,429.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$1,493,883.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	11,744
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	487
22. INTERVIEWS	718
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	971
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	6
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,062
27. MEMBERSHIP	7
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: St. Petersburg, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	5,560
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	4,040
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	6,700
4. PENSION	218
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	2,237
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5,210
8. MISCELLANEOUS	674
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	213
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	236
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	79
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	25,167
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$18,861,441.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$324,307,621.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$343,169,062.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	17,377
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	7,487
22. INTERVIEWS	5,628
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	15,851
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,600
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	15,667
27. MEMBERSHIP	1,777
28. BRIEFINGS	15
29. PARTICIPANTS	463

Office: Wilmington, Delaware

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	144
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	133
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	140
4. PENSION	4
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	21
8. MISCELLANEOUS	7
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	6
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	461
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$424,311.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,633,859.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$8,058,170.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,841
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,158
22. INTERVIEWS	2,070
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,460
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,346
27. MEMBERSHIP	126
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: DC Nat'l Svc & Legis Hqtrs.

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0
4. PENSION	0
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	0
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0
22. INTERVIEWS	20
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	0
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	0
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Orlando, Florida

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	294
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	175
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	311
4. PENSION	5
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	15
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0
8. MISCELLANEOUS	1
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	3
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	804
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$714,922.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$10,688,004.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$11,402,926.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	859
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	647
22. INTERVIEWS	792
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	858
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	817
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: West Palm Beach, Florida			Office: Chicago, Illinois			Office: Wichita, Kansas		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	23		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	910		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	770	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	52		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	715		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	474	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	28		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,192		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	911	
4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	30	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	3		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	77		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	46	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	530		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	98	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	25		8. MISCELLANEOUS	6	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	39		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	39	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	12	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	15		12. DEATH PENSION	15	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	33	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	106		16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,583		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,434	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$92,900.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,485,622.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,395,805.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$1,339,712.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	-\$1,329,363.032		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$37,998,920.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$1,432,612.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	-\$1,325,877.410		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$40,394,725.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	171		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,037		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,218	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	317		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,620		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	851	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,459		22. INTERVIEWS	3,600		22. INTERVIEWS	1,688	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	168		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	444		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,123	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	32		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	7	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	4	
26. NEW CLAIMS	642		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,679		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,670	
27. MEMBERSHIP	29		27. MEMBERSHIP	138		27. MEMBERSHIP	31	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	6		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	191		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Atlanta, Georgia			Office: Indianapolis, Indiana			Office: Louisville, Kentucky		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,468		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,009		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,845	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,890		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	920		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	807	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,769		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,064		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,921	
4. PENSION	71		4. PENSION	127		4. PENSION	100	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	61		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	63	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	2,138		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	762		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	956	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	89		8. MISCELLANEOUS	110		8. MISCELLANEOUS	90	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	32		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	69		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	52	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	43	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1	
12. DEATH PENSION	6		12. DEATH PENSION	71		12. DEATH PENSION	34	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	11		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,507		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,170		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,927	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,133,716.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,906,912.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,068,846.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$145,934,190.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$66,371,805.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$83,665,516.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$155,067,906.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$70,278,717.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$90,734,362.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,178		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,649		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,345	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,789		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,121		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,869	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,794		22. INTERVIEWS	1,898		22. INTERVIEWS	1,081	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,383		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,307		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,944	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,916		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1,085	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,474		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,563		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,620	
27. MEMBERSHIP	1		27. MEMBERSHIP	72		27. MEMBERSHIP	129	
28. BRIEFINGS	65		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	2122		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Boise, Idaho			Office: Des Moines, Iowa			Office: New Orleans, Louisiana		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	663		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	693		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	696	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	639		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	500		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	403	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	794		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	395		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,319	
4. PENSION	34		4. PENSION	66		4. PENSION	27	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	17		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	29		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	65	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	504		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	238		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	615	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14		8. MISCELLANEOUS	18		8. MISCELLANEOUS	92	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	33		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	40		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	18	
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	3		12. DEATH PENSION	21		12. DEATH PENSION	7	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	29		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	27		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,732		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,027		16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,255	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,086,290.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,781,406.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,556,985.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$29,142,811.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$33,110,302.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$54,646,592.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$31,229,101.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$34,891,708.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$58,203,577.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,015		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,213		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,425	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	537		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	780		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,514	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,429		22. INTERVIEWS	673		22. INTERVIEWS	2,472	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,843		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,109		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,220	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	24		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	663	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,159		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,769		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,376	
27. MEMBERSHIP	43		27. MEMBERSHIP	89		27. MEMBERSHIP	53	
28. BRIEFINGS	10		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	79	
29. PARTICIPANTS	366		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	558	

Office: Togus, Maine			Office: Boston, Massachusetts			Office: Jackson, Mississippi		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		553	1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		1,976	1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		518
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		481	2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		1,063	2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		433
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		697	3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		1,487	3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		724
4. PENSION		18	4. PENSION		19	4. PENSION		84
5. PENSION MAINTAINED		38	5. PENSION MAINTAINED		31	5. PENSION MAINTAINED		16
6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0	6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0	6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		272	7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		229	7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		373
8. MISCELLANEOUS		38	8. MISCELLANEOUS		31	8. MISCELLANEOUS		0
9. DEATH COMPENSATION		23	9. DEATH COMPENSATION		47	9. DEATH COMPENSATION		25
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS		1	10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS		2	10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS		0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED		0	11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED		0	11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED		0
12. DEATH PENSION		6	12. DEATH PENSION		7	12. DEATH PENSION		24
13. INSURANCE		0	13. INSURANCE		0	13. INSURANCE		0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		5	14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		12	14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		3
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0	15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0	15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0
16. TOTAL AWARDS		2,139	16. TOTAL AWARDS		4,844	16. TOTAL AWARDS		2,200
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,156,964.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,141,482.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,947,507.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$33,082,952.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$101,770,990.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$32,321,461.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$35,219,916.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$106,912,472.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$34,268,968.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,919		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,298		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,322	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	809		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,971		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	594	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,982		22. INTERVIEWS	3,395		22. INTERVIEWS	1,095	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,719		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,750		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,201	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	736	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,633		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,484		26. NEW CLAIMS	916	
27. MEMBERSHIP	288		27. MEMBERSHIP	9		27. MEMBERSHIP	0	
28. BRIEFINGS	2		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	14	
29. PARTICIPANTS	155		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	334	

Office: Baltimore, Maryland			Office: Detroit, Michigan			Office: St. Louis, Missouri		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		1,577	1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		2,241	1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		2,259
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		631	2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		1,697	2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		1,846
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		1,357	3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		2,053	3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		2,634
4. PENSION		34	4. PENSION		303	4. PENSION		163
5. PENSION MAINTAINED		18	5. PENSION MAINTAINED		102	5. PENSION MAINTAINED		111
6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0	6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0	6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		269	7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		388	7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		14,124
8. MISCELLANEOUS		26	8. MISCELLANEOUS		84	8. MISCELLANEOUS		52
9. DEATH COMPENSATION		20	9. DEATH COMPENSATION		158	9. DEATH COMPENSATION		145
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS		2	10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS		7	10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS		0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED		0	11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED		0	11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED		0
12. DEATH PENSION		3	12. DEATH PENSION		81	12. DEATH PENSION		46
13. INSURANCE		0	13. INSURANCE		0	13. INSURANCE		0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		0	14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		32	14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0	15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0	15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0
16. TOTAL AWARDS		3,913	16. TOTAL AWARDS		7,147	16. TOTAL AWARDS		21,408
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,874,290.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,937,672.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$18,798,576.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$72,489,755.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$131,343,285.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$226,429,530.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$76,364,045.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$138,280,957.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$245,228,106.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,385		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,326		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	21,381	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	989		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,852		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,609	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,287		22. INTERVIEWS	2,386		22. INTERVIEWS	2,117	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,237		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,657		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	20,741	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,151		26. NEW CLAIMS	7,248		26. NEW CLAIMS	6,116	
27. MEMBERSHIP	124		27. MEMBERSHIP	174		27. MEMBERSHIP	272	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	2		28. BRIEFINGS	4	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	26		29. PARTICIPANTS	132	

Office: Cold Spring, Kentucky			Office: St. Paul, Minnesota			Office: Fort Harrison, Montana		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		1	1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		1,897	1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS		144
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		1	2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		1,305	2. COMPENSATION INCREASED		136
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		9	3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		2,522	3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED		248
4. PENSION		9	4. PENSION		78	4. PENSION		12
5. PENSION MAINTAINED		0	5. PENSION MAINTAINED		31	5. PENSION MAINTAINED		11
6. SOCIAL SECURITY		2	6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0	6. SOCIAL SECURITY		0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		3	7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		335	7. EDUCATION BENEFITS		7
8. MISCELLANEOUS		3	8. MISCELLANEOUS		24	8. MISCELLANEOUS		3
9. DEATH COMPENSATION		0	9. DEATH COMPENSATION		105	9. DEATH COMPENSATION		12
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		0
12. DEATH PENSION		2	12. DEATH PENSION		43	12. DEATH PENSION		1
13. INSURANCE		0	13. INSURANCE		2	13. INSURANCE		0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		0	14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		89	14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES		1
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		1	15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0	15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS		0
16. TOTAL AWARDS		22	16. TOTAL AWARDS		6,432	16. TOTAL AWARDS		575
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$21,049.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$5,574,572.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$618,239.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$435,458.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$74,383,325.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$8,626,255.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$456,507.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$79,937,897.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,242,492.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,431		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	773	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	0		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,996		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	218	
22. INTERVIEWS	2		22. INTERVIEWS	1,651		22. INTERVIEWS	506	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,133		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	693	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	0		26. NEW CLAIMS	4,266		26. NEW CLAIMS	568	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	276		27. MEMBERSHIP	20	
28. BRIEFINGS	5		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	5		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Lincoln, Nebraska			Office: Manchester, New Hampshire			Office: New York, New York		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	444		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	626		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	815	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	262		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	304		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	304	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	565		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	493		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	890	
4. PENSION	8		4. PENSION	2		4. PENSION	15	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	13		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	31	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	68		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	4		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	17		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	2	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	4		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	2	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,397		16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,433		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,341	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,311,073.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,417,640.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,487,556.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$17,593,484.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$24,889,679.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$48,105,959.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$18,904,557.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$26,307,319.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$50,593,515.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,647		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,693		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,263	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	267		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	563		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,776	
22. INTERVIEWS	495		22. INTERVIEWS	1,750		22. INTERVIEWS	2,267	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,332		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,382		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,021	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	856		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,275		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,559	
27. MEMBERSHIP	59		27. MEMBERSHIP	7		27. MEMBERSHIP	127	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Reno, Nevada			Office: Newark, New Jersey			Office: Albany, New York		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	420		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	707		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	122	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	285		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	835		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	81	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	176		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,110		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	51	
4. PENSION	19		4. PENSION	42		4. PENSION	4	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	11		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	30		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	5	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	95		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	200		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	9		8. MISCELLANEOUS	5		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	15		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	24		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	11	
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	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	5		12. DEATH PENSION	3		12. DEATH PENSION	1	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	3		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,047		16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,960		16. TOTAL AWARDS	276	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$757,684.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,669,731.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$258,518.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$15,604,277.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$42,644,946.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$7,303,315.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$16,361,961.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$45,314,677.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$7,561,833.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,819		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,160		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	17	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	894		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,014		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	364	
22. INTERVIEWS	3,269		22. INTERVIEWS	2,800		22. INTERVIEWS	1,183	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,479		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,906		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	11	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	76		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	5		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,154		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,516		26. NEW CLAIMS	389	
27. MEMBERSHIP	32		27. MEMBERSHIP	428		27. MEMBERSHIP	17	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Las Vegas, Nevada			Office: Albuquerque, New Mexico			Office: Buffalo, New York		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	485		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,791		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	403	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	530		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,285		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	329	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	324		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,123		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	523	
4. PENSION	28		4. PENSION	100		4. PENSION	3	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	94		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	15	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	138		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	512		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	5,472	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8		8. MISCELLANEOUS	30		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	6		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	50		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	5	
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	2		12. DEATH PENSION	15		12. DEATH PENSION	1	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	31		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	5	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,531		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,031		16. TOTAL AWARDS	6,758	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,275,959.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,583,381.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,694,264.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$26,959,283.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$102,842,961.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$78,978,772.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$28,275,222.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$109,426,342.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$87,583,036.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,455		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,264		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	7,376	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	670		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,481		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	439	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,613		22. INTERVIEWS	3,581		22. INTERVIEWS	953	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,311		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	3,969		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,290	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	27		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	10		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,348		26. NEW CLAIMS	2,490		26. NEW CLAIMS	769	
27. MEMBERSHIP	7		27. MEMBERSHIP	167		27. MEMBERSHIP	45	
28. BRIEFINGS	8		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	225		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Syracuse, New York			Office: Cleveland, Ohio			Office: Portland, Oregon		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,671		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	645	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,278		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	418	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	3,146		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	966	
4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	199		4. PENSION	38	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	241		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	37	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,163		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,066	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	179		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	90		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	23	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	7		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	1	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	34		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	13		12. DEATH PENSION	5	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	15		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	12	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	0		16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,036		16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,222	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$8,729,154.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,238,449.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$157,157,360.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$43,805,326.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$165,886,514.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$47,046,775.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	253		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,499		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,905	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	19		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,933		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	823	
22. INTERVIEWS	35		22. INTERVIEWS	1,857		22. INTERVIEWS	1,400	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	245		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	7,945		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,704	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	452		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	37		26. NEW CLAIMS	11,462		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,530	
27. MEMBERSHIP	0		27. MEMBERSHIP	62		27. MEMBERSHIP	77	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	57		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	881		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Winston-Salem, North Carolina			Office: Cincinnati, Ohio			Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	6,218		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,811	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,484		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,616	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,166		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,051	
4. PENSION	33		4. PENSION	0		4. PENSION	73	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	24		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	75	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,072		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	17		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0		8. MISCELLANEOUS	158	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	28		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	68	
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	4		12. DEATH PENSION	0		12. DEATH PENSION	25	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	1	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	7		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	21	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	11,055		16. TOTAL AWARDS	0		16. TOTAL AWARDS	5,987	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,678,012.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,207,924.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$188,811,827.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$123,131,788.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$199,489,839.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$130,339,712.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	12,194		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	34		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,894	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,769		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	517		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,705	
22. INTERVIEWS	2,712		22. INTERVIEWS	541		22. INTERVIEWS	4,040	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	11,692		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	24		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,427	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,474		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	9		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	6,661		26. NEW CLAIMS	855		26. NEW CLAIMS	3,600	
27. MEMBERSHIP	6		27. MEMBERSHIP	5		27. MEMBERSHIP	257	
28. BRIEFINGS	51		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	7474		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Fargo, North Dakota			Office: Muskogee, Oklahoma			Office: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	566		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,865		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	0	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	489		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,539		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	0	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	604		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,268		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0	
4. PENSION	37		4. PENSION	69		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	26		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	94		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	170		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	931		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	0	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	8		8. MISCELLANEOUS	20		8. MISCELLANEOUS	0	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	46		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	98		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	12		12. DEATH PENSION	15		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	1		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	58		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	40		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,016		16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,940		16. TOTAL AWARDS	0	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,768,086.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,966,987.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$0.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$24,269,165.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$152,503,437.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$0.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$26,037,251.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$162,470,424.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$0.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,960		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	9,105		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	134	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	774		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,846		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	85	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,371		22. INTERVIEWS	3,308		22. INTERVIEWS	135	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,829		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,410		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	101	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	1		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	109		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,903		26. NEW CLAIMS	7,116		26. NEW CLAIMS	168	
27. MEMBERSHIP	68		27. MEMBERSHIP	61		27. MEMBERSHIP	3	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	17		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	606		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	

Office: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania			Office: Sioux Falls, South Dakota			Office: Houston, Texas		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	995		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	255		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,700	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	589		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	273		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,251	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	918		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	2,937	
4. PENSION	23		4. PENSION	16		4. PENSION	90	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	56		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	40		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	150	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	168		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	268		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	1,654	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	48		8. MISCELLANEOUS	24		8. MISCELLANEOUS	66	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	21		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	16		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	150	
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	6		12. DEATH PENSION	2		12. DEATH PENSION	48	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	13		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	38	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,796		16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,731		16. TOTAL AWARDS	9,093	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,377,806.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,890,179.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$9,162,122.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$43,838,738.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$23,260,292.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$149,568,651.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$46,216,544.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$25,150,470.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$158,730,773.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,419		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,022		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,624	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,137		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	365		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,857	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,061		22. INTERVIEWS	1,658		22. INTERVIEWS	6,157	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,174		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,905		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,315	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	12	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,866		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,179		26. NEW CLAIMS	5,036	
27. MEMBERSHIP	75		27. MEMBERSHIP	122		27. MEMBERSHIP	111	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0	
Office: Providence, Rhode Island			Office: Nashville, Tennessee			Office: San Antonio, Texas		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	893		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	3,088		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	71	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	397		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	2,329		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	24	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	867		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	4,248		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	0	
4. PENSION	5		4. PENSION	195		4. PENSION	0	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	16		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	103		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	0	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	85		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	337		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	16	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	5		8. MISCELLANEOUS	122		8. MISCELLANEOUS	5	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	10		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	75		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	0	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	5		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	28		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	7	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,280		16. TOTAL AWARDS	10,536		16. TOTAL AWARDS	123	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,066,319.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$10,414,913.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$80,997.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$31,624,610.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$161,674,636.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$3,178,428.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$33,690,929.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$172,089,549.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$3,259,425.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,054		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	10,170		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	845	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,020		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,364		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,562	
22. INTERVIEWS	1,923		22. INTERVIEWS	2,725		22. INTERVIEWS	8,596	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,848		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	9,962		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	395	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	925		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2,262	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,768		26. NEW CLAIMS	7,320		26. NEW CLAIMS	6,281	
27. MEMBERSHIP	190		27. MEMBERSHIP	302		27. MEMBERSHIP	49	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	126	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	1963	
Office: Columbia, South Carolina			Office: Waco, Texas			Office: Salt Lake City, Utah		
1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,248		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	6,037		1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	4,652	
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	863		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	3,894		2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	868	
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,269		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	5,693		3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,550	
4. PENSION	22		4. PENSION	182		4. PENSION	39	
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	126		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	248		5. PENSION MAINTAINED	15	
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0		6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0	
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	433		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	4,569		7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	670	
8. MISCELLANEOUS	6		8. MISCELLANEOUS	288		8. MISCELLANEOUS	2	
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	116		9. DEATH COMPENSATION	19	
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	4		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0		10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	3	
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0		11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0	
12. DEATH PENSION	2		12. DEATH PENSION	38		12. DEATH PENSION	0	
13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	0		13. INSURANCE	10	
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	4		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	85		14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	1	
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0		15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0	
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,996		16. TOTAL AWARDS	21,140		16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,829	
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$4,012,951.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$18,345,811.00		17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$7,285,698.00	
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$65,717,163.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$285,799,398.00		18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$125,780,923.00	
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$69,730,114.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$304,145,207.00		19. FULL AMOUNT	\$133,066,821.00	
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,585		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	24,817		20. VA FILES REVIEWED	8,605	
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,769		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,957		21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	812	
22. INTERVIEWS	4,247		22. INTERVIEWS	2,487		22. INTERVIEWS	2,499	
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,740		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	23,905		23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	8,264	
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	37		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	902		24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0	
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0		25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0	
26. NEW CLAIMS	4,975		26. NEW CLAIMS	9,186		26. NEW CLAIMS	1,552	
27. MEMBERSHIP	509		27. MEMBERSHIP	378		27. MEMBERSHIP	69	
28. BRIEFINGS	0		28. BRIEFINGS	23		28. BRIEFINGS	1	
29. PARTICIPANTS	0		29. PARTICIPANTS	2524		29. PARTICIPANTS	23	

Office: White River Junction, Vermont

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	197
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	68
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	221
4. PENSION	2
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	1
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	521
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$594,349.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$8,954,758.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$9,549,107.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,482
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	593
22. INTERVIEWS	1,589
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,201
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,231
27. MEMBERSHIP	7
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Huntington, West Virginia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	313
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	359
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	450
4. PENSION	4
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	12
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	91
8. MISCELLANEOUS	7
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	9
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	1,246
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$1,388,086.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$20,252,159.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$21,640,245.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,177
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	267
22. INTERVIEWS	745
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,109
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	0
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,019
27. MEMBERSHIP	1
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: San Juan, Puerto Rico

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	591
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	435
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	843
4. PENSION	92
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	147
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	177
8. MISCELLANEOUS	299
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	12
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	32
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	2
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	2,630
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,523,379.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$45,904,341.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$46,427,720.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	2,627
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,330
22. INTERVIEWS	3,776
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	2,027
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	61
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	1,326
27. MEMBERSHIP	2
28. BRIEFINGS	25
29. PARTICIPANTS	205

Office: Roanoke, Virginia

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	1,005
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	702
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	764
4. PENSION	10
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	479
8. MISCELLANEOUS	9
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	13
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	1
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,006
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,824,447.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$46,139,448.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$48,963,895.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	3,981
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	4,886
22. INTERVIEWS	2,532
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	1,109
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,207
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,636
27. MEMBERSHIP	0
28. BRIEFINGS	195
29. PARTICIPANTS	7360

Office: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	784
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	688
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,466
4. PENSION	70
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	51
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	263
8. MISCELLANEOUS	19
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	97
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	6
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	14
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	51
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	3,505
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$3,931,907.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$54,086,371.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$58,018,278.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	5,790
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,333
22. INTERVIEWS	2,682
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	5,615
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	2
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	3,254
27. MEMBERSHIP	101
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

Office: Honolulu, Hawaii

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	563
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	303
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	512
4. PENSION	3
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	4
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	516
8. MISCELLANEOUS	2
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	26
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	1
12. DEATH PENSION	0
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	0
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	1
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,931
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$2,386,553.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$76,553,259.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$78,939,812.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	1,815
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	1,239
22. INTERVIEWS	3,017
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	848
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	3,438
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	0
26. NEW CLAIMS	2,038
27. MEMBERSHIP	11
28. BRIEFINGS	191
29. PARTICIPANTS	2255

Office: Seattle, Washington

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	2,935
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	1,506
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	1,763
4. PENSION	108
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	68
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	832
8. MISCELLANEOUS	97
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	137
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	5
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	23
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	67
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	2
16. TOTAL AWARDS	7,543
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$6,896,122.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$152,442,117.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$159,338,239.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	4,811
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	3,380
22. INTERVIEWS	2,958
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	4,060
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	4,213
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	1
26. NEW CLAIMS	9,483
27. MEMBERSHIP	62
28. BRIEFINGS	221
29. PARTICIPANTS	4132

Office: Cheyenne, Wyoming

1. NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS	380
2. COMPENSATION INCREASED	357
3. COMPENSATION MAINTAINED	343
4. PENSION	17
5. PENSION MAINTAINED	8
6. SOCIAL SECURITY	0
7. EDUCATION BENEFITS	28
8. MISCELLANEOUS	14
9. DEATH COMPENSATION	22
10. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS	0
11. SPECIAL ENTITLEMENTS MAINTAINED	0
12. DEATH PENSION	17
13. INSURANCE	0
14. BURIAL ALLOWANCES	16
15. PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS	0
16. TOTAL AWARDS	1,202
17. TOTAL MONTHLY INCREASES	\$835,992.00
18. TOTAL RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS	\$13,138,616.00
19. FULL AMOUNT	\$13,975,608.00
20. VA FILES REVIEWED	6,781
21. POWER OF ATTORNEYS	2,558
22. INTERVIEWS	5,252
23. RATING BOARD APPEARANCES	6,528
24. MILITARY AFFAIRS	49
25. SOCIAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES	2
26. NEW CLAIMS	5,739
27. MEMBERSHIP	72
28. BRIEFINGS	0
29. PARTICIPANTS	0

ACCEPT DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES' REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thanks, Ron. I will entertain a motion to accept Mr. Minter's report.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: May I have a second.

MR. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MR. PARSETICH: From the State of Montana, Joe Parsetich, would second that motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye. So ordered. I thank everyone here for your support and for – I would like to call on Chairman Brad Barton – Brad Barton – for the report on the Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws. Brad.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRADLEY S. BARTON: Thank you, Comrade Commander. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Come on. You can do better than that. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order for its first business session on August 10th, 2013, by the Committee Advisors, Bradley Barton and Edward Hartman.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Bradley Barton was elected as the chairman and Shawn Wilson was elected as the secretary. This year we were very lucky. There was only one resolution to consider. The Committee recommends the rejection of Resolution Number 134.

Comrade Commander, this completes the first reading of the report of the Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws.

COMMANDER POLZIN: In accordance with Rule 9 it is now time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions – resolutions – you wish to read? Thank you, Brad. We will hear the final report on the Constitution and Bylaws at Tuesday's Business Session. Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you, Comrade Commander.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. I would like to call upon Chairman Albert Church for the report of the Committee on Finances.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE REPORT

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALBERT CHURCH: The report for the National Convention Committee Chairman, Committee on Finance, Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Finance was called to order on August 10th, 2013, by the Committee advisors Joseph Lenhart and Marc Burgess.

The first order of business was election of a Convention Committee chairman and a secretary. Al Church was elected as chairman and Rich Patterson was elected as secretary. There were no resolutions submitted to the Committee and, therefore, none were recommended for adoption.

The Committee then expressed its thanks to the Committee advisors Joseph Lenhart and J. Marc Burgess and Comptroller Anita Blum for their assistance in performing the work of this important Committee.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their service. Comrade Commander, that completes the report on behalf of the Finance Committee. **On behalf of the Finance Committee I move for the adoption of the report and ask that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Commander – National Convention.**

ACCEPT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. You have heard the motion, may I have a second.

MR. THOMAS DEMPSTER: Mic 1. Thomas Dempster, Michigan, I second the motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. The motion carried. I'd like to call upon Chairman Thomas Keller for the report on the Committee of General Resolutions and Membership.

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THOMAS KELLER: Hello, everyone, Tom Keller, Past Department Commander, Department of Ohio. Comrade Commander Polzin, Adjutant Burgess, and delegates, the National Committee on General Resolutions was called to order on August 10th, 2013, by the Committee Advisors Adrian Atizado and Chad Moos.

The first order of business was the election of the Convention chairman and secretary. Tom Keller was elected chairman and Carmen McGinnis was elected secretary.

The Committee reviewed the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you on the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of time I will read only the number and purpose of the resolution in all but two cases.

Resolution 23, support legislation to ensure military retirees receive all benefits they were promised; Resolution 24, seeking the immediate release of all, any and all Americans who may still be held captive from all wars; Resolution 25, support a strong national defense;

Resolution 64, oppose any authorization of use of members of the Armed Forces for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent; 67, condemn public desecration of the flag of the United States; Resolution 68, encourage all disabled veterans to become registered voters and vote;

Resolution 69, support the construction of a courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Resolution 70, support construction of a memorial to commemorate the sacrifices of America's disabled veterans;

Resolution 118, support adequate funding for all VA programs; Resolution 183, support former POW slave labor claims against Japanese firms; Resolution 184, support move to renew prisoner of war/missing in action discussions; Resolution 227, appreciation to the Orlando Hilton for success of the 92nd National Convention; Resolution – what? Did I miss something?

UNIDENTIFIED STAFF MEMBER: You missed 66.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KELLER: Oh, 66. Resolution 66, support joint POW/MIA accounting command commitment and agency funding; and going back here to where I was, 228, appreciation to all who are responsible for the success of the 92nd National Convention;

Resolution 229, appreciation for National Commander Polzin which I will read in a moment. And 230, expressing appreciation for National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. Now, according to tradition I will read the full text of Resolution 229, expressing our organization's appreciation to Commander Polzin.

"WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans National Commander Larry Polzin, a native son of Colorado, served our nation, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1961; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Polzin served as a member of the First Marine Division, First Engineer Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California, at Marine Barracks U.S. Naval Station San Diego, California; and

"WHEREAS, resulting permanent disabilities ended his military career, requiring his early retirement from the Armed Forces in 1966; and

"WHEREAS, Commander Polzin refused to let his injuries prevent him from continuing a life of service and joined DAV National's professional staff as a National Service Officer at the Los Angeles National Service Office in 1972; and

"WHEREAS, throughout his professional career with DAV spanning more than 25 years his compassion and dedication benefited countless disabled veterans and their families; and

"WHEREAS, following his distinguished professional career with DAV he continued to serve disabled veterans, holding numerous state and national DAV offices; and

"WHEREAS, our members unanimously elected him to our organization's highest office, National Commander, at our 2012 National Convention; and

"WHEREAS, he brought to that esteemed office warmth, integrity, professionalism, enhancing the stature of the office of National Commander; and

"WHEREAS, our members hold especially deep respect, admiration and affection for Commander Polzin, and desire to convey to him their heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable assistance to disabled veterans, his obliging support to our organization, and his committed execution of the duties of National Commander; NOW

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Disabled American Veterans at National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10th to 14th, 2013, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Polzin for his selfless service and dedication to his fellow disabled veterans, their families and the DAV; and

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Disabled American Veterans also salute and extend our special appreciation to Commander Polzin's wife, Judy, and their family for their steadfast support and sacrifices during his year as DAV's National Commander."

And that's Commander Polzin's resolution. It's now my particular pleasure to read Resolution Number 230 honoring a great DAV leader whom I have known for the past 37 years, former DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson.

Art took our organization from a time of deep trial back in 1993 to a time of great triumph that we're living in today as he turned the organization over to Marc Burgess, who I really have great confidence will be another great leader for our organization.

It has been my pleasure to follow Art Wilson, whom I believe to be a very superior leader, throughout my career and a long, long time now as a DAV retiree. I believe Art is, you know, I mean Art is the kind of guy that if he told you to jump off a bridge you'd ask where you wanted to see the – where he wanted to see the splash in the river.

It is my great pleasure to read this following resolution. Resolution 230, expressing appreciation to former National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson:

"WHEREAS, Arthur H. Wilson, a native of Nahant, Massachusetts, is a disabled Vietnam veteran; and

"WHEREAS, he honorably answered the call to military duty serving with distinction in the United States Air Force" – yeah, boy – "as a runway construction specialist from 1962 to 1966; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson became seriously ill soon after his separation from military service, subsequently requiring major surgery at a VA hospital; and

"WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was discharged from the military after serving honorably in Vietnam, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Taiwan to preserve our nation's freedoms; and

“WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson joined DAV in 1966 as a National Service Officer trainee in Atlanta, followed by National Service Officer assignments in Buffalo and Philadelphia, and later in supervisory positions at DAV, becoming supervisor of the DAV’s National Appeals Office at the VA Board of Veterans’ Appeals in Washington, D.C, in 1974, and also serving as the President of the National Guild of Attorneys-in-Fact in 1973-74; and

“WHEREAS, in 1976, he was promoted to management duties at DAV Washington Headquarters, serving for 12 years as National Service Director followed by duties as Executive Director of Washington, D.C., Headquarters; and

“WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson served 19 years as National Adjutant and Chief Executive Officer of the 1.2 million member DAV; and

“WHEREAS, he is a life member of a number of DAV Chapters and Departments; and

“WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson has a distinguished career – had a distinguished career – as only the seventh National Adjutant in the 93-year history of DAV, and serves as the President of the Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation, working to erect the American Veterans Disabled for LIFE Memorial in Washington, D.C., and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the USS Intrepid Museum Foundation; and

“WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson is the proud father of four children, three of whom have dedicated their professional lives to the service to injured and ill veterans; NOW

“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV at National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10th to 13th, 2013, expresses its members’ heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Arthur H. Wilson for his selfless service and dedication to his fellow disabled veterans, their families, and DAV; and

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also salute and extend our special appreciation to Mr. Wilson’s spouse, Mary, and their family, for their support and sacrifices during his 19 years as DAV National Adjutant and 47 years of leadership and service on behalf of millions of injured and ill veterans.”

And that concludes Mr. Wilson’s resolution. Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on General Resolutions. **On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention. Thank you very much.**

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 023—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT MILITARY RETIREES RECEIVE ALL BENEFITS THEY WERE PROMISED WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, men and women who enter military service set aside their personal lives, goals, and opportunities to wear the uniform and bear the burdens of our Nation’s defense; and

WHEREAS, these men and women were promised certain benefits, such as free medical and dental care for life, full retired pay based on longevity of service, and other benefits, to entice them to remain in the military and make it a career; and

WHEREAS, our Government has reneged on many of its promises to provide these benefits to military retirees; and

WHEREAS, our Nation has a compelling moral duty to honor its pledges to military retirees; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to require our Government to provide military retirees with all benefits promised them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 024—LEGISLATIVE

SEEK THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, THE VIETNAM WAR, THE PERSIAN GULF WAR, AND OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO DIED DURING THESE WARS

WHEREAS, the members of 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, urges the U.S. Government to ensure this issue be considered as one of America's highest priorities, accelerating efforts to obtain the release of any American who may still be held captive and obtain the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died while serving our Nation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to increase its unilateral efforts to account for American POW/MIAs, including locating and making available remains of Americans last known alive in captivity that have not previously been returned.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 025—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

WHEREAS, the United States military forces are responsible for the defense of this Nation and its interests abroad; and

WHEREAS, the United States has recently been called upon to intervene in various conflicts; and

WHEREAS, a strong national defense led to the defeat of Communism in Eastern Europe; and

WHEREAS, U.S. interests continue to be challenged throughout the world, requiring our military forces to be deployed in protection of world freedom; and

WHEREAS, we can never let down our guard; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the defense of our Nation both at home and abroad.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 064—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMED CONSENT

WHEREAS, those who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces make personal sacrifices to maintain our national security; and

WHEREAS, members of the Armed Forces should be accorded special respect and the gratitude of us for whom they serve; and

WHEREAS, their willingness to sacrifice and relinquish their liberty does not surrender their natural right to determine what shall be done with their own bodies and their right to personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, it is unethical and a trespass against the person to use service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and consent; and

WHEREAS, our Government has in the past used military members as human guinea pigs to test the effects of harmful and injurious substances on the body; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any rule or provision that would authorize use of service members for human experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 066—LEGISLATIVE

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 U.S. personnel still held captive, missing and unaccounted for from all of our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, personnel and funding for the Joint 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, DAV deeply appreciates Vietnam's 2009 proposal to expand the pace and scope of POW/MIA accounting cooperation, including use of US Navy vessels for underwater operations; and

WHEREAS, the 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 067—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, goes on record as condemning any individual or group who shall at any time publicly and willfully desecrate the flag of the United States.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 068—LEGISLATIVE

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 non-disabled 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 069—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COURTHOUSE FOR THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

WHEREAS, veterans and other persons claiming benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs have benefited substantially and materially from the jurisprudence of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court); and

WHEREAS, the Court has existed for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the courtroom, chambers, and other space is inadequate to meet the present and future needs of the Court and those it serves; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of veterans and their dependents that the Court be accorded the same respect enjoyed by other appellate courts of the United States; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, shall take such actions as may be necessary or advisable in support of legislation to authorize and fund the construction of a suitable and appropriate courthouse for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 070—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF A MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, it has been three decades since the end of the Vietnam War, where large numbers of our youth served in a combat theater and with thousands of combat-related casualties; and

WHEREAS, though the public's reaction to veterans in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War was exceptionally warm, even the high feeling associated with Operation Desert Storm dissipated long ago; and

WHEREAS, the memory of smaller military actions at the Khobar Towers Barracks in Saudi Arabia, and in Grenada, Beirut, Panama, and Somalia faded with shocking rapidity, dying away even as combat-disabled veterans were still undergoing initial treatment of their wounds; and

WHEREAS, even as Americans now daily face the threat of hostile action in Afghanistan, Iraq, and in the war against terrorism around the world, some of them coming home wounded, awareness of their sacrifices among the American people is not fully known and appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the extent of lack of awareness and appreciation can only increase as the number of veterans in the population as a whole inevitably declines as a result of the passing of those who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, other than the ultimate sacrifice of life itself on the field of battle, no one has given more for the freedom of our Nation and her people than the veterans disabled in all of America's wars and armed conflicts; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances demonstrate a pressing need for permanent, high-profile action to bring the immense sacrifices of disabled veterans to a deeper level of public consciousness; and

WHEREAS, commemorative structures have been placed in distinguished locations throughout Washington, D.C., to commemorate causes and persons of great merit, and the sacrifices of disabled veterans deserve at least as much attention as any of these; and

WHEREAS, a commemorative structure in a prominent location in our Nation's Capital would be extremely useful in permanently reminding the American people of the sacrifices made by disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial to honor the sacrifices of those veterans disabled while in military service of their country.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 118—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, understaffing of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs in recent years has hampered the VA's ability to effectively administer programs intended to benefit this nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, continued efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the VA budget will lead to further deterioration of all VA programs; and

WHEREAS, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of this country; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks and strongly supports adequate funding for all VA programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 183—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 184—LEGISLATIVE

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 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports renewing direct bilateral humanitarian talks with the DPRK regime for the purpose of restoring the agreements and processes required to account for unreturned Korean War veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 227—ADMINISTRATIVE

APPRECIATION TO HILTON ORLANDO HOTEL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 92ND NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the excellent service and ambience of the Hilton Orlando Hotel contributed greatly to the success of the 92nd National Convention of DAV convened in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the courteous team members of the hotel staff ensured the comfort and satisfaction of DAV officers, delegates and guests; and

WHEREAS, the classic setting, friendly environment, numerous amenities helped make the 92nd National Convention a truly memorable experience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, expresses its deepest appreciation for the Hilton Orlando Hotel and to its entire staff for their friendly, personalized attention which helped make the 92nd National Convention a resounding success.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 228—ADMINISTRATIVE
APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE
92ND DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the success of the 92nd DAV National Convention convened in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the state, county, and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman Richard Tolfa; 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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 Tolfa, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 229—ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
NATIONAL COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN

WHEREAS, DAV National Commander Larry A. Polzin, a native son of Colorado, served our Nation enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Commander Polzin served as a member of the 1st Marine Division, 1st Engineer Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California, and Marine Barracks, U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, resulting permanent disabilities ended his military career, requiring his early retirement from the Armed Forces in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Commander Polzin refused to let his injuries prevent him from continuing a life of service and joined DAV professional staff as a National Service Officer at the Los Angeles National Service Office in 1972; and

WHEREAS, throughout his professional career with DAV spanning more than 25 years, his compassion and dedication benefited countless disabled veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, following his distinguished professional career with DAV, he continued to serve disabled veterans, holding numerous state and national DAV offices; and

WHEREAS, our members unanimously elected him to our organization's highest office, National Commander, at our 2012 National Convention; and

WHEREAS, he brought to that esteemed office warmth, integrity, and professionalism, enhancing the stature of the office of National Commander; and

WHEREAS, our members hold especially deep respect, admiration, and affection for Commander Polzin and desire to convey to him their heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable

assistance to disabled veterans, his obliging support to our organization, and his committed execution of the duties of National Commander; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Commander Polzin for his selfless service and dedication to his fellow disabled veterans, their families, and DAV; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV also salutes and extends our special appreciation to Commander Polzin's wife Judy, and their family, for their steadfast support and sacrifices during his year as DAV's National Commander.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 230—ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
FORMER NATIONAL ADJUTANT ARTHUR H. WILSON

WHEREAS, Arthur H. Wilson, a native of Nahant, Massachusetts, is a disabled Vietnam veteran; and

WHEREAS, he honorably answered the call to military duty serving with distinction in the United States Air Force as a runway construction specialist from 1962 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson became seriously ill soon after his separation from military service, subsequently requiring major surgery at a VA hospital; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was discharged from the military after serving honorably in Vietnam, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Taiwan to preserve our nation's freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson joined DAV in 1966 as a National Service Officer trainee in Atlanta, followed by National Service Officer assignments in Buffalo and Philadelphia, and later in supervisory positions at DAV, becoming supervisor of DAV's National Appeals Office at the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington, D.C. in 1974 and also serving as President of the National Guild of Attorneys-in-Fact in 1973-74; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, he was promoted to management duties at DAV Washington Headquarters, serving for 12 years as National Service Director followed by duties as Executive Director of Washington, D.C., Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson served 19 years as National Adjutant and Chief Executive Officer of the 1.2 million-member DAV; and

WHEREAS, he is a life member of a number of DAV Chapters and Departments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson had a distinguished career as only the seventh National Adjutant in the 93-year history of DAV, and serves as the President of the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, working to erect the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C., and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the USS Intrepid Museum Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson is the proud father of four children, three of whom have dedicated their professional lives to service to injured and ill veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, expresses its members' heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude to Arthur H. Wilson for his selfless service and dedication to his fellow disabled veterans, their families, and DAV; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also salute and extend our special appreciation to Mr. Wilson's spouse, Mary, and their family, for their support and sacrifices during his 19 years as DAV's National Adjutant and 47 years of leadership and service on behalf of millions of injured and ill veterans.

* * *

ACCEPT COMMITTEE ON GENERAL RESOLUTIONS REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Tom. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MR. PARSETICH: Joe Parsetich from the Big Sky State of Montana would second that the Committee be discharged and the resolutions be accepted as read.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by aye; opposed. The motion carried. I would like to call upon Chairman Terry Schow for the report on the Committee of, Committee on Employment.

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT REPORT

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT CHAIRMAN TERRY SCHOW: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order on August 10, 2013, by the Committee Advisors Michael Dover and Jeff Hall.

The first order of business was the election of the Convention Committee chairman and secretary. I, Terry Schow, was elected as chairman and Chad Richmond 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 – the lights are kind of bright here, my eyes here – by this Convention. For the purposes of saving time I will read only the number and the purpose of these resolutions.

Number 127, provide reasonable transition period for all service-disabled-veteran-owned small businesses following the death of veteran; Number 131, supporting the Disabled Veterans Small – the, supporting the disabled-veteran-owned small businesses;

Number 132, supporting fraud prevention controls over service-disabled-veteran-owned small business programs; Number 61, provide educational benefits for dependents of service-connected veterans rated 80 percent or more disabled; Number 110, eliminate the delimiting date for eligible spouses and surviving spouses for benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38 of the United States Code;

Number 168, support licensure and certification of active duty service personnel; Number 169, support outreach and employment of women veterans; Number 169 – I stand corrected, Number 218, support veterans' preference in public employment;

Number 219, drop the 12-year rule to request VA Voc-rehab benefits under Chapter 31, leaving the date to apply for that benefit open-ended; Number 220, provide adequate funding and permanency for veterans' employment and training programs;

Number 221, support legislation enhancing government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; Number 222, oppose using DVOP, LVER, to work on or process public assistance programs/reinforce the mandate to assist veterans;

Number 223, increase staffing levels of the VA Voc-rehab and employment service; Number 224, transfer the Veterans Employment and Training Service to the Department of Veterans Affairs; Number 225, monitor activities of the mandatory transition GPS program; Number 226, support verification improvements for veterans' businesses within VA.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Employment. **On behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of these resolutions and that the Committee – and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.**

(The above-mentioned resolutions follow:)

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION NO. 127—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR A REASONABLE TRANSITION PERIOD FOR ALL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES TO RETAIN THEIR FEDERAL PROTECTED STATUS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE DISABLED VETERAN

WHEREAS, section 308, Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 established a procurement program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13360, Contracting with Service-Disabled Veterans' Businesses, directs all Federal agencies to provide opportunities for SDVOSBs to increase their Federal contracting and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 established a "Veterans First Contracting Program" specifically for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase business opportunities with the VA for SDVOSBs; and

WHEREAS, SDVOSBs and other small businesses are the focus of Public Law 111-240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (SBJA 2010), which provides enhanced opportunities for SDVOSBs to compete for Federal project and subcontracting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB small business category has encouraged many service-disabled veterans to take the personal risk of establishing small businesses with the support of their families, their own personal financial resources, the VA and, in some cases, commercial institutions; and

WHEREAS, these SDVOSBs have created new job opportunities for American citizens and, in many cases, have hired other service-disabled veterans and veterans during very challenging economic times; and

WHEREAS, by passing the SBJA 2010, the Federal government acknowledges that it is essential to create and grow small businesses in order to create new jobs and help the country recover from a most severe recession and provide for future job growth; and

WHEREAS, the SDVOSB category requires the service-disabled veteran to own at least 51 percent of the stock in the business and remain active in the day-to-day operations of the business in order for the business to maintain its SDVOSB status; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for the SDVOSB program does not currently include a provision dealing with the treatment of the business after the death of the veteran owner; and

WHEREAS, since loss of the company's SDVOSB status would put the service-disabled veteran's investment, family heirs, and employees at severe risk due to either downsizing or closing the business due to loss of Federal procurement opportunities and thus, laying off the workers; and

WHEREAS, section 8127 (h)(2)(C), Public Law 109-461, (specifically for the VA only) allows for a ten-year transition period to a surviving spouse of a 100 percent service-disabled veteran or a veteran who dies as a result of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, allowing the surviving spouses or heirs of service-disabled veterans to have a reasonable transition period for the SDVOSB program would help to maintain the jobs created by the SDVOSBs for service-disabled veterans, veterans and other employees and will not unduly put these individuals at increased financial risk and hardship due to likely job loss or downsizing of the business; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports the enactment of legislation that will provide for a reasonable transition period for all SDVOSBs, not covered by Public Law 109-461, to retain

their SDVOSB status with the Federal government following the death of the service-disabled veteran via a surviving spouse, children, or heirs and thus, allowing the business to restructure over time without necessarily downsizing, laying off workers, or closing down.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 131—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 132—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 061—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

WHEREAS, chapter 35, title 38, United States Code, extends educational assistance to the dependents of service-connected veterans who are evaluated as permanently and totally disabled; and

WHEREAS, there are many service-connected veterans rated 80 percent and 90 percent disabled, whose dependents cannot afford to attend an institution of higher learning or pursue a vocational endeavor because of the reduced earning ability of such veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under chapter 35, title 38, United States Code, to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80 percent or more.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 110—LEGISLATIVE
ELIMINATE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES AND SURVIVING
SPOUSES FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER
CHAPTER 35, TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

WHEREAS, dependents and survivors eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits under chapter 35, title 38, United States Code, have ten years in which to apply for and complete a program of education; and

WHEREAS, this ten-year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or ten years from the date of such veteran's death due to service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, because of family obligations or the need to provide care to the veteran, spouses or surviving spouses may not have had an opportunity to apply for these benefits; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks the enactment of legislation which would eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under chapter 35, title 38, United States Code.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 168—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) establishes, measures, and evaluates performance standards for every occupation within the Armed Forces, providing some of the best vocational training in the nation to its military personnel; and

WHEREAS, that training is not recognized as fulfilling the training or educational certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations by each of the states of the union; and

WHEREAS, many former military personnel, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not certified or licensed to perform a comparable job in the civilian workforce once they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, there are many occupational career fields in the Armed Forces that could translate to a civilian occupation if DoD, in collaboration with states, unions and certifying/licensing entities would expand its training curriculum to meet the various certification and licensure requirements of applicable civilian equivalent occupations or forge some other path to doing so; and

WHEREAS, once DoD expanded its training to meet the requirements of civilian equivalent career paths, service members could take certification or licensure equivalency examinations to gain journeyman status on a par with the military occupation level of proficiency for the state in which they plan to reside; and

WHEREAS, the state in which the military member plans to reside could then confer the appropriate journeyman equivalent status upon them; and

WHEREAS, as military members continue in the service, additional training or education could be counted as continuing training or education credits thereby allowing them to retain certification and/or licensure status; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 112-56, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, mandates the Department of Labor's (DOL) Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a demonstration project on credentialing to facilitate the seamless transition of members of the Armed Forces to civilian employment by selecting up to five military occupational special-

ties 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 169—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT OUTREACH AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN VETERANS

WHEREAS, many women who have served in the military are not aware of services available to them through State Employment Security Agencies/State Workforce Agencies and are therefore less likely to obtain employment and training assistance than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, over the last decade there has been a definite increase in the number of women in need of employment and training services; and

WHEREAS, because of the reduction in federal programs and the reduction of jobs for women in the private sector, the number of unemployed women veterans continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, workforce trends indicate only job-ready and highly skilled women veterans are able to find career employment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 218—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

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RESOLUTION NO. 219—LEGISLATIVE

DROP THE 12-YEAR RULE TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS UNDER CHAPTER 31, LEAVING THE DATE TO APPLY FOR THAT BENEFIT OPEN-ENDED

WHEREAS, 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 can 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks legislation to eliminate the 12-year limitation to apply for VA vocational rehabilitation, leaving a veteran's dates of entitlement open ended.

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RESOLUTION NO. 220—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND/OR TRAINING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the extended economic downturn has had a greater impact on veterans generally and service-disabled veterans specifically than many other groups; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs reaching out to provide critical assistance but are in need of adequate staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, these programs include the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the Department of Labor, National Veterans Training Institute and the Small Business Administration, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program, Local Veterans Employment Representative program, homeless assistance programs, and others; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks and supports adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

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RESOLUTION NO. 221—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENHANCING GOVERNMENT-WIDE GOAL FOR
PARTICIPATION BY SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND
CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, section 502, Public Law 106-50, the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, codified “the Government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans shall be established at not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year;” and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization 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 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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 underperforming 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 OSDDBU 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. 222—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE USING DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS AND LOCAL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK WITH OR PROCESS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service administers programs to assist veterans with their employment and training needs; and
WHEREAS, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS) provide intensive services to disabled veterans and veterans with barriers to employment in finding work, and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) work with non-disabled 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, urges Congress to monitor DVOPS/LVERs or audit results ensuring focus on assisting veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 223—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE STAFFING LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service is charged with preparing service-disabled veterans for suitable employment or providing independent living services to those veterans with disabilities severe enough to render them unemployable; and

WHEREAS, transition of service-disabled veterans to meaningful employment relies heavily on VA's ability to provide vocational rehabilitation and employment services in a timely and effective manner, but the demands and expectations being placed on the VR&E Service are exceeding the organization's current capacity to effectively deliver a full continuum of comprehensive programs; and

WHEREAS, the service has been experiencing a shortage of staff nationwide because of insufficient funding, which, as a result, has caused delays in providing VR&E services to service-disabled veterans, thus reducing their opportunities to achieve successful timely rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, to increase emphasis on employment, the service has begun an initiative titled "Coming Home to Work," an early outreach effort to provide VR&E services to eligible

service members pending medical separation from active duty at military treatment facilities which will require additional staff to maintain efforts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, even though the focus of the VR&E program has drastically changed to career development and employment, it is not clear, despite VR&E's additional 80 employment coordinators, whether VA is able to meet the current and future demand for employment services; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the current 60 days of employment as the standard for a veteran to be considered fully employed is insufficient given that employers typically require longer probationary employment time frames; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports a strengthening of VA's VR&E program to meet the demands of service-disabled veterans by providing increased staffing and funding, a more timely and effective transition into the workforce and providing placement follow-up with employers for at least six months.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 224—LEGISLATIVE
TRANSFER THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
SERVICE TO THE 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 225—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 226—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT VERIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS FOR VETERANS' BUSINESSES WITHIN THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the historical high unemployment rate of returning veterans and the current state of the economy present a career challenge for former military personnel, resulting in high levels of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the military is downsizing, which means that thousands of former military personnel who have honorably served their country could be unemployed when they leave the military; and

WHEREAS, small business development assistance to veterans who have honorably served this country is a veterans' benefit that dates back to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized under the Veterans First program to enter into contracts first with Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and then with Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs); and

WHEREAS, Congress has found that VA has entered into contracts pursuant to the Veterans First program with companies that were not legitimate SDVOSBs or VOSBs; and
WHEREAS, VA has implemented a formal verification process that is overly burdensome; NOW
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention, assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, recommends VA simplify its verification process for SDVOSBs and VOSBs interested in participating in the Department's Veterans First Contracting Program.

* * *

ACCEPT COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT RESOLUTIONS

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. You have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. BILL CONDON: Bill Condon, Seventh District NEC, I second that motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: What mic?

MR. CONDON: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2. You heard the motion. All those in favor signify by aye; opposed. So ordered.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Burgess and Commander Polzin had a sidebar conversation.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: You have heard the motion. May I have a second. In accordance with Rule 9 now is the time for any rejected resolutions to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions that you wish to have 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. I do have a couple. The Nominating Committee will meet today at 1:30 p.m. in Lake Mizell A Room, Lobby Level, to continue interviewing candidates for National Office.

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 an important report on 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 Trench Rats, we'll receive a report on the National Service Foundation. And don't forget to attend our Women Veterans' Seminar tomorrow from 2:30 to 4:30 in Lake Eola A-B on the Lobby Level.

On Tuesday afternoon we will hold our final business session and conclude with nominations and election of officers.

We are giving away a DAV briefcase to five delegates attending the Convention and who are in the room at this moment. Additionally, we are giving away four items from the hotel – two cabana passes and some meal vouchers for folks that are in the room today.

So if your name is called and you are in the hall, please come up and see Tony Baskerville as soon as we adjourn. And the winners of the five DAV briefcases are Brian Ford from Massachusetts 20; Kirk Johnson from California; (Applause) Michael Hendricks, Michigan; Robert Bellotte, West Virginia; and Hermon Snelling from North Carolina. You're the winners of the five briefcases. (Applause)

And we have two passes for all-day cabana use which is quite nice out by the pool, comes with a bowl of fruit and some sodas so the two lucky winners there are Larry Stamps from Virginia and Charles Heiney from Florida. (Applause)

And we have dinner for two at your choice of Spencer's Steakhouse or Dave's Sports Club and those two winners are Helen Parr from South Dakota and Leroy Rickman From

Florida. (Applause) So for you winners, make sure you come up to the stage and see Tony Baskerville as we conclude. Thank you, Commander.

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

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Eternal Father, we are always honored and humbled for the responsibility of serving those who have so freely served. We are also those who have served our fellow man.

In our missions we strive to make the world a better place. Father, please keep us aware of our heritage and those who have fought and sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

We are also grateful for all those who do so much work and are so dedicated to those in this organization in providing the services that we provide. For all our blessings we are truly grateful and ask for Your continued spirit to be with us throughout the remainder of this conference and enjoying the fellowship and warm reunions that we have been enjoying. We humbly pray in the name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

RECESS

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. The Convention stands in recess until 8:30 Tuesday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:18 o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, August 11, 2013.)

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Committee on Credentials

Advisors: Baskerville, Anthony and Dobmeier, Michael

District	Member Name	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter State	No.
1	Hoey, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Bennett, Helen	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	35
2	Gibney, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	38
	Alvin, Michael	Alternate	NEW YORK	200
3	Saxon, Benjamin	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
	Moore, Mark	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
4	Opatovsky, John	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	32
	Jones, Willie	Alternate	NEW JERSEY	32
5	White, James	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	48
	Hill, David	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
6	Botello, Steven	Delegate	VIRGINIA	15
	Hurley, Dennis	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	56
7	Diffenbaugh, Guy	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Kise, Dale	Alternate	FLORIDA	94
8	Holdeman, Charles	Delegate	LOUISIANA	5
	Brown, Kathleen	Alternate	TENNESSEE	3
9	Robinson, William	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	1
	Siegel, Paul	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	67
10	White, Jo	Delegate	MICHIGAN	20
	Peddle, Todd	Alternate	MICHIGAN	44
11	Harris, Pamela	Delegate	OHIO	115
	Hanneman, Dennis	Alternate	OHIO	77
12	Couture, Kenneth	Delegate	ILLINOIS	42
	Dorman, Roger	Alternate	WISCONSIN	60
13	Browner, Alonzo	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	Curtis, Johnny	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Tobin, Warren	Delegate	NORTH DAKOTA	31
	Karg, Van	Alternate	MINNESOTA	37
15	Dolenz, Thomas	Delegate	MISSOURI	1
	Franklin, Roger	Alternate	NEBRASKA	47
16	Guglielmoni, James	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	144
	Jackson, Rich	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	7
17	Reed, Donald	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Harquail, Mitchell	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Graves, Robert	Delegate	ARIZONA	22
	Thomas, Arthur	Alternate	ARIZONA	20
19	Reding, Francis	Delegate	WASHINGTON	6
	Pavy, Jonathan	Alternate	WASHINGTON	5
20	Garcia, Judy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Barbee, William	Alternate	TEXAS	194
21	Halford, Jerletta	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	9
	Peters, Tonya	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7
99	Kaminnsky, Paul	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on General Resolutions and Membership

Advisors: Atizado, Adrian and Moos, Chad

District	Member Name	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter State	No.
1	Tanner, James	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	10
	Hogan, John	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Morales, Paul	Delegate	NEW YORK	28
	Brittain, Howard	Alternate	NEW YORK	135
3	Zibrida, Michael	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	21
	Laverdiere, James	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Werlich, Ronald	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	47
	Velez, Abraham	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Petherbridge, Jeffrey	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
	Jackson, Raymond	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
6	Price, Lavaughn	Delegate	MARYLAND	34
	Lozano-Nieves, Juan	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	7
7	Johnson, Jack	Delegate	FLORIDA	150
	Kyser, Larry	Alternate	FLORIDA	23
8	Culver, Laird	Delegate	ALABAMA	9
	Miller, Arthur	Alternate	ALABAMA	87
9	Roberts, Jeremy	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	16
	Dillard, Gloria	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	21
10	Henshaw, Garry	Delegate	MICHIGAN	22
	Barenbrugge, Ricky	Alternate	MICHIGAN	19
11	Keller, Thomas	Delegate	OHIO	1
	Gerhart, Andrew	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Weber, Thomas	Delegate	WISCONSIN	17
	Resner, Norman	Alternate	ILLINOIS	42
13	Semper, Isa	Delegate	KENTUCKY	156
	Faulk, Leon	Alternate	KENTUCKY	156
14	Erickson, Robert	Delegate	MINNESOTA	2
	Vandrovec, Michael	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	1
15	Young, Terry	Delegate	KANSAS	27
	Tatham, Kimberly	Alternate	MISSOURI	51
16	Raba, Mariana	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Flores, Mario	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	McGinnis, Carmen	Delegate	COLORADO	7
	Austin, Brian	Alternate	COLORADO	7
18	Hansen, John	Delegate	NEVADA	1
	Torres, Tracey	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Middleton, Bill	Delegate	WASHINGTON	2
	Alspach, Brian	Alternate	IDAHO	22
20	Lombrano, John	Delegate	TEXAS	14
	Ellingboe, Brian	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Horsley, Charles	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	63
	Helton, Vernon	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	63
99	Lester, Ronnie	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights

Advisors: Violante, Joseph and Trimarchi, Scott

District	Member	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter Name	No.
1	Patterson, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	45
	Gerety, Philip	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
2	Novak, William	Delegate	NEW YORK	212
	Braswell, Nelson	Alternate	NEW YORK	23
3	Schatz, Richard	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	Gehring, Jim	Alternate	MAINE	10
4	Sullivan, Colleen	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Sweeney, Donald	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	15
5	Ford, George	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
	Galiyas, Joshua	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
6	Cooper, Stephanie	Delegate	D C	3
	Brown, Betty	Alternate	MARYLAND	4
7	Linden, Albert	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Tolfa, Richard	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Graves, James	Delegate	ALABAMA	76
	Eason, Nancy	Alternate	ALABAMA	26
9	Williams, Bobby	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	12
	Thompson, David	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	12
10	Koulchar, Nicholas	Delegate	MICHIGAN	129
	Gonzales, Beth	Alternate	MICHIGAN	102
11	Stith, Michael	Delegate	OHIO	35
	Kaster, James	Alternate	OHIO	3
12	Aaron, Mark	Delegate	ILLINOIS	1
	Labelle, Al	Alternate	WISCONSIN	57
13	Baker, Jerome	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	Purcell, Ralph	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Van Emmerik, Eric	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Parks, Rodney	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	3
15	Janecek, Paul	Delegate	IOWA	2
	Gile, Kenneth	Alternate	KANSAS	4
16	Valdez, Richard	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	12
	Gardner, Connie	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	85
17	Mitchell, Edward	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Brower, Craig	Alternate	COLORADO	21
18	Baumann, William	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Parocua, Ramiro	Alternate	NEVADA	12
19	Kotanchick, Gregory	Delegate	WASHINGTON	23
	Lyon, Fay	Alternate	WASHINGTON	46
20	Cortes, Luis	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Hardaway, Lincoln	Alternate	TEXAS	128
21	Smith, Grace	Delegate	ARKANSAS	51
	Scott, James	Alternate	ARKANSAS	46
99	Brooks, Charles	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Bugbee, Richard	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Advisors: Barton, Bradley and Hartman, Edward

District	Member Name	(Delegate & Alternate)	Chapter Name	No.
1	Kooyman, Kenneth	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	57
	Horton, Donald	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	37
2	Krulder, Dennis	Delegate	NEW YORK	95
	Robinson, Richard	Alternate	NEW YORK	15
3	Fournier, Richard	Delegate	MAINE	1
	Gehring, Jim	Alternate	MAINE	10
4	Bencivenga, Mary	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	24
	Picaroni, Charles	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Blow, Samuel	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	15
	Watson, Gary	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
6	Robinson, Lisa	Delegate	MARYLAND	33
	Dawson, Michael	Alternate	WEST VIRGINIA	26
7	Tyson, Wallace	Delegate	FLORIDA	11
	Heiney, Charles	Alternate	FLORIDA	125
8	Bailey, Carl	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Lee, Robert	Alternate	TENNESSEE	28
9	Jimmerson, Burl	Delegate	GEORGIA	33
	Lozano, Manuel	Alternate	GEORGIA	28
10	Wilson, Shawn	Delegate	MICHIGAN	116
	Gallagher, Roger	Alternate	MICHIGAN	7
11	Bertschy, Robert	Delegate	OHIO	47
	Cunningham, Aaron	Alternate	OHIO	15
12	Mc Dermott, James	Delegate	ILLINOIS	28
	Helgeson, Rodney	Alternate	WISCONSIN	27
13	Ewing, Lee	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Hartman, Edward	Alternate	KENTUCKY	19
14	Berndt, Scott	Delegate	MINNESOTA	39
	Grantier, Kevin	Alternate	MONTANA	3
15	Dean, Lyle	Delegate	IOWA	10
	Rhodes, Korby	Alternate	KANSAS	4
16	O'Brien, Michael	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Vandiver, Edward	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	6
17	Prescott, Gary	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	5
	Smith, Wendy	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	32
18	Di Girolamo, Robert	Delegate	ARIZONA	1
	Soto, Danny	Alternate	HAWAII	4
19	Barton, Bradley	Delegate	OREGON	1
	Nelson, Jeanie	Alternate	WASHINGTON	46
20	Ray, Howard	Delegate	TEXAS	128
	Lewis, Veda	Alternate	TEXAS	9
21	Brandt, Robert	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	32
	Pandos, Ronald	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	9
99	O'Connell, Dennis	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Krizan, Geoffrey	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Finance

Advisor: Lenhart, Joseph

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
1	Follis, James	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	85
	Cammick, John	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Day, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	28
	Wilson, David	Alternate	NEW YORK	82
3	Wright, Henry	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	9
	Boisvert, Ernest	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	12
4	Church, Albert	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	5
	Newell, Harry	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	47
5	DeSanti, Carmen	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	21
	Freeman, Larry	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	78
6	Vaughn, Brian	Delegate	D C	3
	Cuocci, Joseph	Alternate	MARYLAND	18
7	Bristol, Fred	Delegate	FLORIDA	90
	Lightfritz, Norman	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Patterson, Richard	Delegate	ALABAMA	45
	Figaro, Shedrick	Alternate	LOUISIANA	33
9	Maddox, Christopher	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	13
	Tyson, Leroy	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	20
10	Lamphere, Layton	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Dempster, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Moye, Anthony	Delegate	OHIO	3
	Caine, William	Alternate	OHIO	116
12	Fredrickson, John	Delegate	WISCONSIN	52
	Tizura, Walter	Alternate	ILLINOIS	36
13	Thacker, Charles	Delegate	KENTUCKY	171
	Mullins, Thomas	Alternate	KENTUCKY	171
14	Whitehead, Stephen	Delegate	MINNESOTA	10
	Saddler, Thomas	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Shuey, James	Delegate	NEBRASKA	7
	Oliver, Jennifer	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Wheeler, Patricia	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	6
	Kerr, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	Weber, Eugene	Delegate	NEW MEXICO	6
	Rauber, Francis	Alternate	NEW MEXICO	38
18	Smith, Aunjel	Delegate	ARIZONA	20
	Titus, Keith	Alternate	ARIZONA	22
19	Lougee, Rob	Delegate	WASHINGTON	33
	Moran, Justin	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Garcia, Jose	Delegate	TEXAS	114
	Ferguson, Hilton	Alternate	TEXAS	14
21	Miles, Bennie	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	56
	Whitlow, Peggy	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7

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Committee on Employment

Advisors: Hall, Jeffrey and Dover, Michael

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
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	Mathis, George	Delegate	MAINE	6
	Burns, Gary	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Bernier, Barry	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	10
	Lardizzone, Paul	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Greene, Raymond	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
	Darcangelo, Vincent	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	55
6	Berrios, Luz	Delegate	PUERTO RICO	5
	Eaves, Georgia	Alternate	D C	14
7	Howell, Tom	Delegate	FLORIDA	11
	Moore, Brian	Alternate	FLORIDA	23
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
	Windham, Raybon	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Smalls, Jonathan	Delegate	GEORGIA	91
	Patterson, Johnny	Alternate	GEORGIA	18
10	Wells, Douglas	Delegate	MICHIGAN	113
	Zielke, Jason	Alternate	MICHIGAN	113
11	Marcum, Kenneth	Delegate	OHIO	89
	Bailey, James	Alternate	OHIO	117
12	Walkowski, Kevin	Delegate	WISCONSIN	34
	Arens, Robert	Alternate	ILLINOIS	36
13	Greer, DeAndre	Delegate	INDIANA	3
	McGinnis, Eric	Alternate	INDIANA	3
14	Weiss, Richard	Delegate	MINNESOTA	22
	Parr, Helen	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Wright, Robert	Delegate	MISSOURI	10
	Oliver, Jennifer	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Hansel, Ronald	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	22
	Goldberg, Michael	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	48
17	Schow, Terry	Delegate	UTAH	4
	Ingalsbe, Gerald	Alternate	UTAH	4
18	Stewart, Johnny	Delegate	ARIZONA	2
	Stanley, Kathie	Alternate	ARIZONA	2
19	Beale, Jerry	Delegate	ALASKA	7
	Ransom, Linda	Alternate	IDAHO	13
20	Guerra, Joe	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Barber, Cynthia	Alternate	TEXAS	3
21	Dority, Russell	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Testone, Daryl	Alternate	ARKANSAS	7

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Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services

Advisors: Ilem, Joy and Peters, Edward

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
1	Vicini, William	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Mantilla, Samuel	Delegate	NEW YORK	92
	Slonim, Barry	Alternate	NEW YORK	117
3	Nicodemus, Robert	Delegate	VERMONT	3
	Bugbee, Richard	Alternate	VERMONT	3
4	Walsh, Elizabeth	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	15
	Kelly, Timothy	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	19
5	Homme, Franklin	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	7
	Hassinger, Jason	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	14
6	Moore, Warren	Delegate	WEST VIRGINIA	2
	Brown, Matthew	Alternate	VIRGINIA	26
7	Keckler, Mary Ann	Delegate	FLORIDA	110
	Reed, Brenda	Alternate	FLORIDA	4
8	Royer, Silva	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	5
	Davis, Carroll	Alternate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Cook, Arthur	Delegate	NORTH CAROLINA	40
	Young, Roy	Alternate	NORTH CAROLINA	21
10	White, Kevin	Delegate	MICHIGAN	20
	McClellan, Robert	Alternate	MICHIGAN	129
11	Hutchinson, Raymond	Delegate	OHIO	63
	Johnston, James	Alternate	OHIO	63
12	Kuehnl, Kenneth	Delegate	WISCONSIN	20
	Camacho, Miguel	Alternate	ILLINOIS	16
13	Whiteside, Afua	Delegate	INDIANA	52
	Bunting, Randy	Alternate	KENTUCKY	172
14	Telando, Thomas	Delegate	MINNESOTA	23
	Graves, Lindy	Alternate	MONTANA	10
15	Lovings, Charles	Delegate	KANSAS	4
	Cyr, Mark	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Johnson, Kirk	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	85
	Jackson, Eldra	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	6
17	Larsen, Penny	Delegate	UTAH	6
	Reid, Melvin	Alternate	UTAH	8
18	Kent, Robert	Delegate	HAWAII	4
	Simpson, Alfred	Alternate	ARIZONA	14
19	Marker, Brigitte	Delegate	OREGON	12
	Moran, Justin	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Moreland, Harold	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Garcia, Jose	Alternate	TEXAS	114
21	Peters, Tonya	Delegate	ARKANSAS	7
	Hammons, Dennis	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	61
99	Hogan, James	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Calissi, Rick	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Committee on Nomination of National Officers

Advisor: Marbes, Richard

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter Name	No.
1	Stack, Daniel	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Bowers, Alan	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	46
2	Sioss, Donald	Delegate	NEW YORK	108
	McGowan, Timothy	Alternate	NEW YORK	120
3	Jernigan, Shawn	Delegate	MAINE	6
	DeBlois, Denise	Alternate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	19
4	Bernardi, Nicholas	Delegate	NEW JERSEY	24
	Foreman, Hasty	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	18
5	Grossman, Timothy	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	25
	Noel, Kevin	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	8
6	McCroskey, Allan	Delegate	VIRGINIA	14
	Martinez, Alexis	Alternate	PUERTO RICO	1
7	Joyner, Dennis	Delegate	FLORIDA	16
	Wolfe, Kenneth	Alternate	FLORIDA	101
8	Humphries, Gerald	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	11
	Kalk, Edward	Alternate	LOUISIANA	20
9	Wilner, Brian	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	28
	Davis, Willie	Alternate	GEORGIA	18
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Boozer, J	Alternate	MICHIGAN	20
11	Lenhart, Joseph	Delegate	OHIO	73
	Parker, John	Alternate	OHIO	35
12	Reynolds, Alfred	Delegate	ILLINOIS	17
	Hoeft, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
13	Huff, James	Delegate	KENTUCKY	4
	Arambula, Carlos	Alternate	INDIANA	17
14	Murphy, Eugene	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
	Litzinger, Joseph	Alternate	NORTH DAKOTA	2
15	Bowman, William	Delegate	NEBRASKA	7
	Bolton, David	Alternate	IOWA	20
16	Powers, Frederick	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	20
	Steese, George	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	1
17	Lucus, Gary	Delegate	WYOMING	11
	Maughan, Frank	Alternate	UTAH	4
18	Cox, Ronald	Delegate	ARIZONA	26
	Anton, William	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Royse, Sarah	Delegate	OREGON	11
	Barton, Otho	Alternate	OREGON	1
20	Spence, Percy	Delegate	TEXAS	17
	Paquette, Roland	Alternate	TEXAS	20
21	Stake, Charles	Delegate	ARKANSAS	57
	Vance, Craig	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	66
99	Martino, Anthony	Delegate	BLIND NO DEPT	1
	Moffitt, Stephen	Alternate	BLIND NO DEPT	1

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Columbia Trust Advisory Board

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter State	No.
1	Mooney, Leo	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	33
	Costa, Joseph	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	56
2	Wilson, David	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Miller, Morton	Alternate	NEW YORK	88
3	Schatz, Richard	Delegate	RHODE ISLAND	12
	Demers, Normand	Alternate	RHODE ISLAND	21
4	Kelly, Timothy	Delegate	CONNECTICUT	19
	Lardizzone, Paul	Alternate	DELAWARE	1
5	Cudworth, Robert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	1
6	Parker, Glynn	Delegate	MARYLAND	17
	Harris, Bennie	Alternate	D C	3
7	Marshall, Andy	Delegate	FLORIDA	4
	Anderson, Robert	Alternate	FLORIDA	4
8	Humphries, Gerald	Delegate	MISSISSIPPI	11
9	Truscello, Michael	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	51
10	Blevins, Robert	Delegate	MICHIGAN	26
	Dempster, Thomas	Alternate	MICHIGAN	114
11	Uetterling, David	Delegate	OHIO	36
12	Buck, Ted	Delegate	ILLINOIS	28
	Hoeft, John	Alternate	WISCONSIN	17
13	Ewing, Lee	Delegate	KENTUCKY	89
	Huff, James	Alternate	KENTUCKY	4
14	Bouska, Lawrence	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Gerke, David	Delegate	MISSOURI	2
16	Contreras, Daniel	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	99
	Wingett, Kenneth	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	48
17	Addyman, Robert	Delegate	COLORADO	7
18	Ogle, Gerald	Delegate	NEVADA	12
	Anton, William	Alternate	NEVADA	13
19	Beale, Pamela	Delegate	ALASKA	7
	Marker, Brigitte	Alternate	OREGON	12
20	Hackney, James	Delegate	TEXAS	42
21	Hedgecock, Timothy	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	56

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National Executive Committee

District	Member Name	Delegate & Alternate	Chapter Name	No.
1	Hogan, John	Delegate	MASSACHUSETTS	3
	Richards, Raymond	Alternate	MASSACHUSETTS	6
2	Wilson, David	Delegate	NEW YORK	82
	Miller, Morton	Alternate	NEW YORK	88
3	Reilly, Ron	Delegate	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
	Fournier, Richard	Alternate	MAINE	1
4	Wischmann, Herman	Delegate	DELAWARE	1
	Kelly, Timothy	Alternate	CONNECTICUT	19
5	Burlikowski, Albert	Delegate	PENNSYLVANIA	76
	Kelly, Lawrence	Alternate	PENNSYLVANIA	3
6	Parker, Glynn	Delegate	MARYLAND	17
	Harris, Bennie	Alternate	D C	3
7	Markiewicz, John	Delegate	FLORIDA	1
	Tolfa, Richard	Alternate	FLORIDA	16
8	Richmond, Charles	Delegate	ALABAMA	28
	Miller, Arthur	Alternate	ALABAMA	87
9	Evans, Harmon	Delegate	SOUTH CAROLINA	4
	Prosser, Carroll	Alternate	SOUTH CAROLINA	30
10	Lamphere, John	Delegate	MICHIGAN	39
	Pruitt, Steven	Alternate	MICHIGAN	2
11	Morten, Herman	Delegate	OHIO	1
	Bertschy, Robert	Alternate	OHIO	47
12	Thompson, Dennis	Delegate	ILLINOIS	103
	Reynolds, Alfred	Alternate	ILLINOIS	17
13	Huff, James	Delegate	KENTUCKY	4
	Duke, Timothy	Alternate	KENTUCKY	89
14	Krosschell, H.	Delegate	SOUTH DAKOTA	3
	Bouska, Lawrence	Alternate	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
15	Brader, David	Delegate	KANSAS	5
	Bay, Jerry	Alternate	MISSOURI	2
16	Benner, Marlowe	Delegate	CALIFORNIA	59
	Contreras, Daniel	Alternate	CALIFORNIA	99
17	Lucus, Gary	Delegate	WYOMING	11
	Maughan, Frank	Alternate	UTAH	4
18	Kawamura, Edward	Delegate	HAWAII	5
	Fox, Penny	Alternate	HAWAII	9
19	Lyon, Fay	Delegate	WASHINGTON	46
	Royse, Sarah	Alternate	OREGON	11
20	Meiser, Edgar	Delegate	TEXAS	47
	Spence, Percy	Alternate	TEXAS	17
21	Oliver, Danny	Delegate	OKLAHOMA	88
	Hammons, Dennis	Alternate	OKLAHOMA	61

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**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION
August 13, 2013**

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The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 92nd National Convention convened in the Orlando Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Tuesday morning, August 13, 2013, and was called to order at 8:33 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Larry A. Polzin.

CALL TO ORDER: COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN

COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN: The Convention will please come to order. As a reminder, to everyone, please turn off your cellular phones and portable devices. Please join me in the Pledge of the Allegiance. Hand salute.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Two. I would like to call on the Chaplain Ringo to lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN RINGO: First, in the words of a prior DAV Chaplain, "I have a story." (Laughter) Well, actually, an update on our dear friend and Past National Commander George Steese. My wife and I visited him last night in the hospital here locally.

And he is having some precautionary tests done today for some concerns. But he seems to be doing well. And when he leaves the hospital today he will be joining some family that he was planning on visiting here locally, anyhow, and spending some quality time with them.

Now let us pray. Eternal Father, as we come together again on this final day of our Convention, we pause in prayer to ask blessings upon all who are here in attendance but especially those who are not.

For those who may be ill or have other concerns, be with them and bless them with healing, comfort and Your assistance. We ask for Your continued spirit to be with us throughout this day and do so humbly in the name of our Lord, Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER POLZIN: Please be seated. I would like to remind you that in order for a delegate to be heard at this Convention you must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized the delegate must state their name, chapter number, and the state that they represent.

At this time I would like to call on the Credentials Committee Chairman Wayne(sic) Tobin for a report.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOBIN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the Credentials Committee met this morning in Clear Lake at the Hilton Orlando. The roll call showed 1,135 delegates and 60 alternates have registered, which includes 46 Departments and 433 Chapters registered. There are 8 National Officers and 29 National Executive Committeemen and 11 Past National Commanders currently registered for a total of 7,971 votes.

This partial report is for informational purposes only and it reflects the registration at the close of business at 4:00 o'clock p.m. on August 12th, 2013. This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Warren. This is a reminder that registration will close this morning at 10:00 a.m.

I would like to call upon the Chairman Brad Barton for the final report on the Constitution and Bylaws. Brad.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

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: Final reading of proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. Comrade Commander and delegates, I will now proceed with the second reading of the report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

This year there was only one resolution considered by the Committee. The Committee recommends the rejection of Resolution Number 134.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and I move for the adoption of this report.

ACCEPT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Brad. You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MR. JOHN HANSEN: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 1.

MR. HANSEN: John Hansen, Department of Nevada, seconds that motion.

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

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BARTON: Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER POLZIN: I would like to call upon the Chairman Al Linden for the report on the Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS REPORT

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALBERT LINDEN: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights was called to order on August the 10th, 2013, by the Committee Advisors Joseph Violante and Scott Trimarchi.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee chairman and secretary. Al Linden was elected as chairman and Bill Novak was elected as secretary.

The Committee proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by the National Convention. For the purposes of saving time – and my voice – I will read only the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution 6, oppose any proposal that would offset payments of Social Security Disability Insurance benefits or any other federal benefits by VA compensation; 7, oppose a reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits;

Number 8, oppose lump-sum payments for service-connected disabilities; 10, increase disability compensation; 11, support legislation to remove prohibition against concurrent receipt longevity retirement pay and veterans' disability compensation;

13, oppose subjecting compensation to means testing; 14, support legislation to provide presumptive service connection for atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic disease; 15, authorize adaptive equipment eligibility for any veteran who has service-connected disability that prohibits the ability to safely operate a motor vehicle;

Number 17, oppose the imposition of time limits for filing compensation claims; Number 18, mortgage protection life insurance for 100 percent service-connected veterans; 19, provide an open period to apply for any service-connected disability veterans insurance – that's RH;

Number 20, increase the value of service-disabled veterans insurance, RH; 21, oppose the reduction of the appeal period for VA decisions; Number 31, amend Title 38, U.S.C., to provide a ten-year protection for service-connected disability evaluation;

34, oppose the permanent rounding-down of COLAs for veterans' benefits; 35, redefine service in Vietnam to include service in the waters offshore; 36, support legislation to remove the prohibition against concurrent receipt of SVP and DIC; Number 40, oppose any recommendation by any commission to reduce or eliminate benefits for disabled veterans;

41, support a change in regulatory requirements for temporary total rating under Section 4.30 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; 42, reduce the ten-year rule for dependency and indemnity compensation; 43, provide a total – a temporary total rating for the period an amputee has a new prosthetic device constructed;

44, support legislation to provide service connection for disabling conditions resulting from toxic or environmental exposures; 45, support legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of Title 38, U.S. Code 1114-R-2 to veterans with anatomic loss or loss of use of three extremities;

Number 46, support interest payments for disabled or for Department of Veterans Affairs radioactive awards – retroactive awards of one year or more; 47, support legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life;

Number 48, support reasonable presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses of the Gulf War veterans; 49, support legislation to allow all veterans to recover amounts withheld as tax on disability severance pay; Number 50, exempt disability compensation in determination of eligibility for government programs;

52, expand POW presumptions; 53, establish service connection for residuals of military sexual trauma; 54, oppose regional dispersion of the Board of Veterans Appeals; 55, support legislation to require the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to decide each appellant's assignment of error;

56, support legislation to cap attorney fees for benefits consulting and claims services before the VA; 59, support an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs burial allowance for service-connected veterans; Number 60, increase home improvement and structural alterations grant;

62, support legislation that would exempt the benefits paid to war-time service-connected veterans, from the pay-go provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act; Number 63, expand military commissary and exchange privileges and space-available air travel to 30 percent or higher service-connected veterans separated from the service prior to October 1969;

94, add "complex regional –

MR. JOSEPH VIOLANTE: That's 49.

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDEN: Okay.

Oppose – 107, oppose any change in the reduction of service-connected (undistinguishable) or circumstances under which it may be established; 111, provide a compensatable rating for hearing impaired veterans use of, to use a hearing aid;

Number 112, presumptive service-connection for tinnitus and hearing loss; 115, consider treatment for presumptive service-connected condition as a claim for VA compensation; 163, reduce premiums service-disabled veterans' insurance to be more consistent with life expectancy;

170, increase the grant for automobiles and other conveyances available to certain disabled veterans; 171, compensate Persian Gulf veterans suffering from illness circumstantially linked to their service in the Persian Gulf; 172, support legislation providing that SSB payments not be withheld from VA disability compensation payments;

173, support legislation to provide a realistic cost of living; 174, amend the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities for mental disorders; 175, oppose any attempts to change the basis of VA Rating Schedule from average impairments of earnings capacity standard;

176, support legislation that requires VA to consider private medical evidence supplied by a licensed private health care provider to include but not limited to physician assistants and nurse practitioners; 177, support meaningful reform in the Veterans Benefits Administration's disability claims process;

Number 178, support legislation to provide a waiver of premiums for supplemental service disabled veterans insurance, RH; 179, support legislation to provide that veterans will receive specially-adapted housing when service connection is expanded for a paired organ or extremity;

180, support – support advanced appropriations for all VA programs; 181, extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans; 182, extend commissary and exchanges privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

Comrade Commander, that 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-mentioned resolutions follow:)

LEGISLATION AND VETERANS RIGHTS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 006—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OFFSET PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, consideration has been given to proposing an offset of Social Security Disability Insurance (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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any measure which proposes to offset the payment of any other Federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement by VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 007—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REDUCTION, TAXATION OR ELIMINATION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are earned benefits paid to veterans and their families for their service to the Nation; and

WHEREAS, veterans' benefits are part of a covenant between our Nation and its defenders; and

WHEREAS, certain government leaders have continued to attack veterans' benefits in an attempt to tax those benefits, reduce them, or eliminate them completely; and

WHEREAS, these attacks recur with regularity and serious intent; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, vigorously opposes reduction, taxation or elimination of veterans' benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 008—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, disability compensation is paid monthly to an eligible veteran on account of and at a rate commensurate with diminished earning capacity resulting from the effects of service-connected disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, such compensation, by design, continues to provide relief from the service-connected disability for as long as the veteran continues to suffer its effects at a compensable level; and

WHEREAS, by law, the rate of compensation is determined by the level of disability present, thereby requiring reevaluation of the disability upon a change in its degree; and

WHEREAS, various entities have suggested lump-sum payments as a way for the Government to avoid the administrative costs of reevaluating service-connected disabilities and as a way to avoid future liabilities to service-connected disabled veterans when their disabilities worsen or cause secondary disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such lump-sum payments would not, on the whole, be in the best interests of disabled veterans but would be for Government savings and convenience; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any change in law to provide for lump-sum payments of VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 010—LEGISLATIVE 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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 011—LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR ALL LONGEVITY RETIRED VETERANS

WHEREAS, current law provides that service connected veterans rated less than 50 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to repeal the offset between military longevity retired pay and VA disability compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 013—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE SUBJECTING COMPENSATION TO MEANS TESTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of our Nation have heretofore honorably recognized their indebtedness to those who sacrificed in the service of their country by providing compensation as restitution for the personal injuries or diseases suffered in such service; and

WHEREAS, a disabled veteran is rightfully entitled to restitution for the effects of service-connected disability during its continuation, without regard to good fortune or income of the veteran or spouse from sources wholly independent of the Government's obligations to the veteran; and

WHEREAS, it is 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any scheme to means test disability and death compensation.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 014—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE
CONNECTION FOR ALL RADIOGENIC DISEASES

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Services have participated in test detonation of nuclear devices and served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, following the detonation of nuclear bombs, including "clean-up" operations at test sites; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government knew or should have known of the potential harm to the health and well-being of these military members; and

WHEREAS, atomic veterans served their country with honor, courage, and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, remedial legislation passed by Congress in 1984 has not been effective in ensuring that all atomic veterans are compensated for their radiogenic diseases; and

WHEREAS, by the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) own admission, approximately 50 claimants have obtained disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensa-

tion 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to provide presumptive service connection to atomic veterans for all recognized radiogenic diseases; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all veterans involved in "clean-up" operations following the detonation of nuclear devices should be considered atomic veterans for all benefits and services provided by VA.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 015—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE ANY VETERAN WHOSE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY INHIBITS HIS/HER ABILITY TO SAFELY OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE

WHEREAS, section 3902, title 38, United States Code, and section 17.119(a), title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, restrict the eligibility for adaptive equipment to those veterans who qualify for the automobile grant as specified in section 3901, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, not all veterans whose service-connected disabilities prohibit the safe operation of a motor vehicle meet the requirements of section 3901, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, these service-connected disabled veterans should be provided the adaptive equipment necessary to safely operate a motor vehicle; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports the enactment of legislation that would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing the adaptive equipment deemed necessary to any veteran whose service-connected disability interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 017—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any change in law to limit the time for filing compensation claims.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 018—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

WHEREAS, Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) is presently available to veterans entitled to the special adapted housing award under section 2101(a), title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain mortgage life insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, their widows and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; and

WHEREAS, section 407 of Public Law 111-275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, increased VMLI for disabled veterans from \$90,000 to \$150,000, effective October 1, 2011, and to \$200,000 effective January 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the VMLI program provides mortgage life insurance to severely disabled veterans and service members who have also received a Specially Adapted Housing grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks the enactment of legislation which would extend VMLI to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 019—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI) within two years from the date the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) grants service connection for any disability; and

WHEREAS, many eligible veterans, due to financial difficulties and problems associated with readjustment to civilian life, did not apply for this insurance within the 2-year eligibility period; and

WHEREAS, many of these service-connected disabled veterans are now prepared and can afford to purchase this insurance but are not able to purchase comparable insurance coverage in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, precedent has been established to extend previously closed "eligibility periods" for certain other VA benefits and services, including insurance; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the SDVI Program.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 020—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance under section 1922, title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, honorably discharged veterans released from active military duty on or after April 25, 1951, found by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be suffering from a disability or disabilities for which a compensable evaluation would be payable, shall, upon application, be granted insurance by the United States Government under section 1922(a), title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, this insurance is non-participating with no dividends payable; and
WHEREAS, many of these veterans are uninsurable by private insurance companies as a result of their service-connected disabilities; and
WHEREAS, inflation has rapidly increased and diminished the value of the insurance since the maximum was set at \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, section 401 of Public Law 111-275, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, increases Supplemental Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) for totally disabled veterans from \$20,000 to \$30,000, effective October 1, 2011, but does not increase S-DVI coverage for other service-connected disabled veterans with lower disability ratings; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 021—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE REDUCTION OF THE APPEAL PERIOD FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Congress has created a benevolent system for the administration of veterans' benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, under this benevolent system, veterans currently have one year to initiate appeals of adverse decisions; and

WHEREAS, unlike with other legal processes where fairness to opposing parties, practical considerations, and matters of administrative and judicial convenience justify shorter appeal periods, no such reasons exist within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system where service to veterans is paramount; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission, created by Congress to study the VA claims processing system, has recommended a reduction of the appeal period from one year to 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the length of the current appeal period is not responsible in any way for the claims backlog and related problems the Commission was created to study, the real cause being the ratio of workload to production capacity; and

WHEREAS, a reduction of the appeal period will therefore not increase VA's efficiency nor reduce the claims backlog; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in the appeal period would be an unnecessary reduction of veterans' rights under the pretense of improving the VA claims and appeal processes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any change in law to reduce the period for appealing VA claims decisions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 031—LEGISLATIVE
PROVIDE A 10-YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED
DISABILITY EVALUATIONS

WHEREAS, section 110, title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

WHEREAS, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for 10 years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports amendment of section 110, title 38, United States Code, to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 10 years.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 034—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE THE PERMANENT ROUNDING DOWN OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN
VETERANS' BENEFITS

WHEREAS, to maintain the worth of veterans' benefits, they must be adjusted to keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down the adjusted rates to the next lower dollar amount will erode the value of these benefits over time and thus not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, permanently rounding down veterans' cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) unfairly targets veterans for convenient cost savings for the Government; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes permanent rounding down of COLAs for veterans' benefits.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 035—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THAT SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS BASED ON EXPOSURE TO HERBICIDES INCLUDES
SERVICE IN THE WATERS OFFSHORE

WHEREAS, over the decade from 1961 to 1971, our military forces sprayed approximately 21 million gallons of herbicide agents in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, these herbicide agents, the most common of which was designated "Agent Orange," contained the contaminant dioxin, one of the most toxic substances known to humankind; and

WHEREAS, the dispersion and deposition of, and human exposure to, dioxins were not limited to areas directly sprayed, inasmuch as it is acknowledged that the chemical was carried away from the areas of application by canals, rivers, and streams, and that airborne particulates were carried by wind drift; and

WHEREAS, Congress has therefore provided that, for purposes of establishing or presuming service connection for a disability or death as related to herbicide exposure, a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, "served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to [a] herbicide agent . . . unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent" during that service; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has arbitrarily interpreted "served in the Republic of Vietnam" to mean only service on land areas of Vietnam and not waters offshore within its national boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of territorial seas or waters from the term "Republic of Vietnam" is contrary to the plain and unqualified language of the law and illogical insofar as its premise is that herbicides could be carried away from the area of application across any expanse of land but not equal or lesser expanses of water; and

WHEREAS, various illnesses have been linked to and are presumed due to exposure to these herbicide agents; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served on ships no more distant from the spraying of these herbicides than many who served on land are arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits of the presumption of exposure and thereby the presumption of service connection for their herbicide-related disabilities; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to expressly provide that the phrase "served in the Republic of Vietnam" includes service in the waters offshore.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 036—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN PAYMENTS AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments are payments of an insurance annuity 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 040—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY ANY COMMISSION TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, American citizens owe their freedoms and way of life to disabled veterans who made extraordinary personal sacrifices and who suffer lifelong disabilities as a consequence; and

WHEREAS, those who serve in our Armed Forces stand ready to endure any hardships and expose themselves to any hazards on behalf of their country and our citizens; and

WHEREAS, our Government did not hesitate in asking them to give life or limb if necessary; and

WHEREAS, our elected officials surely should not renege on our reciprocal obligation when our disabled veterans ask for so comparatively little in return; and

WHEREAS, we, as a Nation, have no more important indebtedness nor greater moral obligation than the indebtedness and obligation we have to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, some elected officials nonetheless prefer to denigrate the suffering of disabled veterans, conveniently ignore this debt, and shirk this national responsibility; and

WHEREAS, any shameful effort on the part of legislators to find ways to avoid compensating disabled veterans, especially in time of war, is unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, our Government continues to establish commissions to review veterans benefits and entitlements in an effort to balance the budget; and

WHEREAS, honorable and great nations of conscience do not abandon their wounded warriors; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, reminds our elected officials of our un-debatable 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 041—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A CHANGE IN REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING UNDER SECTION 4.30 OF TITLE 38, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, with advances in modern medicine and increasing emphasis on more efficient use of health care resources, health care providers are being encouraged to utilize suitable alternatives to inpatient care; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence, veterans are often treated through home health services or convalesce at home rather than in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, convalescent ratings are currently only authorized where inpatient or outpatient treatment resulted in surgery or immobilization of a major joint by cast; and

WHEREAS, there are instances where the veteran's treatment did not involve surgery or casting of a major joint, but the veteran has undergone healing, convalescence, or a therapeutic course in the home, with a duration of 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 042—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to reduce this 10-year rule for DIC qualification to a more reasonable period of time; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, should such change not occur, that DAV calls for legislation to allow for a graduated percentage of the total DIC benefit of 10 percent for each year the veteran has been rated permanently and totally disabled up to such time as the 10-year time frame has been reached.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 043—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING FOR THE PERIOD THAT AN AMPUTEE HAS A NEW PROSTHETIC DEVICE CONSTRUCTED

WHEREAS, it takes four to six weeks to manufacture a prosthetic device; and
WHEREAS, many employers will not accept an amputee back on the job without his or her artificial limb; and

WHEREAS, the veteran who does not have an artificial limb is incapacitated and unable to perform gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities does not contain any provision to provide this temporary total rating; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to amend the 1945 VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities to provide a temporary total rating for the period involving the replacement of a prosthetic device.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 044—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISABLING CONDITIONS RESULTING FROM TOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the World Wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to toxic and environmental exposures such as mustard gas, herbicides, cold weather, chemical, biological agents, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, vigorously supports the VA's expeditious handling of veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for all conditions associated with the veteran's service and related exposure to toxic and environmental hazards.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 045—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to award special monthly compensation under the provisions of section 1114(r)(1), title 38, United States Code, to veterans with anatomical loss or loss of use of three extremities.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 046—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RETROACTIVE AWARDS OF ONE YEAR OR MORE

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claimants are often denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits due to prolonged bureaucratic delay in the VA adjudication process and/or through clear and unmistakable error on the part of VA Rating Board authorities; and

WHEREAS, under current law and regulation, VA claimants who incur indebtednesses to the United States government, in addition to the principal amount of such indebtednesses, are assessed and must pay interest charges; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Congress enacted the Prompt Payment Act, Public Law 97-177, to require federal agencies to pay their bills to outside vendors on a timely basis or pay interest penalties to the outside vendors when payments are made late; and

WHEREAS, VA claimants who are denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits do not receive interest payments from the government and therefore incur a loss of investment income, which could have been received had they received their earned benefits in a timely fashion; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 047—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A REALISTIC INCREASE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMPENSATION RATES TO ADDRESS LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE

WHEREAS, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (the Commission) was established by Public Law 108-136, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 to address several measures, one of which was loss of quality of life; and

WHEREAS, current law requires that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Rating Schedule compensate service-disabled veterans for average impairment of earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded early in its deliberations that VA disability compensation should recompense veterans not only for average impairments of earning capacity, but also for their inability to participate in usual life activities and for the impact of their disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine reached the same conclusion; moreover, it made extensive recommendations on steps to develop and implement a methodology to evaluate the impact of disabilities on veterans' quality of life and to provide appropriate compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded that the VA Rating Schedule should be revised to include compensation for the impact of service-connected disabilities on quality of life; and

WHEREAS, for some veterans, quality of life is addressed in a limited fashion by special monthly compensation for loss of limbs or loss of use of limbs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission urged Congress to consider increases in some special monthly compensation awards to address the profound impact of certain disabilities on quality of life and to assess whether other ancillary benefits might be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, while a recommended systematic methodology is being developed for evaluating and compensating for the impact of disability on quality of life, the Commission recommended that an immediate interim increase of up to 25 percent of compensation be enacted;
NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to address loss of quality of life.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 048—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT REASONABLE PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD FOR UNDIAGNOSED ILLNESSES
FOR GULF WAR VETERANS

WHEREAS, thousands of Gulf War veterans still suffer from chronic unexplained physical symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the numerous symptoms experienced by sick Gulf War veterans are not well understood and the causes of such symptoms remain elusive and answers could likely remain evasive for some time; and

WHEREAS, there currently is little significant research on long-term health effects of many of the agents Gulf War veterans were potentially exposed to during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, additional research into the long-term health effects of exposures is needed, a fact confirmed in a September 2000 report by the Institute of Medicine on the health effects of exposures during the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, the presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses was extended until September 30, 2011; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, urges that legislation be enacted to extend the presumptive period for service connection for ill-defined and undiagnosed illnesses to a reasonable period.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 049—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW ALL VETERANS TO RECOVER
AMOUNTS WITHHELD AS TAX ON DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY

WHEREAS, money received as a result of personal injury or disability is not taxable; and
WHEREAS, disability severance pay is paid to a military member as a result of injury or disease suffered during military service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has, and continues to, tax military disability severance pay as regular income; and

WHEREAS, a United States District Court has held that military disability severance pay is nontaxable income; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has acquiesced in the District Court holding; and

WHEREAS, the three-year statute of limitations prevents veterans who have been discharged for more than three years from recovering the nontaxable money withheld by the IRS; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 050—LEGISLATIVE
SEEK LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION
FROM COUNTABLE INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY TO BENEFITS
AND SERVICES UNDER OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, disabled veterans deserve special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, compensation for the effects of service-connected disabilities is counted as income in determinations of eligibility for other government benefits and programs, such as low-income housing through the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the value of compensation is negated and its purposes are defeated when a veteran's receipt of compensation is used to reduce or deny entitlement to government benefits or services available to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, when a veteran's compensation is offset against other entitlements, it is in effect deducted from the programs generally available to other citizens, and the veteran really receives nothing additional for his or her disability and is thus not compensated; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks legislation to exclude veterans' disability compensation from countable income for purposes of entitlement to benefits or services under other government programs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 052—LEGISLATIVE

EXPAND PRISONER-OF-WAR PRESUMPTIONS

WHEREAS, former prisoners-of-war (POWs) suffered cruel and inhumane treatment, together with nutritional deprivation at the hands of their captors, which resulted in long-term adverse health effects; and

WHEREAS, POWs were subjected to numerous and varying forms of abuse dependent upon the place, time, and circumstance of their captivity by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, former POWs suffer from a wide range of physical and psychological maladies; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 053—LEGISLATIVE

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; and

WHEREAS, establishing a causal relationship between certain injuries and later disability can be daunting due to lack of records or human factors that obscure or prevent documentation or even basic investigation of such incidents after they occur; and

WHEREAS, military sexual trauma is evermore recognized as a hazard of service for one percent of men serving and 20 percent of women serving in the armed forces and later represents a heavy burden of psychological and mental health care for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, an absence of documentation of military sexual trauma in the personnel or military unit records of injured individuals prevents or obstructs adjudication of claims for disabilities of this deserving group injured during their service, and may interrupt or prevent their care by VA once they become veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense (DoD) has established an office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) to establish department-wide policies and procedures for the handling of sexual assault and injury cases for active military service members and members of reserve and Guard units, including documentation, records retention and protection of the privacy of the individuals involved in such cases; and

WHEREAS, both DoD and VA have agreed on some procedures that would govern documentation sufficient to justify service connection of sexual assault and other military sexual trauma; and

WHEREAS, the VA has issued 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 054—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE REGIONAL DISPERSION OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS

WHEREAS, veterans and other claimants for veterans' benefits may appeal erroneous decisions of the various and geographically dispersed benefit offices and medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, inaccuracy and lack of uniformity are pervasive among the claims decisions of the many VA field offices; and

WHEREAS, one board, the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) situated adjacent to VA's Central Office and policymaking center in Washington, D.C., hears all appeals; and

WHEREAS, appellants, Board members, and taxpayers derive numerous benefits from an appellate board housed in one centralized location, some of the more obvious of which are:

- availability of the collective expertise of the entire board
- professional interaction and association among Board members and staff
- shared and uniform training
- common and shared goals and responsibilities
- economies of scale from pooled resources and the most efficient workload distribution, with the flexibility and capacity to readjust the workload as necessary between members and support staff
- a positive environment and employee incentives for developing creative solutions and innovations to meet and overcome the challenges inherent in a system of mass adjudication of claims
- more efficient and effective centralized case management and storage
- more effective centralized Board administration and hands-on employee oversight; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Board after repeated failed experiments with various configurations of regional appellate panels that were plagued by persistent inefficiencies and problems and were proven impractical and poorly suited to properly dispose of veterans' appeals; and

WHEREAS, indications are that consideration is being given within certain quarters of VA to dismember the Board and scatter its decision makers among the VA field offices or among various regions of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, such regional reorganization of the Board would be extremely unwise, wholly unwarranted, and not in the best interests of veterans or taxpayers; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, categorically opposes any decentralization of the Board.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 055—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS TO DECIDE EACH OF APPELLANT'S ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988 (VJRA) and created the United States Court of Veterans' Appeals (currently the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) (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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation that would require the Court to decide each assignment of error made by an appellant in an appeal to the Court and to reverse any such errors found; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Court should have the authority to modify or remand any Board decision found to contain any error or errors, that the authority to modify should include the power to order an award of benefits in appropriate cases, and that an appellant should be expressly permitted to waive confessions of error made by the appellee.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 056—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CAP ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR BENEFITS COUNSELING AND CLAIMS SERVICES BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, our nation established veterans' programs to repay or reward veterans for their extraordinary service and sacrifices on behalf of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit in which special benefits are provided to especially deserving beneficiaries, our citizens intended these benefits to be dispensed through an open, helpful, and informal system in which the government is duty bound to receive every claimant as entitled and provide every reasonable assistance in developing and shepherding the claim through the entire administrative process while affording consideration of all legal avenues toward granting every benefit that can be supported in law; and

WHEREAS, the programs are also designed in a manner that ensures veterans and their families will receive the full measure of aid from disability compensation and other monetary payments without taxation and with protections that ensure they are not diverted into the pockets of others who have no entitlement to them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has set the rates of these modest benefits to be minimally adequate for their intended purposes, such as assisting disabled veterans and their families in purchasing the necessities of life or obtaining services necessary to ameliorate the effects of disability, and the amounts provided do not contemplate or allow for any reduction or diminishment in buying power such as will occur when a portion is diverted to attorneys; and

WHEREAS, acquiescence in any general situation in which obtaining veterans' benefits required hiring an attorney and surrendering 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks legislation to provide for a reasonable cap on the amount of fees an attorney can charge veterans for benefits counseling and claims services before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 059—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS

WHEREAS, in 1973, the National Cemetery Administration established a burial allowance that provided partial reimbursement for eligible funeral and burial costs, with a payment of \$2,000 for service-connected burial allowance, \$300 for 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to increase the burial allowance payable at a rate equal to that of inflation since 1973 in the case of death due to service-connected disability regardless of the place where the death occurred.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 060—LEGISLATIVE

INCREASE THE HOME IMPROVEMENT AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS GRANT

WHEREAS, under section 1717, title 38, United States Code, the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) program, veterans with service-connected disabilities or veterans

with non-service-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 non-service-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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, calls for a reasonable increase to HISA benefits for veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 062—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE BENEFITS PAID TO
WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS FROM THE
“PAY-GO/CUT-GO” PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, wartime disabled veterans have earned the benefits and services they, their dependents and survivors receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a result of the injuries sustained during their period of wartime service; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services received by wartime disabled veterans as a result of their service-connected disabilities is an extension of the costs of war; and

WHEREAS, this country has a moral obligation to continue to care for these citizen soldiers who have risen in defense and support of the ideals of this great nation and who have returned to civilian life with service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to America’s veterans, dependents and survivors have not caused this nation’s deficit problems; and

WHEREAS, the so-called “pay-go”/“cut-go” provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act require any new benefits or services to be paid out of existing benefits or programs, in effect, requiring one group of disabled veterans to give up a benefit or service so that another worthy group of wartime disabled veterans can receive benefits or services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from ailments associated with their service in the Persian Gulf War are compensated from funds generated by cutting the benefits of other service-connected veterans and their survivors; and

WHEREAS, the benefits and services provided to wartime disabled veterans are unique and not a “welfare benefit;” NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to exempt VA benefits and services provided to service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors from the “paygo”/“cut-go” provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 063—LEGISLATIVE
EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE
AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS
WHEREAS, disabled enlisted personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space-available air travel aboard military aircraft, to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949, for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the VA as 30 percent or more disabling and who retained at least a 30 percent evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 094—LEGISLATIVE
ADD COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME AND CHRONIC PAIN TO THE
SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, due to advances in military triage, aeromedical evacuation and military medical care, service members are surviving devastating injuries more so than injured veterans of earlier periods of military service and warfare; and

WHEREAS, pain is the most frequent complaint leading individuals, including wounded, injured and ill veterans, to seek medical care; and

WHEREAS, complex regional pain syndrome and chronic pain are out of proportion to the severity of an initial injury; and

WHEREAS, research confirms the rate of suicidal ideation in this group is significantly higher than individuals with any other chronic pain disorder; and

WHEREAS, chronic regional pain syndrome and chronic pain are significant nervous system disorders recognized as disabling by the Social Security Administration, and are identified as legitimate conditions in the International Classification of Diseases; and

WHEREAS, chronic regional pain syndrome and chronic pain are not identified in the Schedule for Rating Disabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the standard for award of disability compensation to disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, injured veterans subsequently diagnosed with chronic regional pain syndrome and chronic pain are not being provided disability ratings for these conditions, but are given arbitrary, analogous ratings that are not reflective of these chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, erroneous ratings could award an inaccurate level of overall disability compensation and other benefits to injured and wounded veterans; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports amendment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities to ensure diagnosis of complex regional pain syndrome and chronic pain are appropriately rated under distinct diagnostic codes to more accurately reflect the unique characteristics of these disabling conditions.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 107—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE ANY CHANGE THAT WOULD REDEFINE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY
OR RESTRICT THE CONDITIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT MAY BE
ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, current law authorizes service connection for disabilities incurred or aggravated during service in the United States Armed Forces in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, various proposals have been made to limit service connection to disabilities caused directly by the performance of duty; and

WHEREAS, disability incurred in the line of duty is sometimes not directly due to a job injury but may be due to less obvious factors attributable to the Armed Forces environment; and

WHEREAS, proof of a causal relationship may often be difficult or impossible notwithstanding an inability to disassociate the disability from service-related factors; and

WHEREAS, current law equitably alleviates the onerous burden of establishing performance of duty or other causal connection as a prerequisite for service connection; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes changes in current law so as to redefine or restrict service connection.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 111—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSABLE RATING FOR HEARING IMPAIRED VETERANS REQUIRED TO USE A HEARING AID

WHEREAS, a significantly high number of veterans with hearing impairments have a zero percent or non-compensable rating for high frequency hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, most veterans who have such a rating with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) experience significant difficulties with such hearing loss in ordinary daily living; and

WHEREAS, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a compensable rating of 10 percent for other minor disabilities such as a partial loss of one finger, mild skin conditions, tender scars and, in some cases, for the residuals of an episiotomy scar; and

WHEREAS, the VA should recognize those veterans who are impacted by high frequency hearing loss; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 112—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS

WHEREAS, veterans of the armed services who served in combat or in certain occupational specialties have a high incidence rate of hearing loss or tinnitus as a direct result of acoustic trauma; and

WHEREAS, many pre-service and discharge examinations, particularly for World War II and Korean conflict veterans, were usually accomplished with the highly inaccurate whispered voice test; and

WHEREAS, veterans, in those cases, were not afforded a comprehensive audiological examination upon entrance and discharge from military service; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the second leading disability granted service connection by the Department of Veterans Affairs was for hearing loss or tinnitus; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 115—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 163—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REDUCE PREMIUMS FOR SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS'
INSURANCE CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT LIFE EXPECTANCY

WHEREAS, the United States Government provides life insurance to service members because the increased hazards of military service make them an unacceptable risk for the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, coverage for service members may be continued after service under policies issued or programs overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the extra-hazard costs of insuring veterans in poorer health by reason of service-connected disabilities should be borne by the Government; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 170—LEGISLATIVE
INCREASE THE GRANT FOR AUTOMOBILES OR OTHER CONVEYANCES
AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a grant to assist eligible disabled veterans and service members in purchasing specially equipped automobiles or other conveyances; and

WHEREAS, when originally established, the amount of the grant was set at an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of lower-priced automobiles; and

WHEREAS, later amendments established grants in amounts representing 80 percent of the average cost of automobiles; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the automobile allowance has not been adjusted regularly concurrent with increases in the costs of automobiles, resulting in substantial erosion of the value of the benefit due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current grant of approximately \$19,000 represents about 66 percent of the total average cost of automobiles based on most current available pricing; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to increase the automobile grant to an amount representing 80 percent of the average cost of new automobiles.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 171—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, vigorously supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) expeditious handling of Persian Gulf War veterans' claims and the payment of fair and just compensation for those diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions associated with their service in the Persian Gulf theater or related exposure to certain chemical, biological, and environmental toxins; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strongly urge that these Persian Gulf War veterans continue to receive priority medical treatment for those ailments that may be associated with their service in the Persian Gulf; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we vehemently urge VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to cooperate in tests and studies to unlock the mysteries surrounding the ailments suffered by Persian Gulf War veterans, including the possibility of exposure to chemical agents by United States military personnel.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 172—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL SEPARATION BENEFITS PAYMENTS NOT BE WITHHELD FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, as a result of the downsizing of our military forces, many career military personnel have left service prior to becoming eligible for longevity retirement pay; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are entitled to separation pay; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals also become eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, VA General Counsel, in an opinion rendered on June 22, 1992, held that any monies received as a result of the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) must be recouped from any VA disability compensation payment; and

WHEREAS, SSB payments are in no way related to a disability; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to clarify that SSB payments are not disability payments and therefore should not be recouped from VA disability compensation payments.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 173—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR REALISTIC COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor provides statistical information and analysis that impacts the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for disabled veterans, military retirees, and Social Security recipients; and

WHEREAS, the calculations regarding COLAs are the domain of the Social Security Administration, using a formula that has been directly linked to the Consumer Price Index since 1975, prescribed by law when calculating any COLA increase; and

WHEREAS, in general, a COLA is equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of one year to the third quarter of the next, and if there is no increase, there is no COLA; and

WHEREAS, the formula that derives the level of increase is tied to the U.S. economy on a very broad basis; stagnant economic activity does not mean disabled veterans' cost of living is flat; in fact, as they age and suffer from associated illnesses of aging, their costs increase; and

WHEREAS, the COLA formula has been adjusted to remove items such as groceries and fuel from such calculations; and

WHEREAS, it is unfair that disabled veterans are denied necessary increases in disability payments due to a formula that actually has little to do with the costs they bear; and

WHEREAS, there have been recent attempts to adjust the COLA downward in various methods such as "Chained COLA;" and

WHEREAS, disabled veterans disability compensation has not kept pace with the rest of the economy, even in years when there were COLA payments, disability benefits lagged; and

WHEREAS, many disabled veterans and their survivors are on fixed incomes and rely on COLAs to meet their current living expenses; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to provide for a COLA formula that represents a realistic cost-of-living allowance for our nation's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 174—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

WHEREAS, under title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 4.130, the criteria for evaluating mental disorders is very ambiguous; and

WHEREAS, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, delirium, dementia, and amnesic and other cognitive disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, somatoform disorders, mood disorders, and chronic adjustment disorders, are all evaluated using the same general rating formula for mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders specifically lists different symptoms for post traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and other psychiatric disorders; and

WHEREAS, one veteran service connected for schizophrenia and another veteran service-connected for another psychiatric disorder should not be evaluated using the same general formula; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports amendment of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 4.130 to formulate different criteria to evaluate the various mental disorders under the appropriate psychiatric disorder.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 175—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE ALL ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE BASIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RATING SCHEDULE FROM THE "AVERAGE IMPAIRMENTS OF EARNINGS CAPACITY" STANDARD

WHEREAS, the 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any attempt to change or modify the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities, or the statute and regulations underlying it, which would change the long-standing, accepted and successful policy that ratings shall be based, as far as practicable, upon the average impairments of earning capacity.”

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 176—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CONSIDER PRIVATE MEDICAL EVIDENCE SUPPLIED BY A LICENSED PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 177—LEGISLATIVE
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 VSOs 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 developed a three-year strategic plan for transforming its claims processing system focused on people, process and technology; 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 re-organized 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 recently 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's transformation strategy has begun to show evidence of progress in the first half of 2013, with the number of claims backlogged over 125 days dropping by over 70,000 and the accuracy rate slowly, but steadily rising; 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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 P.L. 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 Veterans Benefits Management System, as well as the digital conversion of paper claims files.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 178—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR WAIVER OF PREMIUMS FOR
SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

WHEREAS, section 1922A(a), title 38, United States Code, provides for supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI) for totally disabled veterans, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, section 1922A(d), title 38, United States Code, provides that, "no waiver of premiums shall be made in the case of any person for supplemental insurance granted under this section;" and

WHEREAS, such prohibition of premium waiver is based on the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951, which states in part, "[t]he amount of insurance placed in force hereunder. . .at the time of the insured's application for waiver hereunder, may not exceed \$10,000" (section 1912(d), title 38, United States Code); and

WHEREAS, such denial of waiver on supplemental Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance for totally disabled veterans constitutes an inequity based on prior established standards; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to allow for the waiver of premiums, for any and all Supplemental S-DVI for totally disabled veterans that may be authorized by existing and future legislation; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria for total disability waiver of premiums, as mandated in section 1912 of title 38, United States Code, be maintained.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 179—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE THAT VETERANS WILL RECEIVE
SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING WHEN SERVICE CONNECTION IS
GRANTED FOR A PAIRED ORGAN OR EXTREMITY

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1160, Special Consideration for Paired Organs and Extremities, allows for compensation to be paid for combinations of service-connected and non-service-connected disabilities specified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section as if both disabilities were service connected, provided the non-service-connected disability is not the result of the veteran's own willful misconduct; and

WHEREAS, veterans that have been awarded service connection under title 38, United States Code, section 1160, receive compensation as if the paired organ or extremity is in fact service connected; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 2101, provides for acquisition and adaptation of housing for certain permanently and totally severely injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, similarly situated veterans, service connected pursuant to title 38, United States Code, section 1160, have been denied benefits provided under title 38, United States Code, section 2101(a), as failing to meet the disability standards set forth in the aforementioned statutes; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to provide that veterans awarded disability benefits under title 38, United States Code, section 1160 are considered eligible under title 38, United States Code, section 2101(a), to receive specially adapted housing grants.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 180—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention, assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to authorize advance appropriations for all of VA's discretionary 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 and the office of inspector general.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 181—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO 100
PERCENT SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earnings capacity; and

WHEREAS, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that the Congress may provide; and

WHEREAS, such totally disabled veterans should be extended the same privileges as other personnel currently authorized to utilize space-available military air travel; and

WHEREAS, the extension of such travel to totally disabled service-connected veterans would not place any additional burden upon the administration of this program; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, seeks the enactment of legislation that would extend space-available air travel aboard military aircraft to all 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 182—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES TO SERVICE-CONNECTED
DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

WHEREAS, current Department of Defense regulations authorize military commissary and exchange privileges to a broad category of active and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured while in service to their nation have earned the privilege to use commissary and exchange stores; and

WHEREAS, the recent downsizing of the military jeopardizes the continued profitable operation of military and exchange stores; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to extend commissary and exchange privileges to service-connected disabled veterans and their dependents.

* * *

ACCEPT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & VETERANS RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS

COMMANDER POLZIN: You have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 1.

MR. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MR. PARSETICH: Joe Parsetich from the State of Montana, would second.

COMMANDER POLZIN: In accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolution to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to hear read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered.

I would like to call upon Ed Peters for the report of the Committee on Hospital and Volunteer Services. Excuse me. Brigitte Marker is reporting on this report.

COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES REPORT

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRIGITTE MARKER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARKER: Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Hospitals and Voluntary Services was called to order on August 10th, 2013 by the Committee Advisors Edward Peters and Joy J. Ilem.

The first order of business was the election of Committee chairman and a secretary. I, Brigitte Marker, was elected as chairman and Kirk Johnson 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 only read the number and purpose of the resolutions.

Resolution Number 28, support the provisions of comprehensive VA health care services to enrolled veterans; Resolution Number 72, support dental care for all enrolled veterans within the VA health care system; Resolution Number 73, support legislation to require the president, vice president and members of Congress to receive health care exclusively from the VA; (Applause)

Resolution Number 74, support congressional funding for the creation of a VA rehabilitative special events office; Resolution Number 123, oppose means testing service-connected veterans for VA health care; Number 124, support sufficient funding for VA prosthetics and sensory aid service and timely delivery of prosthetic items;

Resolution Number 125, support enhanced treatment for military sexual trauma; Resolution Number 145, support humane, consistent pain management programs in the VA; Resolution Number 165, support sustained sufficient funding to improve services for homeless veterans;

Resolution Number 166, support programs to provide psychological support and mental health counseling services to family members of veterans suffering from post-deployment mental health challenges or other service-connected conditions;

Resolution Number 167, support consistent, reasonable access for service and guide dogs in VA facilities; Resolution Number 185, support VA medical and prosthetic research programs; Resolution Number 186, support top-priority access for service-connected veterans within the VA health care system;

Resolution Number 187, improve VA Purchased Care Program; Resolution Number 188, support enhancement of medical services through modernization of VA health care infrastructure; Resolution Number 189, support new models of care within VA for veterans with dementia;

Resolution Number 190, improve the care and benefits for veterans exposed to military toxic and environmental exposures; Resolution Number 191, support state veteran home program; Resolution 192, support legislation to extend eligibility of qualifying veterans' adult child for CHAMP-VA;

Resolution 193, support program improvements and enhanced resources from VA mental health programs; Resolution 194, support legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care co-payment costs to service-connected disabled veterans;

Resolution 195, support the rights and the benefits earned by Native American and Alaska Native American veterans, or, excuse me, Alaska Native veterans; Resolution 196, oppose third-party payments for service-connected disabilities;

Resolution 197, support enhanced medical services and benefits for women veterans; Resolution 198, enhance long-term health care to service-connected disabled veterans; Resolution 199, Congress and the administration must assure full implementation of legislation to guarantee sufficient, timely and predictable funding for VA health care programs;

Resolution 200, oppose privatization of VA health care services and programs; Resolution Number 201, support legislation to provide comprehensive support services for care givers of severely-wounded, injured and ill veterans from all eras;

Resolution Number 202, adequately fund and sustain the Successful Readjustment Counseling Services of the VA and its highly effective vet center program; Resolution Number 203, support legislation to establish a comprehensive program for traumatic brain injury rehabilitation;

Resolution Number 204, ensure timely access to quality VA health care and services; Resolution Number 205, support legislation to authorize scholarships for new mental health practitioners in exchange for agreements to serve veterans in the VA facilities;

Resolution Number 206, protect veterans from employment discrimination when seeking health care for service-connected conditions; Resolution Number 207, reduce VA medication co-pays equal to or less than the lowest charged by private sector commercial outlets;

Resolution Number 208, support repeal of beneficiary travel pay deductible for service-connected disabled veterans and increase and sustain beneficiary travel reimbursement rates; Resolution Number 209, support full funding and resources for poly-trauma units at VA medical centers;

Resolution Number 210, oppose recommendation that eligible military retiree veterans be prohibited from receiving health care at both DoD and VA facilities; Resolution 211, support sufficient resources for VA to improve health care for veterans living in rural and remote areas;

Resolution Number 212, improve reimbursement policies for non-VA emergency health care services for enrolled veterans; Resolution Number 213, enhance CHAMP-VA services; Resolution Number 214, support legislation to improve VA programs designed to prevent and treat substance abuse disorders in veterans;

Resolution 215, require a veteran's attending VA physician to provide a medical opinion with regards to a claim for VA disability compensation benefits when requested; 216, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the George H. Seal Memorial Award program;

Resolution Number 217, encourage the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit candidate for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship program; Resolution 231, extend appreciation to VA Sunshine Health Care Network for the success of the 92nd 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:)

HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 028—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation that embodies the concepts and principles enumerated above and establishes certainty to clearly defined VA health care services for enrolled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 072—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, section 1712, to provide outpatient dental care to all enrolled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 073—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE HEALTH CARE EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, even though veterans' health care is funded through an advance appropriation, it is still at the discretion of Congress to provide the level of funding necessary for the veterans' health care system; and

WHEREAS, the President and many members of Congress insist that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system is adequately funded; and

WHEREAS, VA is recognized as the best health care system in the United States, and for providing high quality health care services; and

WHEREAS, by using the VA health care system, the President, Vice President, and members of Congress would be in a better position to understand the resource needs of VA to enable it to provide timely quality health care to our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, similar to the members of the military, the President, Vice President, and most Members of Congress are required to spend a significant amount of time away from their homes, families, and friends while Congress is in session; and

WHEREAS, because of the patriotism, devotion, and sacrifices of our President, Vice President, and Members of Congress, ours is the most free nation on earth, where our citizens enjoy unequalled rights, privileges, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress should therefore be granted the privilege of using the VA health care system for their medical needs; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is a veteran, he or she would be classified into the proper priority group for purpose of receipt of VA medical care; and

WHEREAS, if the President, Vice President, or member of Congress is not a veteran, he or she would be classified as a non service-connected veteran in either Priority Group 7 or 8, depending on their income; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation to require the President, Vice President, and Members of Congress to enroll for VA medical care services and receive health care exclusively from the VA health care system.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 074—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS REHABILITATIVE SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and several Congressionally chartered veterans service organizations cosponsor national rehabilitative special event programs for veterans receiving health care from VA medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, the VA currently has a program within the Office of Public Affairs tasked with oversight of the national rehabilitative special events; and

WHEREAS, these rehabilitative programs, which include the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games, National Creative Arts Festival, and the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic focus on rehabilitation of many severely disabled veterans and, as such, these events should be the responsibility of the Veterans Health Administration (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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 123—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE MEANS TESTING SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS FOR DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Public Law 104-262 requires zero percent service-connected disabled veterans to be means tested in order to receive treatment in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility; and

WHEREAS, countless thousands of veterans have relied on 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports the exclusion of service-connected disabled veterans from the requirements of means testing for treatment or service received at VA medical facilities and the inclusion of zero percent service-connected disabled veterans in Priority Group 3.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 124—LEGISLATIVE

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 according to DoD as of December 2012, 1,715 service members suffered major or minor amputations during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn; 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 125—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ENHANCED TREATMENT FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense's Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPRO) reports that over 3,000 sexual assaults are acknowledged each year across the military services; and

WHEREAS, SAPRO estimates that approximately 87 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 MST; and

WHEREAS, MST-related outpatient treatment encounters total nearly 800,000 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 145—LEGISLATIVE
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” of 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, and of 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 in veteran patients, while reducing the use of opioids and other narcotics 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 five 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 a long period have been denied further access to prescriptions for pain medications; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate psychological counseling and transition to suitable alternatives to controlled substances, including so-called “Schedule II” narcotic medications, veterans can suffer physical and mental anguish needlessly and in essence are not receiving patient-centered, holistic care; 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; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, urges VA to redouble its efforts to conduct a uniform national pain management program, to ensure that veterans with chronic pain who have been 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV encourages VA to monitor local pain management efforts to ensure they are consistent with the intent of this resolution and with VA’s national pain management policy and guidelines.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 165—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT SUSTAINED SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR
HOMELESS VETERANS

WHEREAS, compared to non-veterans, veterans are at higher risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many veterans experience post-deployment readjustment conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorders acquired during or worsened by their military service, or traumatic brain injuries that may make their participation in the workforce difficult or impossible, making them more prone to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, according to 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, each year, VA's specialized homelessness programs provide health care to more than 150,000 homeless veterans and other services to 112,000 veterans; 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 166—LEGISLATIVE

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, under-employment or loss of employment, financial hardship, social alienation, and even homelessness, or involvement with the justice system; and

WHEREAS, a combat-exposed veteran who is not appropriately counseled for the psychological effects of PTSD or depression stands at greater risk of emotional and mental

decompensation, whose consequences often fall directly on family members and dependents of such veteran; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) embraces recovery from mental illness as its guiding principle in all VA mental health programs, and involvement of family members and dependents is often vital to a veteran's eventual recovery from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, subsection 1712A(b)2 authorizes the VA Readjustment Counseling Service, through its Vet Center program, to provide psychological counseling and other necessary mental health services to family members of war veterans under care in such Vet Centers, irrespective of service connected disability status; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted section 301 of Public Law 110-387 for the express purpose of authorizing marriage and family counseling in VA facilities to address the needs of veterans' families, including spouses and other dependent family members of veterans who are experiencing mental health challenges with attendant marital or family difficulties; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted sections 101-103 of Public Law 111-163 for the purpose of authorizing a wide array of support, care and counseling services for personal caregivers of severely injured or ill veterans from all eras of military service; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1782 authorizes a program of counseling, training, and mental health services, including psychological support, for immediate family members of disabled veterans who need care for service connected disabilities; who have service connected disabilities rated at 50 percent or more disabling; who were discharged or retired from the armed forces for injuries or illnesses incurred in line of duty; who are World War I or Mexican Border Period veterans; who were awarded the Purple Heart; who are former prisoners of war; who were exposed to radiation or toxic substances; or, who are unable to defray the expenses of their care; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, section 1781, authorizes a program of health care, including certain mental health services, for immediate family members and dependents of a veteran who is totally and permanently disabled from service connected disabilities, or who died from disabilities incurred during military service; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 167—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT CONSISTENT REASONABLE ACCESS FOR SERVICE AND
GUIDE DOGS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, trained guide dogs and other trained service dogs can have a significant role in maintaining functionality and promoting maximal independence of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, some veterans with disabilities such as blindness, deafness, mental illness, and epilepsy and other seizure disorders are specifically aided by service and guide animals employed for these purposes by persons with such disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) approves guide and service dogs to veterans enrolled in VA health care when therapeutically indicated; and

WHEREAS, the 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 185—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 186—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT TOP PRIORITY ACCESS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has issued national directives and policies to affirm its commitment to providing top priority access to hospital care and medical services to veterans with service-connected disabilities, regardless of the percentage assigned to the service-connected disability rating, in absence of compelling medical reasons to the contrary; and

WHEREAS, many VA facilities are struggling to fulfill this mandate because of budget pressures, insufficient local resources and saturation of available capacity because of increasing patient workloads; and

WHEREAS, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports strict enforcement by the VHA, including VHA network and medical center directors, of governing policies providing service-connected veterans priority access to care, unless compelling medical reasons affecting other veterans prevent such priority from being extended to them.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 187—LEGISLATIVE

IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PURCHASED CARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, current law authorizes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities to purchase non-VA care for scarce medical specialists only when VA facilities are incapable of providing necessary care to veterans, when VA facilities are geographically inaccessible to veterans, and in certain emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, non-VA purchased care includes non-VA Emergency Care, Fee Basis, Contract Care, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMP-VA) 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 RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 188—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ENHANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGH MODERNIZATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, with over 1,400 sites of care, including comprehensive medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 189—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 190—LEGISLATIVE
IMPROVE THE CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO MILITARY TOXIC
AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

WHEREAS, veterans of all military conflicts from the World Wars to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to environmental hazards and man-made toxins, including 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 191—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT STATE VETERANS HOME PROGRAM

WHEREAS, State Veterans Homes were founded for Union soldiers and sailors following the American Civil War, and have ably served veterans for nearly 150 years; and

WHEREAS, under title 38, United States Code, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is authorized to make aid payments to States that maintain State Veterans Homes, and to make grants to States for their construction and major improvements; and

WHEREAS, there are over 140 State Veterans Homes, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports an adequate VA per diem payment to State Homes of not more than 50 percent of the national average cost of providing care in a State Veterans Home, as authorized by law; AND

BE IT BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DAV supports sufficient funding for the State Home Construction Grant Program; AND

BE IT 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 192—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY OF A QUALIFYING
VETERAN'S ADULT CHILD FOR THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL
PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS

WHEREAS, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 193—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCED RESOURCES FOR
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, current research findings indicate that war veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, 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 2013, VA reported that of the 1,604,359 separated OEF/OIF/OND veterans, 899,751 have obtained VA health care since fiscal year 2002, a total of 486,015 unique patients have received a diagnosis of a mental disorder and 261,998 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) 2012, more than 1.3 million veterans received specialized mental health care from the VA, a number that has steadily risen from 927,052 in FY 2006; 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 827 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 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; and

WHEREAS, DOD and VA are responsible for screening and evaluating all service members returning from combat deployments and ensuring they understand what services are available for post-deployment readjustment; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National convention in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 194—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, calls for legislation to eliminate or reduce VA and DoD health care out-of-pocket costs for service connected disabled veterans.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 195—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS EARNED BY NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA
NATIVE VETERANS

WHEREAS, per capita, a higher percentage of Native Americans have served in the armed forces than any other ethnic group, and many return to their reservations upon discharge from the military; and

WHEREAS, the reserved lands of the Indian Nations often can be hundreds of miles from VA facilities, where poverty, lack of transportation, and poor roads put great hardships on Native American veterans who need and have earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, in evaluating the needs of Native American and Alaska Native veterans, especially those living on reservation lands, the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations has reported among the most pressing needs to be the great travel distances for them to access VA health care services, a high percentage of homelessness, and a lack of local employment opportunity; and

WHEREAS, many Native American veterans who have completed military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and who may be challenged by readjustment and mental health disorders are not afforded responsive medical attention due to insufficient mental health service availability on reservations; and

WHEREAS, many VA clinical care providers lack knowledge and understanding of the Native American and Alaska Native cultures, including their traditions and methods of dealing with illness and disability, causing additional barriers to care for Native American and Alaska Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 and renewed in 2010, VA executed with the Indian Health Service (IHS) of the Department of Health and Human Services, a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate and provide health care services, including mental health services, to Native American and Alaska Native veterans; and

WHEREAS, nearly a decade after the original agreement was approved in 2003, the VA and IHS have not comprehensively implemented the Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, due to lack of implementation, Tribal Governments do not have broad knowledge of the existence of, or commitments in, the Memorandum of Understanding, and therefore have not generally disseminated relevant information to Native American and Alaska Native veterans about their VA and IHS rights and benefits under the agreement; NOW;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 196—LEGISLATIVE
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 nonservice-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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 197—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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, review 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 198—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 199—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 200—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have vastly improved and expanded over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, VA provides extensive preventive programs, and in an environment of safety offers veterans comprehensive primary, acute and rehabilitative care, including pharmaceutical, mental health and readjustment counseling services, to over eight million veterans; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities are affiliated with 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 201—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 202—LEGISLATIVE

ADEQUATELY FUND AND SUSTAIN THE SUCCESSFUL READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND ITS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE VET CENTER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 1979, Congress authorized the establishment of the Readjustment Counseling Service, an independent counseling activity within the then-Veterans Administration's Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 203—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) has been called the signature injury of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, blast injuries from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that shake or compress the brain within the skull often cause devastating and permanent damage to brain tissue; and

WHEREAS, veterans with severe TBI and polytrauma will require extensive rehabilitation and life-long personal and clinical support, including neurological, medical and psychiatric services, and physical, psycho-social, occupational, and vocational therapies, and

WHEREAS, VA reports that it is tailoring its programs to meet the unique needs of severely injured Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans by assigning case managers to each TBI and polytrauma patient and putting a greater emphasis on understanding the problems of families during the initial care and long-term rehabilitation of these patients; and

WHEREAS, we remain concerned about capacity and whether VA has the resources and staff necessary to provide intensive rehabilitation services, treat the chronic physical, emotional and behavioral problems that would be benefitted by long-term therapeutic residential facilities, and to fully support families and caregivers of these seriously brain-injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, TBI can also be caused without any apparent physical injuries when a veteran is in the vicinity of an IED detonation; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering from the milder form of TBI may experience a variety of symptoms including headaches, irritability, sleep disorders, memory problems and depression; and

WHEREAS, emerging literature strongly suggests that even mild TBI may have long-term mental health and medical consequences, and 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 204—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 205—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports legislation or administrative policy changes in the existing scholarship program to make its benefits available more broadly within both the Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Centers of the Department so that these facilities will be able to adequately meet the needs of veterans of all generations who need mental health services and psychological counseling to aid in their recoveries.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 206—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

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RESOLUTION NO. 207—LEGISLATIVE

REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICATION COPAYMENTS 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 208—LEGISLATIVE
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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 209—LEGISLATIVE
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, 22 additional VA medical centers have been designated as polytrauma network sites in each VISN to provide long-term care, and are located in Boston, San Juan, Syracuse, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Augusta, Lexington, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Hines, St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, Tucson, Denver, Seattle, and 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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. 210—LEGISLATIVE
OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION THAT MILITARY RETIRED VETERANS BE PROHIBITED
FROM RECEIVING HEALTH CARE FROM BOTH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS, military retired veterans were promised and earned lifetime health care through the Department of Defense (DoD) for completion of the required period of military service; and

WHEREAS, as veterans, they are separately entitled to the same health care provided to eligible veterans generally through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, one of the two health care systems may offer advantages that the other does not offer; and

WHEREAS, a veteran's use of this dual entitlement to receive the best services of both systems does not constitute unnecessary duplicate use of health care services or duplication of costs to the Government; and

WHEREAS, entitlement to care under one system is not itself justification to end separate entitlement to care through the other system; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of their service and sacrifices, veterans have earned special benefits that are separate and in addition to benefits the government provides to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in VA or DoD health care, especially in the case of service-connected disabled veterans, should never become a bar or obstacle to the receipt of benefits from either of these health care systems; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention, assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, opposes any action to restrict health care eligibility for military retired veterans in either the DoD or the VA health care systems.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 211—LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL OR
REMOTE AREAS

WHEREAS, 44 percent of today's active duty military service members and tomorrow's veteran population list rural communities as their homes of record; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40 percent of veterans enrolled for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care are classified by VA as veterans living in rural or highly rural areas; and

WHEREAS, after serving our nation, veterans should not have their health care needs neglected by the VA because they choose to live in rural and remote areas far from major VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS; Public Law 109-461 authorized VA to establish the Veterans Health Administration 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

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, fully supports the right of rural veterans to be served by VA, but insists that funding for additional rural care and outreach be sustained and not be the cause of reductions in highly specialized VA medical programs needed for the care of sick and disabled service-connected veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 212—LEGISLATIVE

IMPROVE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR ENROLLED VETERANS

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans (VA) provides enrolled veterans a uniform benefits package that emphasizes preventive and primary care, and provides a comprehensive health care benefit plan including hospital, outpatient and long term care; and

WHEREAS, a health care benefits plan is incomplete without a provision for emergency care; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of service-connected and nonservice-connected enrolled veterans rely on VA as their exclusive health care provider; and

WHEREAS, VA medical center recorded telephone greetings universally announce: "If you have a life-threatening emergency, please hang up and dial 911"; and

WHEREAS, city, county and voluntary emergency fire and rescue systems must conform to State first-responder and fire rescue laws, and under such laws, must transport patients to designated facilities equipped with certified emergency room capabilities; and

WHEREAS, VA facilities, with few exceptions, do not qualify under State or Federal laws as "emergency receiving facilities" for critically ill or injured patients under transport by first responders, nor do they offer 24-hour coverage for emergency care, and thus do not generally receive such cases; and

WHEREAS, VA frequently denies emergency service claims from private health care facilities submitted by service-connected veterans on the basis that VA was "available" for the care of that veteran in that circumstance; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, in defining the term "emergency treatment" for purposes of VA reimbursement, provides "that a prudent layperson reasonably expects that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health;" and

WHEREAS, VA, in making its decision on a veteran's qualification for reimbursement after a perceived and claimed emergency, should take into account that in the circumstances of an emergency situation a veteran eligible under title 38, United States Code, for emergency care reimbursement may not have had any choice in receiving care at a non-VA facility due to the circumstances of that situation; and

WHEREAS, title 38, United States Code, restricts reimbursement for emergency care to that of VA acting in last resort, in cases in which veterans possess no other coverage, have a liability to the emergency-service provider, and have utilized VA health care resources within a 24-month period of the emergency event; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 110-387 requires VA to reimburse eligible veterans for emergency treatment of a service-connected disability, a nonservice-connected disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability, or any 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 213—LEGISLATIVE ENHANCE THE CIVILIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), known as CHAMPVA, is a health benefits program in which the VA shares the cost of certain health services with eligible beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, eligible beneficiaries include: the spouse or child of a veteran who VA rated 100 percent permanently and totally disabled for a service connected disability; the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability, or who, at the time of death, was rated 100 percent permanently and totally disabled; or the surviving spouse or child of a military service member who died on active duty, and the primary caregiver of a veteran seriously injured during military service on or after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, VA medical centers are authorized to provide services to CHAMPVA beneficiaries under the CHAMPVA In House Treatment Initiative (CITI) program at no cost to the beneficiary but are provided at the discretion of the VA Medical Center director and available only on a space-available basis, after the needs of veterans are met; and

WHEREAS, if the local VA medical facility does not participate in the CITI program, the beneficiary must seek care in the private sector and the CHAMPVA beneficiary is responsible for an annual \$50 deductible for medical services rendered and 25 percent of reasonable and customary charges for patient care and pharmaceuticals, up to \$3,000 each year; and

WHEREAS, beneficiaries who are chronically ill can incur out-of-pocket medical care costs up to \$3,000 per year and such costs can cause undue financial burden on a severely disabled veteran and family members; and

WHEREAS, numerous health care services such as dental care, institutional and home-based long-term care, and vision are not routinely covered under CHAMPVA; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 214—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN VETERANS

WHEREAS, the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other addictive substances 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 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 posttraumatic 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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, supports program improvement and enhanced resources for VA substance use disorder programs to achieve a full spectrum of evidence-based accessible and available treatment, including effective integrated treatment programs for veterans with co-morbid mental health and substance use disorder conditions, regardless of their place of residence.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 215—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 216—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, 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.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 217—LEGISLATIVE

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 Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, strongly encourages each Voluntary Service program manager at every VA medical facility to submit the name of a deserving youth volunteer to be considered for one of the scholarships in appreciation of their dedication to serving America's veterans through their voluntary service efforts.

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 231—ADMINISTRATIVE

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUNSHINE HEALTHCARE NETWORK FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 92ND DAV NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the cooperation and professionalism extended by VA medical personnel to the delegates and guests of the 92nd National Convention of DAV 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) Sunshine Healthcare Network, staffed and maintained a high-quality outpatient clinic and prosthetic service within the Orlando Hilton; and

WHEREAS, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 92nd National Convention were extended in a highly compassionate and professional manner; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DAV in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 2013, expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to VA Sunshine Health Care Network for the professional and skillful medical care delivered to the delegates to this 92nd National Convention and for contributing to the overall success of this Convention.

* * *

ACCEPT COMMITTEE ON HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES RESOLUTIONS

COMMANDER POLZIN: You have heard the motion. May I have a second?

MS. PATRICIA WHEELER: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

MS. WHEELER: Patricia Wheeler, Chapter 6, California, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: And in accordance with Rule 9, now is the time for any rejected resolution to be read. Are there any rejected resolutions you wish to hear read? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Brigitte. (Applause)

At this time I'd call on – Past National Commander Dick Marbes is one of the most enduring figures in our organization and is one of the most respected people I have ever known.

While serving in the U.S. Air Force, Dick lost his right leg and was medically retired in 1958. Since then he has continued service the DAV and is widely recognized for his dedication and commitment to our cause, both nationally and by his home state of Wisconsin. He truly is a veterans' advocate and an inspiration for all of us.

He continues to serve veterans in his community as a driver and a coordinator with the DAV Transportation Network program. Ladies and gentlemen, please give him a warm welcome to Past National Commander Dick Marbes, Chairman of the DAV Charitable Service Trust. (Applause)

REPORTS: RICHARD MARBES, CHAIRMAN, CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD E. MARBES: Thank you, Commander, for that kind introduction. And let me also extend the DAV Charitable Service Trust's gratitude to National Adjutant Burgess, our National Officers, our delegates and our guests.

As chairperson, let me introduce the Trust's governing board. They are Vice Chairman Marc Burgess, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Tannenbaum of Florida, and our Directors: National Commander Larry Polzin; Gene Murphy of South Dakota; Dennis Nixon of 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.

For the 12th straight year I address you during a time of bitter armed conflict. American forces have pulled back in Afghanistan, yes, but our troops are still fighting there and facing tremendous challenges.

You and I in DAV will never leave the wounded of this war behind. We will never forget any brother or sister harmed in defense of this great nation.

The need for our services continues to grow. But as the need arises, with your support, the Charitable Service Trust continues to provide the type of support that addresses unmet needs. The trust fulfills the gaps in care and funds the programs that fall outside the VA's scope.

It is good – it is very good – that people stand ready to help us meet the great and growing challenge by providing support through the Combined Federal Campaign; other workplace

giving programs like the United Way; corporations' matching gift programs; corporations and foundations; and individual donors across America.

In 2012 these gifts totaled \$4 million, allowing the DAV Charitable Service Trust to devote more than \$3.9 million to rehabilitative services, crisis outreach, employment assistance and more.

And here is a point of great pride I want to share with you today: 95 cents out of every dollar the Trust received went directly to service provided to veterans and their families. (Applause) Thank you. As a DAV member, you can feel proud of that because very few charitable institutions can promise such a powerful return on investment.

Generous, long-standing support from the Ford Motor Company and the Harley-Davidson Foundation kept two of DAV's most critical programs running strong – the DAV National Transportation Network and the Mobile Service Office program.

These programs could not continue without DAV's network of volunteer drivers and National Service Officers, whose devotion makes a daily difference in the lives of veterans and their families. For your exemplary service I thank you and I commend you.

In addition to supporting core DAV services, the Trust also funds diverse initiatives that help veterans heal from the physical and psychological wounds of war.

Understanding that finding a job is essential to the recovery and re-integration of veterans, employment and assistance has long been a top priority for the Trust.

In 2012 a grant to Abilities, Incorporated, in Florida funded "The Warrior Bridge," an initiative that provides job services and financial training to wounded troops, with a special emphasis on those returning from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Often, helping veterans construct new lives after war begins with the extension of basic care and services to those who have already fallen through the cracks.

While veteran homelessness is declining overall, our youngest veterans are becoming homeless in greater numbers. That's unfortunately also true of our women veterans. Through a variety of programs that stress comprehensive support, the Trust is aggressively tackling the bitter tragedy of homelessness among veterans.

The Trust also plays a robust role in supporting unique therapeutic and research initiatives that have enormous potential to speed the recovery and rehabilitation of sick and injured veterans, yet fall outside the scope of VA funded health care.

In addition to arts therapy, Trust grants promote independence and well-being through a variety of animal-assisted and sports-based therapies.

Through National Education for Assistance Dogs Service, the Trust is proud to provide trained service dogs to wounded veterans, including those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injuries, and amputations.

The Trust also works with Adaptive Sports Center of Crested Butte in Colorado to provide rehabilitative sports activities that help those recovering from injuries to the brain and spinal cord as well as burn and blast wounds. Visible wounds such as amputations and severe burns can take a particularly deep toll on the lives of veterans.

Veterans, themselves, are not the only ones who suffer in the aftermath of war, which takes a heavy toll on families as well. And that's why the Trust grants also provide for the needs of family members and caregivers.

As was mentioned already, children of veterans and service members can escape the difficulties of daily life – and meet other kids who understand what they are going through – during a week at Camp Corral, made possible by the Trust's support of DAV's "Just B Kids" scholarship program.

Every year, the Trust is pleased to support innovative programs that directly benefit injured and ill veterans and their families. And, believe me, there are hundreds of organizations that are doing an excellent job of serving our veterans every day.

We'd like to introduce you to one of the many initiatives we support. Founded in 1997, Island Dolphin Care develops programs to assist children, sick or injured soldiers and their families dealing with disabilities, emotional challenges, and critical and chronic illnesses.

In November of 2011 the Trust awarded Island Dolphin Care \$20,000 which enabled them to provide ten therapeutic swim programs for 120 veterans, military personnel and their families. In addition, Island Dolphin Care served 348 injured veterans participating in the veteran and military five-day program.

In December of 2012 the program received \$25,000 from the Trust for continuation of the activities for veterans and their families.

Though the 2012 award is still being utilized, the organization has provided five therapeutic swim programs thus far. Additionally, more than 60 veterans and active-duty military personnel were served in the first six months following receipt of the Trust grant.

Through stable partnerships across the country, Island Dolphin Care provides a unique and invaluable service to ill, injured and wounded veterans. This is truly the kind of program you have to see to fully understand and this brief video shows the impact the event has on those who serve. Let's take a look.

(Whereupon, a video explaining the work of Island Dolphin Care was viewed, followed by a round of applause.)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MARBES: And here to give us a presentation of the wonderful work Island Dolphin Care does is Deena Hoagland. Deena. (Applause)

MS. DEENA HOAGLAND: Good morning, everybody. What a wonderful day. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak this morning and to share with you the wonderful programs at Island Dolphin Care, none of which would be possible without the vision, the commitment to our veterans and the generous support provided by the DAV so thank you so much.

Island Dolphin Care is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and my husband and I founded this organization in 1997. We're dedicated to helping adults, children, and families who are coping with developmental disabilities, emotional challenges, and critical, chronic or terminal illness.

It was just three years ago that we began our veteran program and invited veterans from the Miami VA hospital to experience our programs. The result is always joy. People laugh. They giggle. They smile in wonder and gratitude. And this is the magic that Island Dolphin Care provides.

It's a special place where individuals with special needs or illnesses find joy, discover new abilities, reclaim hope and shed stress. Our specially-trained dolphin friends provide unconditional support and inspiration, reminding all of us how important it is to continue to play and experience joy each day.

Participants come from across the country. They usually come with the involvement of a VA hospital or special veteran program. They come with a wide range of physical and emotional disabilities.

We offer half-day programs, one-day and five-day programs that are designed for each person, family or group's needs.

While at Island Dolphin Care everyone enjoys art relaxation, a picnic overlooking the dolphin lagoon and the exhilaration of swimming with our special dolphins. The activities are

therapeutic. They are fun. They create a stress-free environment where sharing with others feels nothing less than natural.

Our fully accessible programs often include spouses, children, caregivers, and significant people in the veteran's life. We have learned the importance of including significant others as well as bringing the veterans to programs more than just one time. These particular ingredients are what create our therapeutic success.

The programs show participants that they can take part in a wide variety of activities despite their emotional or physical challenges. The hope is that they will be filled with renewed confidence in order to move ahead with their lives.

Every day at Island Dolphin Care we have the opportunity to empower and alter lives, to instill joy, to educate and encourage change. It has been a privilege serving our veterans and we are grateful to the DAV for helping to make all of this possible.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs there are brochures and a few people here that have experienced our programs and are able to answer many of your questions so if Rick Haradon is in the audience, you can raise your hand and identify yourself or any other of our friends.

We'd be happy – I see somebody back there. Yay. So please feel free to stop us. We'll be here part of the day and ask us how our programs might be able to help you. Thank you so much. (Applause)

CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MARBES: Thank you, Deena. 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.

Before I close, let me remind you 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.

Simply suggesting the Trust as a deserving beneficiary for gifts through the United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns is one critical way you can be an ambassador for fellow veterans.

And if you serve the DAV as a National Service Officer, a Transition Service Officer, or a Hospital Service Coordinator, you are uniquely positioned to magnify the Trust's impact.

This fall, you'll also have a special chance to promote the Trust's work during the CFC and United Way campaigns, as well as other workplace giving drives. I personally implore you to use this opportunity to leverage support for our fellow veterans and their families.

As I end my report, I thank you for all that you have done, for all that you surely will do in the coming year to be the helping hands that our wounded brothers and sisters need. On behalf of the Trust and all its beneficiaries, I salute your devoted partnership.

And allow me to acknowledge the excellent work of Bridgette Shaffer, the new administrator of the Trust, and her very, very capable staff back at the National Headquarters for all they work they do to support the Board.

Thank you, Commander, for the opportunity to make this presentation and recognize the outstanding work done by one of the Trust's grant recipients. This concludes my report. Thank you very much.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Financial Statements as of and for the Years
Ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, and
Independent Auditors' Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Charitable Service Trust:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust (the "Trust"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, 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, 2012 and 2011, 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.

March 29, 2013

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION **AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 435,191	\$ 787,821
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	19,864	31,730
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	250,000	
CAMPAIGNS' PLEDGES RECEIVABLE — Net of allowance for uncollectible pledges of \$443,270 in 2012 and \$531,107 in 2011	353,202	405,085
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER	13,930	23,505
INVESTMENTS — Includes charitable gift annuity reserve balances of \$6,993,417 and \$7,433,273 in 2012 and 2011, respectively	<u>20,089,853</u>	<u>18,326,463</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$21,162,040</u>	<u>\$19,574,604</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable — DAV	\$ 211,686	\$ 235,300
Accounts payable — other	1,104	2,590
Annuity payment liability	<u>4,526,630</u>	<u>4,487,269</u>
Total liabilities	4,739,420	4,725,159
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>16,422,620</u>	<u>14,849,445</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$21,162,040</u>	<u>\$19,574,604</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	Unrestricted	
	2012	2011
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:		
Contributions — net of assessment fees and provision for uncollectible pledges of \$440,387 in 2012 and \$520,691 in 2011	\$ 3,830,605	\$ 4,755,405
Contributions of charitable gift annuities — net	184,066	290,252
Bequests	812,947	410,381
Interest and dividend income — net	174,502	160,693
Gain on sale of investment securities	<u>486,635</u>	<u>188,286</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>5,488,755</u>	<u>5,805,017</u>
EXPENSES:		
Program services	4,060,894	4,086,231
Management and general	77,487	83,177
Fundraising	<u>146,426</u>	<u>166,311</u>
Total expenses	<u>4,284,807</u>	<u>4,335,719</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	1,203,948	1,469,298
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>369,227</u>	<u>(252,205)</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,573,175	1,217,093
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>14,849,445</u>	<u>13,632,352</u>
NET ASSETS — End of year	<u>\$ 16,422,620</u>	<u>\$ 14,849,445</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012				2011			
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
EXPENSES:								
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 3,961,548	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,961,548	\$ 3,987,359	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,987,359
Grant proposal processing	54,981			54,981	50,160			50,160
Administrative charges		36,655	109,454	146,109		33,440	126,260	159,700
Travel		15,016		15,016		15,150		15,150
Advertising	21,741	1,449	5,798	28,988	18,277	1,218	4,874	24,369
Printing, postage, and supplies	5,526	5,526	18,397	29,449	9,788	9,788	21,200	40,776
Legal fees			6,840	6,840			7,160	7,160
Professional fees	14,586			29,172	18,862	18,862		37,724
Insurance	1,794	1,794		3,588	1,785	1,785		3,570
Other expenses	718	2,461	5,937	9,116		2,934	6,817	9,751
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 4,060,894	\$ 77,487	\$ 146,426	\$ 4,284,807	\$ 4,086,231	\$ 83,177	\$ 166,311	\$ 4,335,719

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV) CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	\$ 1,573,175	\$ 1,217,093
Noncash contributions	(15,828)	(42,974)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(369,227)	252,205
Gain on sale of investment securities	(486,635)	(188,286)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	11,866	905
Accounts receivable	(250,000)	
Campaigns' pledges receivable	51,883	18,464
Prepaid expenses and other	9,575	(2,162)
Accounts payable — DAV and other	(25,100)	(18,200)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>499,709</u>	<u>1,237,045</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments	(32,590,220)	(55,121,574)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>31,698,520</u>	<u>53,696,150</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(891,700)</u>	<u>(1,425,424)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from contributions reserved for investment subject to annuity agreement	864,434	787,374
Payments to annuitants	<u>(825,073)</u>	<u>(790,295)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>39,361</u>	<u>(2,921)</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(352,630)	(191,300)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>787,821</u>	<u>979,121</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 435,191</u>	<u>\$ 787,821</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, 2012 AND 2011

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.

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and IFRS. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. The Trust adopted ASU 2011-04 for the year-ended December 31, 2012 and it had no material impact on the Trust's 2012 or 2011 financial position, cash flows or change in net assets.

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 \$1,925 and \$1,588 in 2012 and 2011, 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 recurring annual contribution made to the Trust but not received as of 12/31/2012.

Revenue Recognition — In 2012, 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 \$353,202 are expected to be received in 2013. Amounts received from accounts previously written off are recognized as contribution revenue when received.

As a member of MFVSOA during 2012 and 2011 (name changed in 2011 from Military, Veterans & Patriotic Service Organizations), the Trust was assessed a portion of MFVSOA's annual operating budget based on the relative amount of total pledges made to the Trust compared with the sum of all member agency pledges. Pledges designated to MFVSOA (versus a member agency) and other revenue, such as interest income, are shared among all member agencies in this same proportion. Therefore, if MFVSOA's revenue exceeds expenses, the member agencies share the excess income. This excess income is distributed in the following year. The Trust recognizes such distribution as an increase in unrestricted net assets when received. The Trust received \$205,608 and \$205,714 in 2012 and 2011, respectively, for excess income recognized by MFVSOA in 2011 and 2010.

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 \$15,828 in 2012 and \$42,974 in 2011.

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.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — Accounting Standard Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, disclosure, and transition. The Trust applies ASC Topic 740 and notes no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. 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 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, are summarized below:

2012	Cost	Market	Unrealized Appreciation
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,291,254	\$ 1,291,254	\$ -
Short-term 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	<u>2,038,791</u>	<u>2,377,184</u>	<u>338,393</u>
Total	<u>\$ 18,860,423</u>	<u>\$ 20,089,853</u>	<u>\$ 1,229,430</u>

2011	Cost	Market	Unrealized Appreciation
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 927,390	\$ 927,390	\$ -
Short-term U.S. government agency notes	5,982,423	5,985,867	3,444
U.S. government securities	4,258,764	4,292,233	33,469
Common stocks	4,125,751	4,664,704	538,953
Mutual funds	<u>2,171,932</u>	<u>2,456,269</u>	<u>284,337</u>
Total	<u>\$ 17,466,260</u>	<u>\$ 18,326,463</u>	<u>\$ 860,203</u>

Interest and dividend income — net is \$174,502 and \$160,693 for 2012 and 2011, respectively. The year 2012 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$229,741, less \$55,239 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2011 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$215,477, less \$54,784 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 2012 or 2011.

The Trust's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during 2012 or 2011.

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, 2012 and 2011.

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.

Short-term 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.

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 during the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, are as follows:

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
Short-term 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

2011 Asset Category	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 927,390	\$ -	\$ 927,390
Short-term U.S. government agency notes		5,985,867	5,985,867
U.S. government securities	4,292,233		4,292,233
Common stocks:			
Communication	755,862		755,862
Energy	697,883		697,883
Finance	432,678		432,678
Healthcare	521,210		521,210
Industrials	781,330		781,330
Materials	203,929		203,929
Consumer staples	321,962		321,962
Technology	949,850		949,850
Total common stocks	4,664,704	-	4,664,704
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	2,424,517		2,424,517
Fixed-income funds	31,752		31,752
Total mutual funds	2,456,269	-	2,456,269
Total assets	\$ 12,340,596	\$ 5,985,867	\$ 18,326,463

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2012 and 2011, 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 \$201,091 and \$204,660, in 2012 and 2011, respectively. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Trust owed DAV \$211,686 and \$235,300, respectively. DAV provides the Trust with the use of facilities, equipment and occasional magazine space at no charge.

In 2012 and 2011, the Trust granted \$650,000 to the DAV National Service Foundation, Columbia Trust Fund for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. Also in 2011, the Trust granted \$225,000 to the Columbia Trust Fund for DAV Department and Chapter service programs.

In 2012 and 2011, the Trust distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2012	2011
Mobile Service Office Program	\$ 265,000	\$ 350,324
National Transportation Network	200,000	200,000
Disaster relief efforts	225,000	
DAV "Just B Kids" Scholarship	100,000	
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	53,000	10,500
Jesse Brown Youth Scholarship Program	45,000	25,000
Assistance to disabled veterans and their families	41,640	101,660

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 \$184,066 and \$290,252 for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, are net of \$357,519 and \$286,160, 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, 2012 and 2011.

There are various state statutes and regulations that govern not-for-profit entities that enter into charitable gift annuity agreements with donors. As required by various state statutes and regulations, the Trust segregates the deposit of charitable gift annuity proceeds and reserves a portion for fulfillment of future annuity obligations. The required minimum balance of the reserve account is maintained and invested in accordance with applicable state statutes, the fair market value of which is \$5,589,788 and \$5,554,648 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

In addition to this reserve account, the Trust is required by California and Tennessee statutes to maintain segregated reserves for future obligations to charitable gift annuity donors residing in California and Tennessee. The fair market value for the California reserve account is \$1,322,750 and \$1,815,923 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The fair market value for the Tennessee reserve account is \$80,879 and \$62,702 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The minimum required balance of the segregated accounts for California and Tennessee donors is calculated and invested in accordance with applicable California and Tennessee statutes and regulations.

The Trust also maintains the minimum amount of unrestricted net assets as required by any state for the acceptance of charitable gift annuities, which is \$1,000,000. The total unrestricted net assets that are subject to state statutes or regulations (calculated as the reserve funds (investments), less the annuity payment liability) amounted to \$2,466,787 and \$2,946,004 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2012, but before March 29, 2013, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, that require consideration as adjustments to, or disclosures in, the financial statements.

* * * * *

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

ACCEPT CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Dick. May I have a motion to accept that wonderful report?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3. Mic 3.

MR. ROBERT KENT: Mic 1.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mic 3.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 3.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: – **makes a motion to accept the report of Dick Marbes who is from the great State of Wisconsin and also one of the biggest Packer fans I know.** (Laughter)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. May I have a second?

MR. KENT: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 1.

MR. KENT: Robert Kent, Department of Hawaii, second the motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Will you please welcome Chad Richmond of Alabama, the newly-elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2013-2014. (Applause)

REPORTS: COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS ASSOCIATION

MR. CHARLES RICHMOND: National Commander Polzin, National Adjutant Burgess, National Officers, delegates, and guests, good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. RICHMOND: I am proud to have been elected as the President of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association for 2013-2014. It is truly an honor and a privilege.

We pledge to continue our support of the National Organization through our sponsorship of the State Commanders and Adjutants Association Orientation, the Mid-Winter Conference, and the Winter Sports Clinic. We look forward to a very productive and exciting year in the DAV.

I would like at this time to read into the record our officers and committees for the coming year: President Chad Richmond, Alabama; Vice President, Brenda Reed, Florida.

Executive Committee: Teresa Johniken, Texas; Dennis Krulder, New York; Pamela Beale, Alaska; Danny Oliver, Oklahoma; Warren Tobin, North Dakota; Brigitte Marker, Oregon.

Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Tannenbaum, Florida. Judge Advocate, Jimmy O. Stewart, South Carolina. Chaplain Brian Wilner, Georgia. Sergeants-at-Arms: Faye Lyon, Washington. Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Rita Aberegg, Virginia. Assistant Chaplain, Ernest Stroud, South Carolina. Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Kirk Johnson, California.

Audit Committee: Stephen Whitehead, Minnesota; Allan McCroskey, Virginia; Robert Burchee, Ohio; James Bogan, California.

Constitution and Bylaws: Carl Bailey, Alabama; Robert Wilcoxon, Maryland; John King, Virginia; Hasty Foreman, Connecticut.

Resolutions Committee: Bob Brandt, Oklahoma; "Mad Dog" Sater from Maryland; Joann Fisher, District of Columbia; Cleveland Bryant, North Carolina.

Special Projects: David Spurgen, Arkansas; Sarah Royce, Oregon; Cynthia Madison, Virginia; Barry Blevins, North Carolina; and Glynn Parker, Maryland.

Would National Commander Polzin and National Adjutant Burgess please join me to receive a couple of presentations.

(Whereupon, Commander Polzin and Adjutant Burgess joined Mr. Richmond at the podium.)

MR. RICHMOND: On behalf of the Commanders and Adjutants Association I would like to present to you two checks. Both of these will be for the National Service Foundation. And the first one is our annual donation to National Service Foundation in the amount of \$1,500. (Applause) And the second one is to honor our Immediate Past President Floyd Watson Jr. in the amount of \$100. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, Mr. Richmond presented Commander Polzin and Adjutant Burgess with the two checks.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: At this time, please join me in welcoming incoming the Imperial Golden Rodent Dennis Thompson, Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer Albert Sorrentino and the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats. (Boos)

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats entered the room and advanced to the podium.)

REPORTS: NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS AND THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER ALBERT SORRENTINO: I don't know. That's new. (Laughter) Is there any rats in the house? (Boos) Whoa, half of you are rats. That ain't too bad. Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: Thank you so much for having us at your National Convention and it's a pleasure and an honor to be up here to serve all of you. I'd like to recognize our National Commander Larry Polzin who is also a Past Imperial Rodent. I'd like to recognize Marc Burgess for your National Adjutant.

I'd also like to recognize the National staff and what they have done for us, especially Mike Dobmeier and the reason is because as of yesterday we have adopted our new National Bylaws in link with your National Bylaws with the DAV. We are linked together and now we're really working together. Mike, thank you so much for helping us out. (Applause)

Our main goal in the rats is to help our veterans, to take care of our veterans in hospitals and clinics around the United States, to do, to take care of their families, their spouses, the same thing, the same goal as the DAV has the rats have. And I'm really proud of what they do all around this country.

To show you how much we really appreciate what you do, Larry Polzin, our National Commander, I'd like to present you a check.

(Whereupon, Commander Polzin joined Mr. Sorrentino and Mr. Thompson at the podium.)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTINO: We have a check here for one dollar. (Laughter) I was told to give you two but it was tough. (Laughter) We have a check here for the rehab fund for \$4,000. (Applause)

I'd also like to know the state that I'm from – is Florida in the house? (Applause) Hmmm. That's okay. But, the other state that I belong to – is New York in the house? (Applause) I think you beat Florida out. I won't say nothing. (Laughter)

But in our Department we have a very serious and dedicated bunch of men and women who serve our veterans and to make sure they are treated well and taken care of we have an adjutant over there by the name of Al Linden who believes in service and nothing but service.

In the Department's name and in my Dad's name, Michael Sorrentino, I'd like to donate \$100 to the Service Commission for the work they have done and keep on doing to serve our veterans. (Applause)

You know, I see on TV an organization called the Wounded Warriors, an elite group. But my elite group is the Disabled American Veterans. I feel you all are wounded warriors. You served your country. You served your families. You served this National Convention. And you should be all proud to be here.

I'd like to introduce our Incoming Golden Rodent, Dennis Thompson for some words. (Applause)

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT DENNIS THOMPSON: Good morning, everyone.
(Response of "Good morning.")

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT THOMPSON: It's an honor and a privilege for me to be up here on this stage with a friend, a comrade Marine, and a brother rat and that's National Commander Larry Polzin.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Semper Fi. (Applause)

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT THOMPSON: Larry, job well done.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you.

INCOMING GOLDEN RODENT THOMPSON: Later today Larry will pass the hat to a new commander. I look forward to working with him and new National Adjutant Marc Burgess and old IREG, Al Sorrentino to help build better lives for disabled veterans.

On behalf of every rat in the United States of America, I welcome you to Orlando, Florida. I hope you had a fun-filled and productive Convention. And I hope you have a safe trip home. God bless you all. (Applause)

IMPERIAL RED-EYED GNAWER SORRENTIO: Marc, thank you so much for what you do for us.

(Whereupon, the National Order of Trench Rats withdrew from the ballroom.)

REPORTS: ARTHUR H. WILSON, NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

COMMANDER POLZIN: Our next presenter needs no introduction but I'm going to give him one anyway. Arthur H. Wilson, a disabled Vietnam veteran of the United States Air Force, is the architect of the modern DAV.

His DAV career began in 1966. Early in his career he developed a reputation as a – as a leading claims technician and moved quickly up the ranks from National Service Officer trainee to National Service Office supervisor at several offices before leading DAV's efforts at the VA Board of Veterans Appeals.

He went on to serve as Executive Director of DAV Washington Headquarters before being appointed National Adjutant by then National Commander Dick Marbes in 1994. Under this leadership DAV evolved into the service organization that represents 300,000 claims for benefits today.

Today I introduce him as a retired National Adjutant and as President of the DAV National Service Foundation. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to present National Service Foundation President Art Wilson. (Standing Ovation)

PRESIDENT ARTHUR H. WILSON: Thank you, Commander. Thank you very much for those kind words and that very nice introduction. Adjutant Burgess. National Officers, delegates and guests, before I begin the Foundation's report I would be remiss if I didn't recognize my predecessor, Mr. Gary P. Burns, who served as president of the National Service Foundation Board of Directors since 2001.

I have known Gary, like you have, as a colleague and a friend for more than four decades. And his leadership in both our National organization and as head of the Foundation has been astonishing.

Gary served on DAV's professional staff for 30 years. He began as a National Service Officer trainee in Togus, Maine. And in January of 1970 he transferred over to White River Junction, just a few steps down the road. He served there as supervisor that same year and two years later returned to Togus, Maine, as supervisor, where he remained until his retirement in February of 2000, completing 30 years as a National Service Officer.

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF FOUNDATION

He was elected to the Foundation's Board in 1996 and was elected its president in 2001. For more than a decade his guidance has allowed the Foundation to provide increasing support to DAV's nationwide service initiatives. And under his watch the Foundation has awarded nearly \$16.5 million in grants to Departments and Chapters for their volunteer programs.

Remarkably, since his term began, the Foundation's net assets have increased from \$27.7 million in 2001 to more than \$99 million today. (Applause) Amen.

Additionally, he's advocated key programs that have strengthened public support for veterans throughout the country.

Those include Hallowed Grounds documentary; the National Summit on Women Veterans Issues; pro bono representation for veterans before the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals for Veterans Claims; and the ground breaking work of renowned photographer Nina Berman which depicted experiences of veterans suffering from exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most recently, the Foundation was given the unique opportunity to support the nationwide screenings of "SERVICE: When Women Come Marching Home," a documentary showcasing the struggles of women in the military.

And while the enemy tried to claim his life in Ashua Valley of Vietnam in 1968, he survived and dedicated his life to serving other veterans and he has done so with honor and dignity as we recognize his service today.

Thank you, Gary, for a remarkable career and I invite you to come up here and say a few words if you desire. (Applause)

MR. GARY P. BURNS: As usual, Art is a tough act to follow. What I want to say is thank you to not only Art Wilson and the National organization, to Nancy O'Brien who retired last year, Bridgette Shaffer and all the people at headquarters for a long time that have made me look very good; my friend Sal over there. I'm sure that Al Bowers is out there somewhere, Denny Joyner.

It's been a tremendous run. Honest. And one thing that does echo, as does Mike Dobmeier and it did Ed Heath, you guys from the small states, you guys and gals from the small states, there is room for you in this organization. You can serve and serve well in some capacity.

And Maine, I mean, what, we're – Maine is 300,000 people and I was fortunate enough to land that job in January of 1970 and here I still am. I'm very, very thankful for all that has been said and all that has been done. And I told Bridgette yesterday, I was told when Nancy O'Brien retired you can, you know, it won't be too long before you're going down the road, too.

But all those great things that Art said about the finances, all of us know that that was – you know I was in the position of the driver's seat, so to speak. All I had to do was keep it on the highway. We had Anita Blum, Rick Patterson, Fred Bristol, in fact Art Wilson and Al Bowers and a number of other people, UBS people that know what they were doing and they said do this and we did it. We took good care of your money. I was just at the right place at the right time.

All those things that were said that were so complimentary – where is this guy going? Well, how come he is gone? Well, let me tell you. The real reason that I'm stepping out of the way is that for years I sat up here and out there and I'll tell you and we heard all this Marine stuff. How many Army guys here? (Cheers) I mean, great.

Brad, Larry, Don Samuels, great patriots, great soldiers, but I said to Art Wilson if someday you get an Airborne Ranger up here to take over as National Commander, I'll get the hell out of the way. Well, guess what? (Laughter) Let me get this out of here and salute this guy one last chance, if I can do this right. Major Joe.

(Whereupon, Mr. Burns saluted Senior Vice Commander Johnston, followed by a round of applause.)

MR. BURNS: You don't believe in Santa Clause or Easter but I tell you what, he's not only an Airborne Ranger, he's a full-bird colonel Mustang so you're going to be well taken care of over the next year.

And, again, in all seriousness, Art Wilson, thank you for the opportunity to serve all these years. It's been a true, true honor. And I thank all of you for supporting the Foundation and The Charitable Trust, in fact, so well that you have, all you fine folks. Thank you and God bless you. Appreciate it. (Standing Ovation)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Gary. Let me begin my report this morning by introducing the DAV National Service Foundation's Board of Directors: Vice President, Marc Burgess; Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Joyner; and our Directors: National Commander Larry Polzin; Sal Tornatore from New York; Alan Bowers, from Massachusetts; Dan Contreras from California; and Ex-Officio member and DAV Chairman Don Samuels – Board of Directors Chairman Don Samuels.

You and I are here because we're passionate about one pressing question: what does the future hold for veterans who came home ill and injured in our nation's defense. That question deeply impacts the lives of every veteran, young and old, and the families who stood firmly behind us.

You and I know this: even after a dozen years of war, we've only grazed the surface of those that will need our organization for many, many years to come. As veterans from earlier conflicts will require even more care with age, nearly 825,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have sought care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. More will turn up as service-connected conditions grow worse over time.

All who sacrificed in mind and body have earned a lifetime of care. And that's why they need the DAV National Service Foundation – to do two things. Number 1, to extend the critical services to those in need; and, Number 2, to make sure that DAV's service extends on into the future.

I'm thankful for everyone who helped us raise \$2 million in donations and bequests during this urgent mission in 2012. Your generosity, along with the prudent investments, allowed the Foundation to end its most successful year with \$94.1 million in net assets, a \$9.9 million increase over 2011. The Foundation was also able to devote 90 cents – that's 90 cents – of every dollar on program services.

Through the National Service Foundation you carry hope to men and women as they face their darkest days. Your gifts to the Foundation primarily serve veterans by building a financial foundation to ensure the availability of these services in perpetuity and sustaining DAV's daily work through provision of transportation, claims assistance, and other services as needed.

We in this hall know the challenges that veterans face. But together we can fill the social contract that America has made to those who serve and make them whole so that they can care for their families and achieve a piece of mind.

Your gifts to the Foundation make all of that possible. Your generosity gives our National Service Officers the tools to win more victories for veterans and their families than any other veterans' organization. Through the Foundation you support powerful advocacy for free at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

We also come to veterans' aid through the Columbia Trust, which provided nearly \$1.3 million in 2012 to support such projects as The National Transportation Network, Hospital Service Coordinators, Department Service Programs, and various other local and state service initiatives.

And wherever you and your Chapter and your Department gives a dollar to the Trust, DAV National organization matches it with another dollar, 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 my pleasure this morning to present Commander Polzin with a check for \$8,117 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 Polzin with a check from the National Order of Trench Rats Fund, followed by a round of applause.)

PRESIDENT WILSON: As you thumb through the Foundation's 2012 Annual Report you will see that it has been a terrific year. Enduring commitment defines our members and supporters. Just look at the people and the organizations who expressed their devotion through gifts to the Foundation in 2012.

Exemplary generosity warrants the Foundation's highest recognition in the case of 15 benefactors whose gifts have earned them a place, or a higher position, on our Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donors located at our offices in Washington, D.C.

In many cases, these distinguished contributions and gifts are from individuals and family foundations. Others represent the valued partnership of esteemed corporations and organizations.

Now let me just take a moment to recognize the outstanding contributions of DAV Chapters and Departments that gave more than \$1,000 during 2012: Columbia City Chapter 29, Department of Indiana; the Department of Arizona; Metro Chapter 7, Department of Alaska; Poisson Cournoyer Carpentier Bacon Chapter 19, Department of Rhode Island; Sioux City Chapter 54, the Department of Iowa; and Thomas W. Basemore Chapter 19, the Department of Maine.

A true inspiration, these Departments and Chapters drive the Foundation's forward – drive the Foundation's mission forward by safeguarding the care that wounded veterans and families need now and will need on into the future.

In addition to the exemplary efforts of these Chapters and Departments, let me extend my most heartfelt gratitude to the individuals, couples, family foundations, companies, and other organizations who earned special recognition in 2012.

I congratulate the 100 benefactors that took place, that took their place on the Honor Roll of Benefactors or attained a National Service Foundation Commendation and the 46 Chapters and Departments who earned Certificates of Commitment during the past year.

As you continue to review your copy of the Annual Report, look closely for the names of those in your state who made a gift of \$100 or more to the fund last year. And if you donated during the year, let me thank you. Your generosity means the world to me and to all of those who we serve and their families.

I'm eager to recognize National Service Director Garry Augustine and the elite corps of National Service Officers who pursue the excellence and makes a daily difference in the lives of veterans and their families.

Gifts made in honor of our National Service Officers extends their legacy of service far into the future, creating the financial strength that will support the DAV's mission for years to come.

RICHARD J. COSGRIFF PACESETTING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

The Pacesetting Performance Award recognizes an NSO in each division who has the largest cumulative total contributions made in his or her name. Garry, would you give me a hand here and honor these terrific National Service Officers.

(Whereupon, National Service Director Garry Augustine advanced to assist President Wilson.)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 1, National Service Officer Darrel "Brandon" McKinney of Togus, Maine, with a total of \$14,135. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 1 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Darrell "Brandon" McKinney of Togus, Maine.)

MR. DARRELL "BRANDON" MCKINNEY: Hello. Thank you. I would just like to thank Gary Burns, of course, being in the State of Maine. I'd like to thank our very, very dedicated Department. Also, I'd love to thank Sonja Caswell and Kathy Hadet, my support staff, and my NSO James Laverdiere. Thank you. (Applause)

[KATHY HADET]

PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 2, National Service Officer Wendy Smith of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who is credited with \$5,030. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 2 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Wendy Smith of Albuquerque, New Mexico.)

MS. WENDY SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. And I'd like to take this opportunity to accept this award on behalf of the entire staff at the Albuquerque, New Mexico, office and on behalf of the great State of New Mexico. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 3, National Service Officer Len Harris of Saint Louis, Missouri, with a whopping grand total of \$42,560. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 3 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Leonard K. Harris of Saint Louis, Missouri.)

MR. LEONARD K. HARRIS: Good morning. I'd like to just take a few minutes to thank my Department, first and foremost. The Department of Missouri is really dedicated. I've been around a few years now. I think this is our twelfth award. They take this very serious in donations back to the National Service Foundation for all the good that we do.

My staff, the NSOs in Saint Louis, are very dedicated in continuing to support and win this award on almost a yearly basis. My name gets thrown on it but we have a trophy case now of twelve of these in there and we're very committed to continue that pace in the future.

Two Chapters I'd really like also to recognize: Saint Louis Chapter 1 and my Chapter, Kansas City Chapter 2. Without you guys and your continued supportive service it wouldn't be possible. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Division 4, National Service Officer Kevin Noel of our Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, office with a total of \$16,250. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 4 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Kevin Noel of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.)

MR. KEVIN NOEL: They said I only had 20 minutes so I'll try and make it brief. (Laughter) I've been up here before but I'm here on behalf of the people from my state, the people from my office, and the people that donated money. And they ask me how we can win this award. It's easy when you love what you do and that carries through when you talk to people. So I hope to see a lot of you up here next year. Thank you very much. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: And Division 5, National Service Officer Kelly Sunday from Bay Pines, Florida, with a total of \$3,047. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Division 5 Richard J. Cosgriff Pacesetting Performance Awards was presented to Kelly Sunday of Bay Pines, Florida.)

MS. KELLY SUNDAY: I'd like to say thank you to everybody for having me come up here. It's even better that we're getting to do it here in Florida. I'd like to, again, thank everybody from Florida. This may be our first time coming up but it won't be our last. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Please join me again in thanking all of our National Service Officers for their really terrific efforts. (Applause) You know they play an indispensable role in

carrying out the Foundation's mission, and making sure that America keeps its promises to you, and to me, and to all of our fellow veterans.

Before we get into the business of accepting donations to the Foundation from all of you, I'd like to recognize one of our long-term supporters.

The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is now 25 years old. And DAV has been at the forefront since its inception. During the quarter-century that the court has existed, DAV has been responsible for providing representation to thousands of veterans, nearly all of whom have had a good outcome.

In the past five years, DAV has increased its program at the court by some 800 percent, and the DAV National Service Foundation was an early supporter of that expansion.

An indispensable partner in that achievement has been the Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner Law Firm in Washington, D.C. The Finnegan firm was the first law firm to join our team.

It recruited our own Ron Smith to head up its pro bono program and Ron – thanks in part to his DAV training – has performed in a superb manner. The firm has represented hundreds of veterans at no charge. It has made DAV very proud.

More than that, it has shown its unfailing support to the National Service Foundation by donating nearly \$1 million in just four years, making it the largest corporate contributor in the Foundation's history – and for that we are profoundly grateful. (Applause)

As a small token of our appreciation we would like to present Finnegan with our "Exceptional Donor Award," which states it is "in recognition of extraordinary generosity." Gary Burns, join me for this presentation, please.

(Whereupon, Mr. Burns joined President Wilson at the podium.)

PRESIDENT WILSON: And here to accept the award are two lawyers from Finnegan – each at \$500 an hour (Laughter) – our own Ron Smith and Finnegan partner Paul Browning. (Applause)

PAUL BROWNING, ESQUIRE: Thank you very much. Ron and I are truly honored to accept this award today on behalf of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner. It's particularly gratifying to receive this award from DAV, which is an organization for which I and others at Finnegan have deep respect, as well as a valued working relationship.

As mentioned in Mr. Wilson's remarks, we were lucky five years ago to snatch away from DAV Ron Smith as well as his colleague Dave Landers. And they came to us at Finnegan to help teach the patent lawyers at Finnegan – that's what we do day to day – how to handle veterans' cases on a pro bono basis. And together we've built a veterans' pro bono program that we're truly proud of.

As also mentioned in the remarks, we primarily focus on appeals to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. And we pick up cases that were previously handled by the DAV before the Regional Offices and also before the Board of Appeals.

And so when we get these cases we see first-hand some of the tireless work that DAV has done for our veterans. And so we know through viewing these cases the very hard work and the very good work and the incredible dedication that DAV has. And so we are truly honored to accept this award from this really great organization.

But in listening to the remarks I realized we had a problem. There was something about "nearly" one million in donations. That's not right. That's something that we need to correct and we're going to do it right now. And I have with me a check to the Foundation made out to – on behalf of Finnegan – in the amount of \$100,000. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Attorney Browning presented President Wilson with the check.)

MR. BROWNING: And so that should push us over the one million mark, which is a much nicer place to be. Thank you very much, everybody. (Applause)

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT WILSON: Gentlemen, thank you. What a terrific, terrific contribution. Again, we are truly grateful for the extraordinary generosity to the Foundation and the hundreds of veterans who will benefit from their representation for the years to come.

Now I've done more talking than I should so now it's your turn to speak and show the nation that you and your Chapter and Department are willing to provide the support, the cause that brought us here today. And you can do so by cash or credit card, I might add, (Laughter) starting with I guess that line over there that is coming up this way.

The way to show our – to honor our friends, our fallen heroes and the world today that veterans in the community are willing to support our Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, The Columbia Trust or the Trench Rats Fund, as you specify.

So the barometer is up. And to kick off at this time I'm pleased to acknowledge contributions from the Havelock, North Carolina Chapter 26 of \$50; and the Oak Cliff Texas Chapter 32 of \$500. So let's get this barometer moving.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, on behalf of the Moral Rearmament League and its 19 wealthy members and myself, here is a check for \$2,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Cash.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Cash. (Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT DENNIS JOYNER: Art, it's my honor and it's a privilege, Art, to make this personal donation to the Foundation in honor of you and your wife Mary for all the dedicated years of service to the organization. And we all know what a great job you have done. So congratulations.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much, Denny.

MR. JOYNER: Sure. (Applause) Five hundred dollars.

MR. PHILIP FIUMARA JR.: Thank you, everybody. A personal donation from Phil Fiumara, Jr. Thank you. One thousand dollars.

PRESIDENT WILSON: One thousand dollars. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Art, on behalf of DAV Department of California I'm honored to present to you a check for \$20,000 for The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD POLK: Hi, Art. From the Department of Missouri, I, Richard Polk, Commander, would like to donate \$25,000 to the National Service Foundation in honor of – (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Ron (Undistinguishable), Chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri Commander. I've got a check for the National Service Foundation for \$30,000 from our Chapter. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. THOMAS DOLENZ: Tom Dolenz, Chapter 1, Saint Louis, Missouri, I have a check for you for \$20,000 in honor of Len Harris. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. BRIGITTE MARKER: Brigitte Marker from the Department of Oregon, I am making a personal donation to the National Service Foundation for \$100. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. MARKER: Thank you.

MR. ROLAND PAQUETTE: Roland Paquette from Chapter 20 from the State of Texas, Fort Worth, this is for the Perpetual Care of the Disabled Veteran for LIFE Memorial.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. Five hundred dollars.

MR. PAQUETTE: Five hundred dollars.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, once again from the great State of Louisiana, Chapter 30, Shreveport-Bossier, we'd like to present you \$10,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Okay, Mr. Wilson. From the great – from the cooking capital and fun capital of the United States, we'd like to present this \$1,000 check to you from the State of Louisiana.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. JOHN STEWART: Good morning, sir. Comrades, Johnny Stewart, Commander, Department of Arizona and on behalf of our great state I'd like to make a donation of \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, on behalf of the great State of Georgia I'd like to present you this check for \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause) Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, Mr. Wilson. Good morning, everybody. Come on, Georgia, this is a record this year. On behalf of the Department of Georgia we'd like to donate an additional \$1,000 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, please accept this check from the Department of Idaho for \$500. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, I have two checks here, one for The Columbia Trust, one for the National Service Foundation, \$500 each. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you

PRESIDENT WILSON: From the Department of Hawaii.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

MR. KENNETH CAMELL: Ken Camell from colorful Colorado is proud to donate this check of \$5,000 to the Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. PAMELA BEALE: Department of Alaska, Pam Beale, Past Commander, we give \$500 for the National Service Foundation and from Metro Chapter 7, Commander Pam Beale, we give \$1,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of the Department of Mississippi we are very proudly presenting \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. CLARENCE BROWN: I'm Clarence Brown from Chapter 44, South Carolina. I'd like to give \$200 to the HSC going through the Trust. (Applause)

MR. CARROLL PROSSER: Good morning, everybody. I'm Carroll Prosser, Commander, National Blind Chapter, and on behalf of the Chapter officers and in honor of our Past Commanders, \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation and also a special thanks to all of our caregivers. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you for serving very much.

MR. PROSSER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Art, we have a donation of \$500 from the Department of Kansas. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: From the Department of Delaware this is a donation from our Department, our PDCs and our former PDCs. Thank you for all you have done in this Foundation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause) That's \$200.

MR. JAMES McDERMOTT: Jim McDermott, State of Illinois, State Commander, \$5,000 to National Service. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Fantastic. Thank you.

MR. THOMAS SADDLER: Sir. Tom Saddler, Commander, Department of North Dakota, and I am pleased to present two checks on behalf of Adam Klein Chapter 3, Bismarck-Mandan, Department of North Dakota. Each check is for \$2,000, one to the DAV National Service Foundation and one to The Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson. As Commander Macon County Chapter 17, Department of Illinois, I have a check for \$5,000 for the Service Foundation. Also, I have a check from Eric and Marlene Huckabee from Illinois, a personal donation of \$1,000. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: As a proud member of the William C. Melia Chapter 1, Pennsylvania, the second-oldest Chapter in the nation, I make a personal donation of \$200 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: In addition, I have a personal contribution of \$45 from Pennsylvania National Service Officer Jeff Petherbridge.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, sir. How are you?

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Dick Cosgriff Chapter 2 in San Diego, California, we'd like to present a check for \$3,000 to The Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. On behalf of the Dick Cosgriff Chapter 2, San Diego, California, I would like to donate \$3,000 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. STACY MOSLEY: Good morning. I am comrade Stacy Mosley from Big D Chapter 57 in Dallas, Texas. And on behalf of my Chapter and my Senior Vice Commander we'd like to present a check for \$500 to the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL KERR: Good morning. My name is Mike Kerr and on behalf of the DAV Charities of Central California I'd like to donate \$2,500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause) Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, Art. On behalf of the Department of Florida I would like to say that it was a pleasure hosting the Convention for you. I hope you had a great time in our state. And I hope you come back often.

And this is also the state of Past Adjutant Art Wilson and a ton of other past department commanders. On behalf of Department, I'd like to present you with a \$1,000 check and another check for \$100 in honor of our past department commander from last year Alex Kovack. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, the Department of Minnesota proudly presents a check for \$5,000 to the Charitable Service Trust and another \$5,000 check to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Fantastic. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, Chapter 1, South Dakota, got off two checks for the National Service Foundation, one from Gene and L. Deane Murphy in the amount of \$100 and from Chapter 1, South Dakota, Sioux Falls Chapter, we have another National Service Foundation check for \$250.

[L. DEANE MURPHY]

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause) Thank you.

MS. HELEN PARR: I am Helen Parr. I'm the commander for the great State of South Dakota, home of Mount Rushmore. We have \$500 for the National Service Foundation from the Department. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. PARR: And we have \$160 from District 14. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. PARR: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT WILSON: District 14 in South Dakota?

MS. PARR: No, District 14 National.

PRESIDENT WILSON: National. Thank you.

MS. PARR: Thank you, sir.

MR. SHAWN JERNIGAN: Shawn Jernigan representing Chapter 6 up in the great State of Maine. We are proud to present this check for \$500 for the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. ROBERT RESENDEZ: Robert Resendez, Chapter 9, James T. Hall, on behalf of the men and women of our Chapter we have a check for \$5,000.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Oooh. Thank you very much. (Applause) That Chapter's in Texas.

MR. LOUIS SAXON: Good morning, sir.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. SAXON: On behalf of Chapter 2, Seattle, Washington, and the great State of Washington, I'm Commander Lou Saxon and from the men and women of our Chapter in the State of Washington I'd like to present Mr. Wilson with a check for \$500. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. SAXON: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. Mr. Wilson, from the Chapter Number 6 out of the great State of California and the City of Sacramento we'd like to present \$500 to the National office foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. From Chapter 17, Indiana, we'd like to give, donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. JAMES SCOTT: Department of Arkansas, Commander James Scott. We'd like to donate \$2,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning, Mr. Wilson. From the Department of New York I'd like to give you two checks, \$1,000 for the National Service Foundation, \$1,500 for The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: New York, live. (Laughter)

MR. RICHARD FOURNIER: Good morning. My name is Richard Fournier, Department of Maine Commander. I have a check here from the Department of Maine for \$500 to the National Service Foundation; Chapter 1, John F. McPherson has a check here for \$500; Chapter

10, Smart-Ricker, have a check here for \$500 for the National Service Foundation. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Commander.

MR. FOURNIER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. SHANDA TAYLOR-BOYD: Good morning, sir. On behalf of Ranger, my service animal of nine years, and everything that the National Service Foundation does for our women veterans and our veterans with TBI and PTSD, like myself, and our future leaders because we never know what the future will hold I am especially grateful for my brand-new Second Lieutenant Olivia Lee Boyd whom I had the honor of reading her Oath of Office and putting on her Second Lieutenant Insignia. She is going to be assigned to the Tenth Mountain Division. Hoo-ah. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson, Chapter 24, Toms River, New Jersey, would like to donate \$100 to Columbia Trust and \$100 to National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause) Good morning.

MR. DENNIS HANNEMAN: Good morning from the great State of Ohio. (Applause) I'm Dennis Hanneman, Commander of the State of Ohio. I'd like to present to The Columbia Trust \$5,200, to the DAV Charitable Service Trust \$5,000 (Applause) and the National Service Foundation another \$5,000. And we're pleased to do that. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. HANNEMAN: Thank you.

MS. ROSLYN PETERSON: Good morning. Roslyn Peterson, Adjutant from the 92nd Buffalo Chapter, Columbia, South Carolina. We'd like to present a check to Mr. Wilson in honor of the National Service Foundation, \$1,000. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MS. PETERSON: You're welcome.

MR. WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. ARTHUR BELAIR: Arthur Belair, past Chapter Commander from Gate City Chapter 7 in New Hampshire. I'd like to present two checks, each for \$500, to The Columbia Trust and the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. RICHARD W. SCHATZ: Richard W. Schatz, NEC, Third District, and Commander of Poisson Courmoyer Carpentier Bacon Chapter 12 of the Department of Rhode Island, on behalf of our entire Chapter membership I'd like to introduce to you Mr. Ernest Boisvert, a Vietnam combat veteran who serves as our treasurer and also our Service Officer to make the dedication.

MR. ERNEST BOISVERT: Mr. Wilson, I'd like to present to you two checks of \$500 each from the membership of Chapter 12 in Rhode Island for the Service Foundation and The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. BOISVERT: Which I would also like to make another donation. I also have a check here, President Wilson – that's a change. I'll get my mind on that zone. I have a check here from our Department Commander of Rhode Island, Mr. Henry B. Wright III, his personal check for \$100 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Great. Thanks. Thank you. Good morning, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Good morning. From the great State of Colorado I'd like to present \$5,000 to The Columbia Trust. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. Good morning.

MR. SAXON: Good morning, Mr. Wilson. From the Granite State, Commander Saxon, I have a check for \$500 for the National Service Foundation and also \$500 for The Columbia Trust. From the Capital City Chapter 19, my Chapter as Commander, we have a check for \$100 for the Service Foundation and \$100 for Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. SAXON: Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. MICHAEL DAWSON: Good morning. I'm Mike Dawson from the wild and wonderful State of West Virginia. I'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation from the Department of West Virginia. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. SAMUEL BLOW: Congratulations and I wish you well, Mr. Wilson, in your retirement. Sam Blow, Department of Pennsylvania, we have \$1,000 for The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MS. RITA ABEREGG: Rita Aberegg representing Chapter 7 of Virginia, we'd like to donate \$2,000 to Disaster Relief. (Applause) Thanks.

MS. LUZ BERRIOS: Good morning, Mr. Wilson. Luz Berrios from the Department of Puerto Rico, \$500 donation for the National Service Foundation; from Chapter 5, Puerto Rico, \$100 for the National Service Foundation; and a personal donation \$50 from the Berrios family.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Oh, thank you very much.

MS. BERRIOS: Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. Good morning.

MR. EUGENE SMITH: Good morning, DAV. My name is Eugene Smith. I'm the Adjutant and Treasurer of Cincinnati 1 in the great State of Ohio. I have two checks. I have one for \$3,000 in honor of Andy (undistinguishable), one of Ohio's past Department Commanders. And I have \$3,000 in honor of your next National Commander, Joe Johnston. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Oh, thank you very much. Thank you. That's the mother chapter. It is.

MS. MARIAN TRUSCELLO: Marian Truscello from South Carolina and from our Chapter 51 we present in honor of our Commander Quincy Hawfield a check for \$500.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. CLARENCE MEJER: Clarence Mejer from Chapter 11, Salina, Kansas. We'd like to donate \$500.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. JOHN KING: First of all, can anybody see me? (Cheers) And I am standing. (Laughter) On behalf of the Commonwealth State of Virginia as Department Commander for the great State, for the great Department of Virginia, I would like to present a check for the amount of \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: I love this.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'm still standing. On behalf of the Department of Maryland and Mark (undistinguishable) Department Commander I'd like to make a \$1,000 donation to the Mid-Winter Sports Clinic. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT BRANDT: A personal donation of \$20 in my name, Bob Brandt, member of Chapter 32, Tulsa, Oklahoma. And there is also a \$20 donation in memory of my mother, an Army World War II nurse that was a member of the DAV at the time of her passing, (Ap-

plause) and my father, a disabled World War II Army medic, also \$20 for a total of \$60. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. BRANDT: Thank you, sir.

MR. CRAIG VANCE: On behalf of the Department of Oklahoma I'm Craig Vance, Senior Vice Commander. The Department has a \$1,000 check for the National Service Foundation. And on behalf of Northwest Oklahoma Chapter 66, my home Chapter, \$100 for The Columbia Trust.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. VANCE: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. RODNEY HELGESON: From the great State of Wisconsin, Rodney Helgeson, current State Commander, \$1,700 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. ROBERT PIXLEY: I'm Porter Pixley, Department of Vermont, and I have \$150 in Department and Chapter checks for both the Trust and the Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thanks. Thank you. (Applause)

MS. SHARON BOWIE-COPELAND: Hi. Please bear with me. I'm Sharon Bowie from Washington, D.C. On behalf of my grandfather, World War II veteran, Ralph Giles; my husband, deceased, Wilbur Copeland; and my brother, William Bowie, I'd like to make a personal donation of \$100 to the National Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. BOWIE-COPELAND: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. ALLAN McCROSKEY: Mr. Wilson, as a retired National Service Officer, I would like to make a donation. And I would like to make it in memory of my best friend who passed away on July the 3rd, my wife, Linda McCroskey, \$500 to the Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MS. JOANN FISHER: Art – my buddy, Art, and Mr. Polzin, my name is Joann Fisher, Commander of Washington, D.C. And I want you to give special recognition to my Junior Vice who was just up here, Sharon Bowie-Copeland. That took a lot. Thank you, Sharon, for her personal donation.

The Department of Washington, D.C., is donating \$500 to the National Service Foundation. One day soon we will be the great State of Washington, D.C. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAM GARRETT: William Garrett, on the part of, on the behalf of Chapter 19 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, we'd like to donate \$1,000 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning, sir.

MR. CLEVELAND BROWN JR.: Cleveland Brown Jr., Department Commander for the State of North Carolina. And we donate to the Service Foundation \$1,000 and for Chapter 44 of North Carolina, \$100 to the Service Foundation.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. BROWN: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Appreciate it, very much.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Mr. Wilson. On behalf of Chapter 2, Athens, Georgia, I'd like to donate \$50 to The Columbia Trust. (Applause)

MR. RICHARD PATTERSON: Rick Patterson, Adjutant, Chapter 45, Alabama, I just wanted to see what it looked like from up here on stage. (Laughter) All kidding aside, I want to make a personal donation of \$100 in memory of my best friend growing up Henry Servant, killed in Vietnam in 1968. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. Now get off the stage. (Laughter)

MS. PENNY LARSON: Hi.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MS. LARSON: Hi. My name is Penny Larson. I'm the Adjutant of the Department of Utah. I didn't bring the checkbook but I got the credit card and from Chapter 6 we're donating \$100 and from the Department \$100.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MS. LARSON: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

MR. JOHN HANSEN: I'm John Hansen, Department Commander of the State of Nevada. On behalf of the home Chapter of Ray Dempsey, Black Mountain Chapter Number 12 of Henderson, Nevada, I'd like to present a check in the amount of \$500 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MS. HELEN BENNETT: Helen Bennett, Department of Mass. I'd like to make this donation in memory, from Alan Bower's Chapter 46, Mass.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. DAN CAPRI: Chaplain Dan Capri, Department of Oklahoma, I'd like to make a \$100 donation to the Chaplain's Training for Emergency Response to the chaplains throughout the country on behalf of the chaplains within the Department of Oklahoma and the Hole-y Rats, \$100. Thank you. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. SHANE LIERMANN: Good morning. I'm Shane Liermann with DAV Chapter Number 10 out of Arlington-Fairfax, Virginia. We have a \$250 donation to the DAV National Service Foundation. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Chapter 7, Department of Puerto Rico, \$100.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. GLYNN PARKER: Good morning.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Good morning.

MR. PARKER: My name is Glynn Parker, NEC, Sixth District, Department of Maryland. Not too long ago I lost a dear friend, the State of Maryland lost a dear friend, William McCardon. I want to give a personal check for \$1,000 in the name of William McCardon. Thank you. (Applause)

[WILLIAM MCCARDON]

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. JAMES PROCUNIER: Good morning. Jim Procunier from the great State of Virginia, and to be like John King, I'm going to get the elevator down here a little bit. (Laughter) A personal donation on behalf of all Navy Chiefs, past, present and future, to the National Service Foundation for \$500, and \$500 to Winter Sports Clinic.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Comrades, on behalf of the State of Tennessee, City of Cleveland, Chapter 25, Paul Jones Memorial Chapter, a donation of \$100. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you very much.

MR. JAMES STEWART: Good morning, Mr. President. On behalf of myself and my wife, Camilla Stewart, I'd like to present to the National Service Foundation a personal check for \$500.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, Jim. (Applause)

MR. GERALD E. HUMPHRIES: Gerald E. Humphries, Chapter 11, great State of Mississippi, donates this \$1,000 on behalf of Gerald E. Humphries, 30-year retired NSO.

PRESIDENT WILSON: That's you.

MR. HUMPHRIES: That's me. (Applause)

MR. CECILIO GARCIA: I'm Cecilio Garcia, representing Los Angeles Chapter Number 5. I have a personal donation of \$100 to the National Service Foundation. (Applause)

MS. TAYLOR-BOYD: Sir, I'm back. I'm sorry. You guys, I didn't identify myself, nor did I say the amount of the donation. So, Number 1, I'm the perfect example of TBI in action. Okay? So I'm being patient with myself and persistent, resilient, and an example of being patient, again.

Okay, so my name is Shanda Taylor-Boyd. I am from Seattle, Washington. I am retired from the United States Army, 23 years, and proud of it. And that was a donation on behalf of Ranger and my daughter and everything that you do in the amount of \$500. Any other questions? (Laughter) I forgot to hug you, sir. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN: Hello. I'm William Brown from DAV James T. Hall Chapter 9 in Houston, Texas. This is a personal donation of a color-faded American Express Traveler's Check for \$20 to the DAV Charitable Service Trust.

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. BROWN: And now I can actually say my wallet is lighter than a helium balloon. (Laughter)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. (Applause)

MR. ERNEST STROUD: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

MR. STROUD: A year ago we had the Convention and for the first time in over 20 years I was not present at your National Convention. My wife, Monica Stroud, died during the Convention last year, the tenth of August. I'm going to make a \$100 donation to The Colorado Trust in memory of Monica Stroud. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WILSON: Thank you. So sorry about that. Is that all? (Laughter) Thank you all very much. Commander Polzin, that concludes the report of the National Service Foundation. Thank you, again. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Art.

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation

Financial Statements as of and for the
Years Ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, and
Independent Auditors' Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, 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, 2012 and 2011, 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.

March 29, 2013

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 1,344,919	\$ 552,032
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	92	45
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	7,324	5,649
INVENTORY	207,083	250,782
PREPAID EXPENSES	8,839	3,182
INVESTMENTS	<u>92,757,846</u>	<u>83,527,722</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$94,326,103</u>	<u>\$84,339,412</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Due to DAV	\$ 137,774	\$ 118,178
Due to DAV Legislative Program	8,117	6,825
Other liabilities	<u>90,839</u>	<u>73,375</u>
Total liabilities	<u>236,730</u>	<u>198,378</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted:		
General	15,478,811	14,720,532
The Columbia Trust	1,810,199	1,644,848
Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund	28,914,803	27,824,954
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>3,828,516</u>	<u>570,518</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>50,032,329</u>	<u>44,760,852</u>
Temporarily restricted:		
The Columbia Trust and other	40,226,791	38,554,306
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>3,614,959</u>	<u>610,582</u>
Total temporarily restricted	<u>43,841,750</u>	<u>39,164,888</u>
Permanently restricted	<u>215,294</u>	<u>215,294</u>
Total net assets	<u>94,089,373</u>	<u>84,141,034</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$94,326,103</u>	<u>\$84,339,412</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012		2011	
	General, The Columbia Trust, Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund (Unrestricted)	The Columbia Trust and Other (Temporarily Restricted)	National Order of Trench Rats (Permanently Restricted)	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES:				
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,089,849	\$ 907,430	\$	\$ 1,997,299
Revenues:				
Interest and dividend income — net	1,609,199	1,402,191		3,101,390
Gain on sale of investment securities	206,456	182,449		388,905
Sales of fraternal items	943,560			943,560
Total revenues	2,761,215	1,674,640		4,435,855
Net assets released from restrictions	909,605	(909,605)		
Total public support and revenues	4,760,669	1,672,485		6,433,154
EXPENSES:				
Program expenses:				
Grants and expenses in accordance with The Columbia Trust	1,291,436			1,291,436
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	226,430			226,430
Costs of fraternal items sold	657,433			657,433
Other program expenses	305,266			305,266
Total program expenses	2,480,565			2,480,565
Management and general expenses	163,506			163,506
Fundraising expenses	103,119			103,119
Total expenses	2,747,190			2,747,190
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	2,013,479	1,672,485		3,685,964
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	3,257,998	3,004,377		6,262,375
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	5,271,477	4,676,862		9,948,339
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	44,760,852	39,164,888	215,294	84,141,034
NET ASSETS — End of year	\$50,032,329	\$43,841,750	\$215,294	\$94,089,373
See notes to financial statements.				
	General, The Columbia Trust, Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund (Unrestricted)	The Columbia Trust and Other (Temporarily Restricted)	National Order of Trench Rats (Permanently Restricted)	Total
	\$ 1,517,245	\$ 738,850	\$ -	\$ 2,256,095
	1,285,379	1,201,999		2,487,378
	527,149	632,807		1,159,956
	891,920			891,920
	2,704,448	1,834,806		4,539,254
	740,412	(740,412)		-
	4,962,105	1,833,244		6,795,349
	1,346,591			1,346,591
	67,351			67,351
	626,813			626,813
	159,688			159,688
	2,200,443			2,200,443
	170,306			170,306
	109,673			109,673
	2,480,422			2,480,422
	2,481,683	1,833,244		4,314,927
	(786,125)	(864,122)		(1,650,247)
	1,695,558	969,122		2,664,680
	43,065,294	38,195,766	215,294	81,476,354
	\$84,760,852	\$39,164,888	\$215,294	\$84,141,034

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012			2011		
	Management and		Total	Management and		Total
	Program	General	Fundraising	Program	General	Fundraising
EXPENSES:						
Allocations to charitable programs	\$ 1,469,372	\$	\$	\$ 1,361,324	\$ -	\$ -
Costs of fraternal items sold	657,433		657,433	626,813		626,813
Grant proposal processing	47,182		47,182	51,048		51,048
Administrative charges		47,182	40,954		51,048	43,295
Travel		18,989	18,989		21,274	21,274
Postage and shipping	115,485	6,983	26,970	121,781	9,310	29,007
Printing, stationery, and supplies	4	15,307	24,439	185	16,290	26,753
Advertising	39,831		39,831	38,000		38,000
Legal fees			6,840			6,840
Professional fees		29,414	29,414		28,955	28,955
Project costs	150,000		150,000			-
Insurance		3,064	3,064		2,965	2,965
Registration fees		15	3,916		90	3,868
Awards		8,379	8,379		8,031	8,031
Miscellaneous	1,258	34,173	35,431	1,292	32,343	33,635
TOTAL	\$ 2,480,565	\$ 163,506	\$ 103,119	\$ 2,200,443	\$ 170,306	\$ 109,673
			\$ 2,747,190			\$ 2,480,422

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 9,948,339	\$ 2,664,680
Adjustments to reconcile change in unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	(6,262,375)	1,650,247
Gain on sale of investment securities	(388,905)	(1,159,955)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest and dividends receivable	(47)	41
Accounts receivable	(1,675)	3,543
Inventory	43,699	8,013
Prepaid expenses	(5,657)	2,779
Due to DAV	19,596	(45,647)
Due to DAV Legislative Program	1,292	1,357
Other liabilities	17,464	(110,373)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,371,731</u>	<u>3,014,685</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investments	(22,555,858)	(61,182,808)
Proceeds from sale of investments	<u>19,977,014</u>	<u>56,808,988</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,578,844)</u>	<u>(4,373,820)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	792,887	(1,359,135)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — Beginning of year	<u>552,032</u>	<u>1,911,167</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — End of year	<u>\$ 1,344,919</u>	<u>\$ 552,032</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, 2012 AND 2011

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.

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and IFRS. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. The Foundation adopted ASU 2011-04 for the year-ended December 31, 2012 and it had no material impact on the Foundation's 2012 or 2011 financial position, cash flows or change in net assets.

Cash and Cash Equivalents — The Foundation considers all highly 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 \$1,778 and \$1,831 in 2012 and 2011, respectively. The Foundation maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, exceed federally insured limits. The Foundation has not experienced any losses in such accounts.

Inventories — Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or market, generally determined on the first-in, first-out basis. Inventory consists of fraternal items to be sold, solicitation materials, and other items.

Contributions — Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support, depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation.

Unrestricted Net Assets — All unrestricted contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the Board) for permanent investment in a Board-designated endowment fund, known as the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund, as a reserve for future needs.

Investment income derived from these invested amounts are included in the General Fund and used for current operations of the Foundation or appropriated by the Foundation for use by DAV.

The Foundation has adopted an investment policy for the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund and temporarily restricted investments. The primary goals of the investment portfolio are safeguarding of the assets; maximization of return on the interest, dividends, and appreciation of capital; and avoidance of undue interest rate risk in the fixed-income portion of the portfolio. The portfolio performance objective is to exceed a custom benchmark of 60% Russell 3000 / 40% Barclays Intermediate Government Credit over a five-year period and a full market cycle.

The Foundation relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Foundation targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investment to achieve its long-term return objective within prudent risk constraints.

The Foundation’s unrestricted Board-designated endowment for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, had the following activity:

	2012	2011
Public support — contributions and bequests	\$ 1,089,849	\$ 1,292,245
Revenues:		
Interest and dividend income — net	1,609,199	1,285,379
Gain on sale of investment securities	206,456	527,149
Sale of fraternal items	<u>945,560</u>	<u>891,920</u>
Total public support and revenues	<u>3,851,064</u>	<u>3,996,693</u>
Expenses:		
Transfers to DAV National Headquarters and other organizations	226,430	67,351
Cost of fraternal items sold	657,433	626,813
Other program expenses	852,448	210,736
Management and general	163,506	170,306
Fundraising	<u>103,119</u>	<u>109,673</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,002,936</u>	<u>1,184,879</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>3,257,998</u>	<u>(786,125)</u>
Total change in unrestricted Board-designated endowment fund	<u>\$ 5,106,126</u>	<u>\$ 2,025,689</u>

For 2012 and 2011, the Board has designated \$1,810,199 and \$1,644,848, respectively, as total unrestricted net assets for The Columbia Trust and are not included in the Board-designated endowment fund. The Columbia Trust recorded an increase in unrestricted net assets of \$165,351 in 2012 and a decrease of \$330,131 in 2011. In 2011, the Columbia Trust received \$225,000 from DAV Charitable Service Trust (CST) to be used for DAV Department and Chapter service programs. No unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments is designated to The Columbia Trust’s net assets 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 2012 and 2011, The Columbia Trust received \$88,725 and \$44,425, respectively, in contributions, which were matched by DAV. In 2012 and 2011, The Columbia Trust received \$650,000 from CST to be used for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. In 2012, The Columbia Trust also received \$80,000 from a bequest received through the DAV to be used to assist the medical needs of veterans.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, The Columbia Trust held \$924,375 and \$1,448,331, 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 \$8,117 and \$6,825 in 2012 and 2011, 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.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — Accounting Standard Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, disclosure, and transition. The Foundation applies ASC Topic 740 and notes no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

Investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value of the Foundation's investments is determined based on the quoted market prices of the related securities or quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Gains and losses on the sale of investment securities are recognized based upon the specific identification method and are reflected as a separate component of revenue for the investments of the Foundation. The Foundation's policy is to report cash and cash equivalents, which include money market funds, within its trust accounts as investments.

The cost and market value of investments and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) at December 31, 2012 and 2011, are summarized below:

			Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
2012	Cost	Fair Value	
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>
2011			
Cash equivalents	\$ 4,002,566	\$ 4,002,566	\$ -
Common stock	6,563,517	7,268,407	704,890
Fixed-income mutual funds	32,996,122	34,274,050	1,277,928
Equity mutual funds	<u>38,784,417</u>	<u>37,982,699</u>	<u>(801,718)</u>
Total	<u>\$82,346,622</u>	<u>\$83,527,722</u>	<u>\$1,181,100</u>

Interest and dividend income - net is \$3,101,390 and \$2,487,378 for 2012 and 2011, respectively. The year 2012 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$3,121,512 less \$20,122 for investment management and custody fees. The year 2011 is composed of gross interest and dividend income of \$2,508,569 less \$21,191 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 2012 or 2011.

The Foundation's policy is to recognize significant transfers between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no significant transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during 2012 or 2011.

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, 2012 and 2011.

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 during the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, are as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
2012			
Asset Category			
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	35,631,969		35,631,969
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
Total mutual funds	81,122,554	-	81,122,554
Total assets	\$92,757,846	\$ -	\$92,757,846
2011			
Asset Category			
Cash equivalents	\$ 4,002,566	\$ -	\$ 4,002,566
Common stock:			
Consumer discretionary	815,347		815,347
Energy	690,746		690,746
Finance	664,245		664,245
Healthcare	902,298		902,298
Industrials	1,153,508		1,153,508
Materials	458,435		458,435
Consumer staples	1,139,329		1,139,329
Technology	1,249,452		1,249,452
Utilities	195,047		195,047
Total common stock	7,268,407	-	7,268,407
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	30,322,275		30,322,275
International equity funds	7,660,424		7,660,424
Domestic fixed-income funds	31,916,688		31,916,688
International fixed-income funds	2,357,362		2,357,362
Total mutual funds	72,256,749	-	72,256,749
Total assets	\$83,527,722	\$ -	\$83,527,722

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During 2012 and 2011, DAV personnel assisted the Foundation on a limited basis in administering its business operations and fundraising program. For these services, the Foundation reimbursed DAV \$110,780 and \$123,672 in 2012 and 2011, respectively. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Foundation owed DAV \$137,774 and \$118,178, 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 \$88,725 and \$44,425 to The Columbia Trust in 2012 and 2011, respectively. In 2012, The Columbia Trust also received \$80,000 from the DAV for a bequest that was designated to assist in meeting the medical needs of veterans.

In 2012 and 2011, the DAV Charitable Service Trust made contributions of \$650,000 to The Columbia Trust for the DAV National Transportation Network Van Grant Program. Also, in 2011, CST made a contribution of \$225,000 to The Columbia Trust to be used for DAV Department and Chapters service programs.

In 2012 and 2011, the Foundation distributed the following in support of DAV programs and services:

	2012	2011
National Service Office Furniture and Equipment Fund	\$ 73,274	\$ 10,000
National Service Office Copier Fund	47,014	21,326
National Service Office Reference Manuals	25,000	25,000

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, 2012 and 2011, the grants and expenses of The Columbia Trust are as follows:

	2012	2011
Grants to DAV chapters and departments in accordance with The Columbia Trust:		
Hospital Service Coordinator Program	\$ 494,501	\$ 635,614
National Transportation Network Van Grant Program	700,941	618,359
Other grants to service programs	47,500	40,000
Miscellaneous expenses	1,312	1,570
Grant proposal processing	<u>47,182</u>	<u>51,048</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,291,436</u>	<u>\$ 1,346,591</u>

In 2012, temporarily restricted net assets of \$909,605 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$381,831 were used. In 2011, temporarily restricted net assets of \$740,412 and designated, unrestricted net assets of \$606,179 were used. The temporarily restricted net assets used, of \$909,605 and \$740,412, are shown as “Net assets released from restrictions” in the accompanying statements of activities for 2012 and 2011, 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, 2012, but before March 29, 2013, 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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ACCEPT NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Art. May I have a motion to accept the report from President Wilson –

MR. JOHN HANSEN: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: – for the National Service Foundation?

MR. HANSEN: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 1.

MR. HANSEN: **John Hansen, Department of Nevada, so moved.**

COMMANDER POLZIN: May I have a second.

MR. MARK AARON: Mic 3.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 3.

MR. AARON: Mark Aaron, Legislative Director, Department of Illinois, seconds.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying; opposed. The motion carried. Thank you, Art, for an excellent report. At this time I will ask Vince Darcangelo of the POW/MIA Interim Committee, for a presentation.

PRESENTATION BY VINCENT DARCANGELO, POW/MIA INTERIM COMMITTEE

MR. VINCENT DARCANGELO: Thank you, Commander. I'm Vincent Darcangelo. I'm on the National POW/MIA Committee. On behalf of the Committee and Billy Taylor, our chairman who could not be here today, I'm going to make a presentation.

But before I do that I want to say do you know that we have a United States Army soldier that was captured four years ago in Afghanistan? His name is Bowe Bergdahl. He is from Idaho. And I would ask that you put him in your prayers and hope that – pray for his soon release back to his family and loved ones. Bowe Bergdahl from Idaho. (Applause) Yes. Thank you.

The POW is a very important issue and a very passionate one for most veterans who want our service men back, men and women back. And the POW flag is the symbol of our undying effort and commitment to see that our, we bring our soldiers home.

And in fact there is only one flag other than red, white and blue, Old Glory, that has ever flown over the White House. It is the black and white POW/MIA flag. And I'd like to make a presentation. We started a – our Committee started a ceremony or a custom, you might say, several years ago to give the out-going National Commander a POW/MIA flag.

And this year we also have an out-going, for the first time since I've been involved, an out-going National Adjutant. I would like to ask Commander Polzin and Past National Adjutant Art Wilson to come forward.

(Whereupon, Commander Polzin and Past Adjutant Wilson advanced to the podium for the presentation of a POW/MIA flag to each of them, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Marc, do we have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: Yes, thank you, Commander. The Nominating Committee will meet in Lake Mizell A Room 30 minutes after the end of this business session. The Nominating Committee will meet in Lake Mizell A Room 30 minutes after the end of this business session.

The program states that this afternoon's Board of Directors' meeting will be – or there has been a change to the room in the Board of Directors' meeting this afternoon. It will be in Florida I-II-III. The Board of Directors' meeting this afternoon will be in Room Florida I-II-III.

Many have asked how they can contribute to the Art and Mary Wilson Top Venture or Top Venture Impacting Veterans Award. This is DAV's newest award which recognizes a newly-formed, disabled-veteran-owned business that impacts and improves the lives of veterans in some way.

This recognition includes a \$10,000 award to help sustain the ill or injured veteran's new business venture. Donations to help fund this award can be sent to National Headquarters.

This afternoon's final business session will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. We will start off with the important business of nominations and election of officers so please be on time.

This evening's activities include the introduction of National Officers at six o'clock followed by delicious food and great entertainment.

And we are giving away five DAV briefcases to delegates that are in the room today. So if your name is called and you are in the hall, please come up front and see Tony Baskerville. Here we go: Korby Rhodes, (undistinguishable) Jackson, Rodney Miller, (Cheers) there you go, David Norman, Glenn Pruitt. Lucky winners come up to the stage and Tony will get you your prize.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Marc. Chaplain Ringo, will you lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, at times we wonder at the mystery of nature, the height of great mountains, the vastness of the sea, the complexity of an insect, and the simplicity of the seasons. And yet we forget to ponder and wonder at ourselves.

We need to remember, we need both a sense of heritage and destiny, at least a hero or two we can call to mind, which we have many in this room and in our organization. It has been said we can be no greater than the men or women we most admire. So bless us with a sense of wonder and keep our memories alive with gratitude and our gratitude alive with faithfulness. Let us always also remember our POWs and MIAs and their families. We humbly pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

RECESS

COMMANDER POLZIN: The Convention stands in recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 10:53 o'clock, a.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2013.)

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FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

August 13, 2013

- - -

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 92nd National Convention convened in the Orlando Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Tuesday afternoon, August 13, 2013, and was called to order at 1:32 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Larry A. Polzin.

CALL TO ORDER, COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN

COMMANDER LARRY A. POLZIN: The Convention will come to order. As a reminder, once again we ask that everyone in attendance please turn off their cellular phones and portable devices.

In opening this afternoon's business session it is fitting and proper that we render the respect due to the flag. Hand salute

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Two. We will now be led in prayer by the Chaplain Ringo.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Our Eternal Father, we are always honored and humbled for the responsibility of serving our fellow veterans and their families. Our most elusive dream has been the pursuit of happiness, for no person can give happiness to another, each must find it for themselves.

Help us to discover the secret that happiness comes from selfless pursuits and it comes from sharing not just what we have but who we are in the service of others. Bless each of us with this understanding and with the strength, abilities, and the insight to bless the lives of others. We humbly pray. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER POLZIN: 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 like to remind everyone that registration of delegates is now closed. I will call upon the Chairman Warren Tobin for the final report of the Convention Credentials Committee.

FINAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

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 a.m. on August 13th, 2013.

There are 1,115 delegates and 52 alternates registered which includes 46 Departments and 434 Chapters. There are 8 National Officers, and 28 National Executive Committeemen and 11 Past National Commanders currently registered. The total vote is 7,983. 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.

ADOPT FINAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Warren. May I have a motion to approve the final report of the Credentials Committee?

MR. KENT: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 1.

MR. KENT: Robert Kent, Department of Hawaii, I second the motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Do I hear a second.

MR. BOBBY PARKER: Mic 3.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 3.

MR. PARKER: Bobby Parker, State of Florida, second that motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. Now I will call on Dennis Joyner, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for his report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DENNIS JOYNER: Thank you, Commander. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on Nominations of National Officers was called to order for its first business session on Saturday, August 10, 2013, 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, District 7, was elected chairman and Al Reynolds, District 12, was elected as secretary.

The Nominating Committee, in three meetings we interviewed nine candidates. The following is the list of officers that the Nominating Committee is presenting to the Convention.

For the office of National Commander, Joseph W. Johnston, Ohio; (Applause) for the office of National Senior Vice Commander, Ron F. Hope, North Carolina; (Applause) for the office of National First Junior Vice Commander, Moses A. McIntosh, Jr., Georgia; (Applause) for the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander, David W. Riley, Alabama; (Applause) for the office of National Third Junior Vice Commander, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, California; (Applause) for the office of National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Dennis L. Krulder, New York; (Applause) for the office of National Judge Advocate, Michael E. Dobmeier, North Dakota; (Applause) for the office of National Chaplain, Ronald R. Ringo, Jr., California. (Applause)

Comrade Commander, on behalf of the Committee I move for the adoption of this report.

ADOPT COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

COMMANDER POLZIN: I will now call for a second that the report of the Committee on the Nominations of National Officers be adopted and that the Committee be discharged.

MR. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MR. PARSETICH: Joe Parsetich from the State of Montana would move that we – move to second that nomination or that motion

COMMANDER POLZIN: Is there a second?

MS. CHARLOTTE THOMPSON: Mic 1.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 1.

MS. THOMPSON: Charlotte Thompson, Chapter 1 Commander, Cincinnati, Ohio, the mother state and home of Joe Johnston, your next National Commander, I second that motion(sic). (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: All those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So ordered. You have heard the report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers and they have nominated Joseph W. Johnston for National Commander. Here to second the nomination for the great State of – from the great State of Ohio is Tom Keller.

COMMANDER

MR. THOMAS KELLER: Hi. I'm Tom Keller, Past Department Commander of the Department of Ohio and also a member of DAV – Cincinnati Chapter DAV 1, mother chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, proud to say that.

I come to you to second the nomination of Joe Johnston for the office of DAV National Commander, a man from whom fine leaders receive training for leadership, truly a leader's leader.

That ability was discovered soon after Joe enlisted during the Vietnam War. Moving up as a Mustang officer during that war, Joe held ever-growing responsibilities until his medical retirement in 1992.

A man determined to keep giving to his community, Joe never slowed down, ever. For the past two decades he has worked in nonprofit management, rising to become chief executive officer of one of Ohio's largest and most influential social service organizations.

As National Commander, Joe's talents will augment those of an already very capable and high-talented DAV management team. Joe Johnston will bring a new dimension of knowledge of nonprofit leadership, management, law and more into play.

We in the Department of Ohio have long benefited from Joe's powerful skills in a variety of offices, including Chapter and Department Commander. In addition – and I think this is very important – my wife and other Auxiliary leaders just love Joe's wife Vicki who is very active in the Auxiliary.

Together Joe and Vicki know our organization from the ground up. But character is what drove most of us who asked Joe Johnston to run for National office in this great organization.

Joe is a man of faith, a man for whom service to others is a manifestation of service to God. Love of God and of humankind come together to forge the steel in Joe Johnston's spine. Joe embodies the vigor of a paratrooper and the vision of DAV's great future. He is just a man of utter devotion to duty.

Joe sees DAV as a family. We say that. He means it. He is determined to motivate, communicate and inspire, to give the best of himself, to draw the best out of others, to draw the best out of you and to draw the best out of me.

Do what is best for the DAV. Do what is best for yourself. Do what is best for your fellow disabled veterans. Join me as I second the nomination of Joseph W. Johnston for National Commander of the DAV. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Mr. Keller. 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 that Joseph W. Johnston is elected as National Commander and instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for his election. (Applause)

ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMANDER

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of the DAV, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Joseph W. Johnson, for the office of National Commander. (Standing Ovation)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

ELECTION OF NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

COMMANDER POLZIN: **The Nominating Committee has nominated Ron F. Hope of North Carolina to the office of National Second Junior Vice Commander – 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 Ron F. Hope elected as your National Senior Vice Commander. (Applause)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

ELECTION OF NATIONAL FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

The Nominating Committee has nominated Moses A. McIntosh Jr. for the office of First National Commander. Are there any other – 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 Moses A. McIntosh Jr. as National First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

ELECTION OF NATIONAL SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

The Nominating Committee has nominated Dave W. Riley from Alabama for the office of Second – 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 David W. Riley as of being elected the National Second Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

ELECTION OF NATIONAL THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

The Nominating Committee has nominated Delphine Metcalf-Foster for the office of Fourth or 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 Delphine Metcalf-Foster of California elected as National Third Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

ELECTION OF NATIONAL FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

The Nominating Committee has nominated Dennis L. Krulder from New York 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 will close the nominations and declare Dennis L. Krulder from New York as elected as National Fourth Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

JUDGE ADVOCATE

ELECTION OF NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

The Nominating Committee has nominated Michael E. Dobmeier from North Dakota 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 the nominations and declare Michael E. Dobmeier from North Dakota elected as National Judge Advocate. (Applause)

CHAPLAIN

ELECTION OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

The Nominating Committee has nominated Ronald R. Ringo, Jr., 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 the nominations and declare Ronald R. Ringo Jr., from California elected as the National Chaplain. (Applause)

And I will now instruct the National Adjutant to cast one unanimous ballot for these offices.

ADJUTANT BURGESS: I, Marc Burgess, National Adjutant of DAV, cast one unanimous ballot for Ronald F. Hope as National Senior Vice Commander; Moses A. McIntosh Jr. for National First Junior Vice Commander;

David W. Riley for National Second Junior Vice Commander; Delphine Metcalf-Foster for National Third Junior Vice Commander; Dennis L. Krulder for National Fourth Junior Vice Commander; Michael E. Dobmeier for National Judge Advocate; and Ronald Ringo Jr., for National Chaplain. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. I would like to ask that the newly-elected officers and their spouses be escorted to the stage please.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers and families were escorted to the stage.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: You guys can be seated. At this time I would like to call on National Commander-Elect Joe Johnston for remarks. (Applause)

REMARKS: NATIONAL COMMANDER-ELECT JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON

COMMANDER-ELECT JOSEPH W. JOHNSTON: Hello, friends.

(Response of "Hello.")

COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: Let me ask my wife Vicki to step up to my side as I accept the responsibility that you're placing in my hands today. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Vicki Johnston joined Commander-elect Johnston at the podium.)

COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: The love of my life and my closest, dearest friend, Vicki has been with me every step of the way, a quiet yet determined leader in our DAV Auxiliary.

As Vicki travels with me during my term as National Commander, we, as a couple, will give visible form to the bond that exists between DAV and its Auxiliary, partners in pursuit of bright new tomorrow for veterans and their families.

Ours is a DAV family. Our son James – James, please stand – is, himself, an injured veteran and an officer in the Department of Ohio.

(Whereupon, James Johnston stood and was recognized.)

COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: Okay, please now hold your applause because there is more than a dozen of us here. (Laughter) My son, Brian, was a chief warrant officer and attack helicopter pilot in the Cavalry. (Applause) My daughter, Health, is a lieutenant colonel in the Signal Corps in the United States Army. (Applause)

Michael, who is off to the University of Cincinnati this fall, will be in Army ROTC. (Applause) Jeremy is a physician and a large portion of his internship was serving veterans at the VA medical center in Cincinnati. (Applause) All of us serve in one capacity or another and I'm very proud to say that every member of our family belongs to the Auxiliary. I'd ask for my entire family members who are present to please be now standing and be recognized.

(Whereupon, Commander-elect Johnston's family stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: We are all on fire to the devotion and the cause of America's veterans. So you just don't get me today, you get the whole Johnston clan. (Laughter) And I hope that your family is also aflame with the desire to create new tomorrows as well, because we need everyone in this great mission – absolutely everyone.

Commander Polzin, Adjutant Burgess, delegates and friends, each of you is crucial in forming the future of the great fellowship that we call DAV. And in this cause we are all equals. Each made his or her own sacrifice of blood or health in the cause of America – our great cause of freedom.

All of those sacrifices were meaningful, some quite life-changing. And each of us plays an essential role in realizing the vision that we've discussed at length over these past few days.

This is why I accept the great responsibility you place on my shoulders this afternoon and I turn around and I place my greatest hope and all of my hopes upon your shoulders. I don't want you just to leave this hall inspired this afternoon. I want your spirit to be filled with fire as you head back to your relative Chapters and Departments. I hope your thoughts will sizzle with the hopes that lifted the hearts of the speakers you heard in this hall and in the seminars you attended.

I hope DAV's new vision will light up every word that you say about what you experienced here in Orlando. I want that flame to burn so brightly that it will set fire to the heart of every DAV and Auxiliary member you meet.

The need for your burning fervor is critical right now because we face challenges in our nationwide community and for our organization. There is no doubt about that. But let's look at our history.

The members of the DAV and its Auxiliary are determined people. In times of adversity we are people who struggle, people who overcome obstacles, people who come out on top despite the odds stacked against us.

That was the DAV's fighting legacy under the adjutancy of Dale Adams, a legacy that continued under Art Wilson, a great leader who took us into the 21st Century. Today, we watch Marc Burgess step up with that fire of a new generation of American veterans burning in his heart.

Together with Marc you and I face a time of rapid change in the world. During this convention you have heard about the legislative perils that lurk in the dark corners of Washington, D.C. We cannot kid ourselves. The danger is real, very real. That's why we must build a fire under Congress and win advance appropriations for the entire VA budget – not just health care. (Applause)

We need to ensure the integrity of the VA health care infrastructure. What good is it to have the best health care system in the world housed in facilities that are becoming increasingly old and run down? It's chilling to imagine what lies ahead for that next generation of veterans when we literally are not building a future for them today.

Without an adequate construction budget there is real danger that the troops in combat today in Afghanistan and around the world will have no infrastructure in which to receive care when their war is over. (Applause)

We must fan the flame to the VA, under the VA, and make sure that all veterans receive quality, timely service on an equal basis – and that especially includes women who served in our armed forces. (Applause)

We must make sure that the hearts of the American people remain ablaze with respect and gratitude for veterans who sacrificed their blood and their health for our great nation.

We must maintain DAV's superb reputation for integrity and good management of the funds that the American people entrust to our care.

We must expand our outreach to the public in general so people keep veterans forever in their thoughts.

Finally, we must stoke the furnace of DAV's internal strength, growing membership as we expand outreach to an ever-broader audience of those eligible to join our organization and its Auxiliary.

In firing up internal strength, we must follow through on the promises made to our Chapters at this Convention, giving all of them the resources for social networking, empowering them with the technology and resources that will make them a force at the grassroots level.

In this, I ask our Chapter and Department leaders to look for new ways that you can engage veterans in your community. DAV's strength depends on the service and outreach that we provide in those communities.

As leaders in DAV it is our responsibility to recognize and inspire those who are active and encourage others to become involved.

Every challenge that I've cited is indeed big. But I have confidence in your ability to create these new tomorrows. With the flame of passion in our hearts, you and I can and will meet every challenge that confronts veterans who sacrificed their blood and their health for America. (Applause)

Holding our ground as veterans who made great sacrifices in defense of our nation will not be enough for me and you. Nor will it be sufficient to merely protect our families from the whims of fate.

With the fervor of DAV's new vision blazing ever before us, you and I – you and I – will lead America's veterans in the days to come. You and I have the vision and the values that will make those coming days real for everyone.

Think of this: DAV and its Auxiliary are not just organizations for veterans and their families. We are family, an extended family of brother and sister warriors, united in an eternal way. We are bound together by bonds of brotherly and sisterly love that no civilian can or will ever understand.

For many of us, war is not about the mission, war is not really about the enemy or even about patriotism. War is about the man or woman to your left or your right, about that camaraderie, that esprit de corps and that glue that holds the United States military together.

I'm talking about we and us, all of us together. I'm not talking about I or me, as if our interest were somehow separate.

But we know we cannot do it alone. First, foremost, I am a man of faith, something for which I will never apologize.

(Responses of "Amen.")

COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: I am here because of a loving God. (Applause) I am here because a loving God looked over me in times of war and in peace. He is a God who I will seek to do His will in every act I take, including my service to you in this great organization. (Applause)

Next – next, I know I would not be alive today without the men and women and my fellow paratroopers with whom I served. (Cheers) And I wouldn't be on the stage today without my extended DAV and DAVA family from the Department of Ohio. Please stand and be recognized, you Buckeyes.

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

COMMANDER-ELECT JOHNSTON: You have supported me and given me opportunities to serve and lead.

I joined DAV for many of the same reasons I enlisted and stayed in the United States Army. I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. I wanted to be part of a team.

I speak of all the great things that define us as individuals, equally valuable but not better than one another. I speak of the bond we share as men and women who know grace, who have seen wrath and, with the help of God and one another, overcome tremendous obstacles.

In that light we're not defined by race, creed, gender or age. Rather, we are joined by our character and zeal as warriors – peoples whose "hearts were touched with fire," as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., said to his fellow veterans in the wake of the Civil War.

Patrick Henry, one of my ancestral uncles, said, "Give me liberty or give me death." Those heated words inflamed the hearts of patriots in his day and today they still set fire to the hearts of those who cherish the blessings that we have in this great country. (Applause)

These are the words that inspired you and me to write a check once – a check made out to the United States of America for an amount up to and including life itself. While no one in this room had to pay the full amount on that check, my brothers and sisters, everyone in this room paid a heavy price for freedom. (Applause)

This defines us as that elite corps – less than one half of one percent of the American people who are eligible for DAV membership. This makes us one united force in our sacred duty to all who, like us, came home ill or injured from service to this magnificent country.

Our unique identity provides the fuel that fires the passion that brought you and me and all of us to Orlando for this Convention. We are bound together by character, committed to the common good of our sisters and our brothers, as well as our deep compassion for their families.

We are bound by the fire that we will carry out of this place, back to our states, back to our communities, back to the veterans that you and I serve through our Departments and Chapters. Thank you, my sisters and brothers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Commander. And thank you for everything you do to empower your organization and the veterans that you and I serve together. Thank you. (Standing Ovation)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Newly-elected National Commander of the DAV, would you please stand so I could place your National cap on your head. Maybe I'll get it right.

(Whereupon, Commander Polzin placed the National Commander's cap on the head of Commander-Elect Johnston, followed by a round of applause.)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you, Joe. Next we will have our National Senior Vice Commander Ron F. Hope for his words.

REMARKS: NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT RONALD F. HOPE

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT RONALD F. HOPE: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT HOPE: Thank you very much for the confidence that you have placed in me. Mine is going to be a lot shorter than Joe's, I can assure you. (Laughter)

I will do everything in my power to represent you in the professional way that you deserve, to take our message to the public, to the United States of America, and to anybody and anyone else that will listen, to let them know exactly who we are, what we stand for, and what we did for this country. Thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: Next I will call on National First Junior Vice Commander-elect Moses A. McIntosh Jr. (Applause)

REMARKS: NATIONAL FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT MOSES A. MCINTOSH JR.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT MOSES A. MCINTOSH, JR.: Good afternoon, everybody.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT MCINTOSH: I want to say to my family and my comrades, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support and trust in my abilities to enhance our organization. I would like to also thank my incredible team who has supported me through this process. I would also thank my God who has greatly blessed me.

I have made many friends in my years of service for the DAV and will continue to cultivate those friendships. I look forward to making many new friends in the coming year as we continue on our, on this journey together.

I appreciate the advice and encouragement that many of you have given me. I hope you have witnessed me implement it on occasions when I have had the opportunity to do so.

I continue to ask your advice, your concerns, for I am anxious to know what concerns you have about veterans and their families and how together we can make the DAV even a stronger organization. And may God bless you, God bless the DAV, and thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: I will now call on National Second Junior Vice Commander-elect David W. Riley from Alabama.

REMARKS: NATIONAL SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID W. RILEY

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DAVID W. RILEY: Good afternoon, everybody.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT RILEY: One year ago you elected me as your Fourth Junior Vice Commander for the National Commander. I had a great year but halfway through the year I was in a serious automobile accident and I made it my personal goal to get back here and standing. And God granted me that wish.

So as I go forward throughout this year I will continue to help ensure that the men and women that served are kept, the promises that were made to them are kept. Thank you very much. May God bless you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: It gives me great pleasure at this time to call on the National Third Junior Vice Commander-elect Delphine Metcalf-Foster from California. (Applause)

REMARKS: NATIONAL THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: And first of all I would like to thank God for my life.

(Response of "Amen.")

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: I feel very honored to have been selected to serve as your Third Junior Vice Commander. I want to thank the Nominating Committee for having the faith in me. I want to thank California Department Adjutant Dan Contreras for his guidance and confidence. I ask those from District 16 to please stand.

(Whereupon, the delegation from District 16 stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: You have been my rock. Please know how much I appreciate everything you have done for me and everything you have continued to do for the DAV to thrive. Thank you. (Applause)

I would like to thank my family. We are four generations strong here today. Would you please stand.

(Whereupon, the family of Mrs. Metcalf-Foster stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT METCALF-FOSTER: I congratulate you, National Commander Johnston. You have my absolute support to lead the DAV in this coming year.

National Adjutant Burgess, I also congratulate you on your well-deserved appointment. I have confidence in your abilities to continue the superior leadership DAV experienced under Art Wilson. (Applause) I look forward to you. Yes.

I look forward to fulfilling our mission of serving our veterans and their families to ensure that they have access to the benefits they deserve with dignity and respect, as I have done for the last 22 years. God bless all of you. God bless the DAV. And God bless America. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: I'd like to call on National Fourth Junior Vice Commander-elect Dennis Krulder from New York. (Applause)

REMARKS: NATIONAL FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-ELECT DENNIS L. KRULDER

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DENNIS KRULDER: Adjutant Wilson, delegates – I mean, sorry, Adjutant Marc Burgess. (Laughter) I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the great State of New York for allowing me to represent them on the national level.

Twenty-one years ago two gentlemen gave me the opportunity to serve the Department of New York, one was the late Ed Gagnon, the second was a gentlemen named Sidney Siller.

On this day a new adjutant, Donald Sloss, has given me the opportunity to represent the great State of New York as the Fourth Junior Vice Commander of the National organization. And I thank him for that.

And I promise him that I have just begun 21 more years of service to the Disabled American Veterans, men and women. And I promise my full support to the National organization, to Commander Johnston to call on me at any time to serve this great organization.

Again, I thank you very much. I would like to introduce my greatest supporter, my best friend, my soul mate, my wife of 45 years, Didi Krulder.

[DIDI KRULDER]

(Whereupon, Mrs. Krulder stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KRULDER: Who when I said to her I would like to do this only said to me, "Well, if you want to do it, do it." (Laughter) So here I am today because I have had a wife who supported me for 45 years.

So, again, I thank you for the opportunity to be the fourth junior vice president – fourth junior vice commander for the National organization. As you can tell, I'm a little nervous. (Laughter) So thank you, again. Have a great and safe trip home. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: At this time I'd like to call on our National Judge Advocate-elect Michael E. Dobmeier from North Dakota. Michael. (Applause)

REMARKS: NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT MICHAEL E. DOBMEIER: Thank you, Commander. Would the 14th District stand, please, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.

(Whereupon, the members of District 14 stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: Thank you for your never-ending support. My wife, Sandy.

(Whereupon, Sandra Dobmeier stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE-ELECT DOBMEIER: Proud to say "Past National Auxiliary Commander" and thank each and every one of you for your continued confidence. And I can assure you that none of us up here take that for granted. Commander Joe, Adjutant Marc, we have your back and we always will. Thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: At this time I'd like to call on our National Chaplain-Elect Ron Ringo Jr., from California. (Applause)

REMARKS: NATIONAL CHAPLAIN-ELECT RONALD R. RINGO, JR.

CHAPLAIN-ELECT RONALD R. RINGO, JR.: You get choked up, up here. (Laughter) I can see what they are talking about. You know, I'm up here often so it doesn't seem to bother me, but when it's your personal thing.

I really do appreciate the opportunity of being here today. I'm going to call an audible. (Laughter) I was once the Southern California NFL Alumni Chaplain and so I'm going to take the lead of my quarterback and ask my wife to come up here to the podium with me.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Ringo advanced to the podium amid a round of applause.)

CHAPLAIN-ELECT RINGO: She has been an inspiration and a help to me. She has been a great help here today or during this conference, helping me serve those who are experiencing different things while we are here at conference.

And I do bring her up here because this is what it is all about. We, the veterans, often can hack it pretty good. You know? We're supposed to suck it up, right? It's what we've been trained. But the ones back home didn't go through all that training. But they are the ones that help keep us strong to begin with.

And it's a team effort that having the family, strengthening us and helping us to fulfill our mission. And our continued mission is to serve our fellow man and our veteran. And so I

encourage each one of you to take Commander Joe's example and I'm trying to follow in his footsteps and do what he just showed me and utilizing our families to help strengthen and support all of our veterans, to strengthen all of our Chapters, and to help future veterans know that this is – and we recognize this is – a family affair in serving our country.

I want to thank those in California and if they, again, would stand –

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

CHAPLAIN-ELECT RINGO: – in supporting me – I've been able to serve continually as their state chaplain and as the national chaplain – and especially Dan Contreras, who does tireless work in the State of California with the immense population and district that we have there. And I appreciate his efforts. And for all of your support in allowing me to have a second tour here, thank you very much. (Applause)

COMMANDER POLZIN: At this time I will entertain a motion to discharge the Credentials Committee. Do I hear a motion?

MR. PARSETICH: Mic 2.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Mic 2.

DISCHARGE THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

MR. PARSETICH: **Joe Parsetich from the State of Montana, moves that we discharge the Credentials Committee.**

COMMANDER POLZIN: Do I have a second?

MR. ROBERT CUDWORTH: Mic 1. Bob Cudworth, Chapter 1, Pennsylvania, I second that motion.

COMMANDER POLZIN: 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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY-ELECTED NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADJUTANT BURGESS: The following members have been elected to the National Executive Committee for the two-year term 2013-2015: District 1, John Hogan; District 3, Ron Reilly; District 5, Al Burlikowski; District 7, John Markiewicz; District 9, Harmon Evans; District 11, Herman Morton; District 13, James Huff; District 15, David Brader; District 17, Gary Lucas; District 19, Fay Lyon; and District 21, Danny Oliver.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. Believe it or not, that concludes today's agenda. Marc, do you have any announcements?

ADJUTANT BURGESS: 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 here in just a few minutes in Orlando Rooms IV through VI. A swearing-in ceremony will be held at that time. NEC Alternates should also attend.

The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the NEC meeting in Florida I-II-III.

The presentation of the National Officers will begin at six o'clock this evening here in the Orlando Ballroom followed by dinner. Also this evening, a musical experience for all ages will be provided by Paradise, one of Orlando's most popular bands. They play a great range of music of different types and eras. So come and enjoy an evening filled with ceremony, food, friends, music and everyone's good company. Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER POLZIN: Thank you. Chaplain Ringo, will you please lead us in a closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN RINGO: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, who are we, Lord? Why are we here? We are American veterans, fighting men and women, and supportive family members. We stand vigil over the promises made to our veterans. We are held together by a common

bond – our love of life, liberty and care for those who have preserved the freedoms our nation enjoys.

When we see wrong that needs to be righted, we pool together and make us a team set apart. We continue in the service of our fellow man and veteran to fulfill those promises made to them and to make the world a better place for all.

Thank you for all of our blessings and for the wonderful fellowship that we have enjoyed during this Convention. Please watch over and protect us all as we travel from here to our various destinations. We humbly pray in the name of our Lord. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER POLZIN: Retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors were retired.)

ADJOURN

COMMANDER POLZIN: Ladies and gentlemen, please give the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard another big round of applause. (Applause) Ladies and gentlemen, the 92nd National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. We will see you next year in Las Vegas. (Applause)

(Whereupon the meeting adjourned on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 2:31 o'clock, p.m.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hilton Orlando Hotel
Orlando, Florida
August 11, 2013
Opening Business Session

- - -

The Opening Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Orange E-G Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Sunday morning, August 11, 2013, and was called to order at 9:07 o'clock, a.m., by National Adjutant Judith Hezlep.

ADJUTANT JUDITH C. HEZLEP: I'd like to call this 91st National Convention in Orlando, Florida, to order.

National Sergeant-at-Arms please present National Commander Donna Adams of Arizona to the platform.

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms Charlyn Davis-Hager escorted Commander Donna Adams to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms please have National Chaplain Carol Rundell brought to the platform.

(Whereupon, National Chaplain Carol A. Rundell was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And introducing our National Officers, National Judge Advocate Kathy Wiley. (Whereupon, National Judge Advocate Kathryn A. Wiley was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken.

(Whereupon, National Fourth Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken was escorted to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Third Junior Vice Commander Fran Costa.

(Whereupon, National Third Junior Vice Commander Frances J. Costa was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Second Junior Vice Commander Linda Stake.

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander Linda S. Stake was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National First Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg;

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn B. Karg was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Senior Vice Commander Susan Miller.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Susan K. Miller was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Convention Chairman Jean Sursely.

(Whereupon, Convention Chairman Jean Sursely was escorted to the platform.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: And now we'd like to introduce the State representatives for this Convention who are the State delegates for this Orlando Convention.

(Whereupon, the delegates were escorted to the front as their names were called.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Alabama, Rebecca Culver; Arkansas, Patricia Logue; (Applause) California, John Medvigy; Colorado, Kathy Phelps; (Applause) Delaware, Kathy Picaroni; (Applause) Florida, Kay Egan; (Applause) Georgia, Cheryl Ramirez; (Applause) Hawaii, Lorna Kakesako; (Applause) Idaho, Janelle Stimson; (Applause) Illinois, Sandra Black; (Applause) Indiana, Elizabeth Brown; (Applause) Kansas, Veronica Bergquist; (Applause) Kentucky, Arlene daCorte; (Applause) Louisiana, Greta Kalk; (Applause) Maine, Diana Gehring; (Applause) Maryland, Bonnie Cuocci; (Applause) Massachusetts, Gloria Follis; (Applause) Michi-

gan, Anna Lockwood; (Applause) Minnesota, Karen Siltanen; (Applause) Mississippi, Peggy Bell; (Applause) Missouri, Velma Steinman; (Applause) Montana, Laurie Grantier; (Applause) Nebraska, Breanne Chandler; (Applause) Nevada, Patricia Dempsey; (Applause) New Hampshire, Wanda Furbish; (Applause) New Mexico, Anneliese Rauber; (Applause) New York, Josephine Rivera; (Applause) North Carolina, Ginger Bish; (Applause) North Dakota, Jackie Saddler; (Applause) Ohio, Mary Lou Miller; (Applause) Oklahoma, Joni Bundy; (Applause) Oregon, Linda Heatley; (Applause) Pennsylvania, Laurie Stopyra; (Applause) Rhode Island, Donna Folcarelli; (Applause) South Carolina, Geraldine Evans; (Applause) South Dakota, Nancy Worth; (Applause) Tennessee, Ana Dunn; (Applause) Texas, Belinda Hackney; (Applause) Vermont, Aura-Lee Nicodemus; (Applause) Utah, Helene Pockrus; (Applause) Virginia, Verdie Roundtree; (Applause) Washington, Crystal Tomlinson; (Applause) now that's the smallest Page we've had; (Applause) Wisconsin, Kathy Lytle; (Applause) Wyoming, Margaret Lucus; (Applause) and Puerto Rico, Ana Iris Pagan. (Applause)

National Sergeant-at-Arms, please post the State Colors of Florida.

(Whereupon, the Colors for the State of Florida were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, present the National Colors.

(Whereupon, the National Colors were presented and posted.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: National Sergeant-at-Arms, please dismiss the Color Bearers.

(Whereupon, the Color Bearers were dismissed.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We will now have our prayer by National Chaplain Carol Rundell.

CHAPLAIN CAROL A. RUNDELL: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN RUNDELL: Let us pray. God of the Universe, we have come to You asking for guidance, wisdom and support as we begin this 2013 Annual DAV Auxiliary National Convention in sunny Orlando, Florida.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to the knowledge that will be shared. Allow us to grow closer as a group and help us to remember to be good to each other.

Continue to remind us that all that we do and all that we accomplish is for the betterment of veterans and our troops around the world. Be with them and grant a speedy and safe return to their families. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

(Response of "Amen", after which Chaplain Rundell withdrew from the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by National Americanism Chairman Fran Costa.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Frances J. Costa advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN FRANCES J. COSTA: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Frances J. Costa led the Pledge of Allegiance.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You can be seated. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in the Annual National Convention composed of the National Officers and representatives of the State Departments and Units.

In accordance with these directives I, Judith C. Hezlep, National Auxiliary Adjutant declare that the 91st National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened in Orlando, Florida.

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 to you – and I'm sure she really does not need to be introduced to you, but I would like to bring National Commander Donna Adams to the mic.

And I know you have had a great year. We've had a lot of fun times. And I just wish she was a little bit shorter (Laughter) but we've had a great time and it's my pleasure to introduce National Commander Donna Adams. (Applause)

COMMANDER DONNA M. ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you so much. (Applause) Thank you. And welcome to the great State of Florida and to our 91st Convention – makes me feel so young. (Laughter)

You know, it seems like we've been here forever and we're just getting started and then it's time to go home. We have a lot of work to do and a lot of fun to have.

I said yesterday in my opening remarks that I know in true DAV and Auxiliary style we will spend hours making new friends and renewing old friendships and eating ourselves stupid, so I plan on doing that more than anything else. You know, you do what you do well and you do it a lot. (Laughter)

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to introduce to you for her welcoming remarks and greetings Jean Sursely, our National Convention Chairman, from the great State of Florida. Jean. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Convention Chairman Jean Sursely advanced to the podium.)

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN JEAN SURSELY: Welcome, everybody, to Florida. I hope you have enjoyed it so far. I know it is a little warm but here in Florida we learn to live with air conditioning.

You do your work in the morning. You do your work in the evening. And you watch TV all day in the air conditioning. (Laughter) But I have had the pleasure of growing up here. I'm a native Floridian.

I was born in Miami, lived there for about 25 years, lived on the beach, fishing, shelling. I've lived the last 25 years here in Central Florida. I've had the pleasure of watching rockets go up so close that I could see the writing. Just brings goose bumps.

We've got some really cool stuff here in this state. And if this is your first trip here, see if you can get over to Cape Canaveral. It's stuff – you know, it's like going to the Smithsonian. It's things you only see on TV but you can touch it, you can feel it, you can see it. It's an awesome thing.

We've got Saint Augustine which is our oldest city in the history of the United States. It is still standing. Of course they made it out of shells and rocks so it's going to be here forever. It's just a beautiful place to live.

And I want to thank everybody for coming here. And if you need anything, give me a holler. If you can't find something, I'm in Room 339, just give me a buzz. I'll see what I can find, what I can do.

We have a great Forget-me-Not Luncheon planned. We have fantastic entertainment. It's like a mini-USO show is what they are. They are really, really good and a lot of fun. So if you haven't gotten your ticket, make sure you get your tickets to the Forget-me-Not Luncheon. It's Monday at 12:30.

Again, I'd like to welcome everybody and thank you for coming. (Applause)

COMMANDER ADAMS: The other thing I want to say, just a little cleanup, two weeks ago, about two weeks ago there was a posting on Facebook that President Obama and the First Lady were going to be here at this Convention.

And there was a thing, did anybody want to ask any questions or have any opinions. And, quite frankly, the comments that were posted were not kind.

And I want to tell you all how proud I am to be a member of this organization when it doesn't – it doesn't matter your political views or your feelings. We all support our country and we all support our President.

And when the President and First Lady were here yesterday, in true patriotic style, they were warmly welcomed. And thank you all for that. You did a great job. And thank you for that support.

It is my distinct honor to introduce to you those folks that made this organization what it is, our Past National Commanders, beginning with the First Lady of Florida, from the great State of New York, Lucille McCarthy; (Applause) from Pennsylvania, Maria Tedrow; (Applause) from the Lone Star State of Texas, Betty Hall; (Applause) and the land of Lincoln, Paula Raymond; (Applause) from Michigan, Carol Gray; (Applause) from North Carolina, Renee Jones; (Applause) from New Jersey, Linda Trulio; (Applause) North Dakota, Judy Steinhouse; (Applause) Massachusetts, Donna Tanner; (Applause) from Florida, Kathy – no, from, excuse me. I have that messed up. From Washington State, Kathy Wiley; (Applause) from North Dakota, Sandy Dobmeier; (Applause) from Florida, Kay Egan; (Applause) and from Tennessee, Susan Henry. (Applause)

And I would also like to extend the regrets of our Immediate Past Commander Patti Rapisand. Patti was having some issues that wouldn't allow her to be here. But I know that she is here in spirit and she wishes she could be right here with all of us. (Applause)

And can I have, please have Sandy Dobmeier bring greetings from the Past National Commanders.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Sandra Dobmeier advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Are you like the supreme commander?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SANDRA DOBMEIER: Good morning, everyone.

(Response of "Good morning.")

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DOBMEIER: It's my pleasure to bring you greetings on behalf of the Past National Commanders of our DAV Auxiliary.

And I want to wish everyone a great Convention and especially to Donna to have a great Convention and to thank you for all of your leadership and all you have done for this organization over the past year, previous years, and the upcoming years because we know you're not going anywhere. You're still with us and you will be part of us soon.

So on behalf of the Past National Commanders, I would like to present to you this little token of our appreciation for all of your hard work.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DOBMEIER: And have a great Convention.

(Whereupon, Commander Adams was presented with a gift from the Past National Commanders.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you so very much. (Applause) It is a box. I think I've seen this box before. You know what? I went to nine Convention this year and saw these beautiful forget-me-not paperweights – I passed out nine of these –

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DOBMEIER: And you couldn't have one.

COMMANDER ADAMS: And I couldn't have one. Thank you. I want one. (Laughter) Thank you. (Applause) Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, Past National Commander Dobmeier withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Do we have any first-time attendees here? Would you please stand.

(Whereupon, first-time attendees stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Terrific. Okay, if you will stay standing until you get a ribbon and please attach it to your badge.

And our other members are going to take particular note to welcome you and make sure you don't have any questions that haven't been answered throughout the Convention because you're special.

And then next year it's your job to look for new first-time attendees and make sure their questions are answered and that they feel special.

(Whereupon, ribbons were distributed to first-time attendees.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And you know what? We have seen Pages from this big down to about that big. Didn't our Junior Pages do a great job? (Applause) Thank you. Thank you, Pages. And you can go away and do fun-er things if you want to now, because we're kind of boring.

(Whereupon, the Pages withdrew from the ballroom.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: It is my distinct pleasure to recognize our Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member of the Year Recipient from Fort – from South Carolina, Rosa Lee Knox. Rosa Lee, are you here?

(Whereupon, Mrs. Rosa Lee Knox was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Where is Rosa Lee? And, Rosa Lee, we are going to honor you again at our Forget-me-Not Luncheon. And thank you so very, very much for all the work you've done. (Applause)

I'm going to ask that everybody please check your cell phones and put them on vibrate if you have, are expecting any calls on that. If you do get a call, please be considerate of your neighbor and take your call outside. Thank you.

Also, anybody making or seconding a motion must go to the microphone. We have floor mics set up on both of the side aisles. State your name, your Unit or whether you are a Department delegate, and be recognized.

We have a recorder down here that we know who you are but the microphone won't and we have to go back and transcribe these. So if you will please make life a little bit easier on our transcriptionist – is that what you're called?

MR. TRACY D. REDMOND: Yes.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Cool. Would our Credentials Chairman please come forward to give a preliminary report of the Credentials Committee, Debbie Parker from Florida. She is out counting noses. Did everybody get their nose counted? We haven't seen her?

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: There she is.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Deborah Parker advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DEBORAH PARKER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER: Madame Commander, all National Officers, delegates, members and guests, the Credential report is as follows: total Unit registered, 179; total Department registered, 36; National Officers registered, 7; Past National Commanders registered, 10; total guests registered, 80; total delegates, 369; total alternates, 19; total vote count, 1,229.

Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER ADAMS: There has been a motion made to accept the preliminary Credentials report. Is there a second?

MS. VICKI JOHNSON: Vicki Johnston Unit –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Please go to the microphone.

MS. VICKI JOHNSTON: Vicki Johnston, Unit 63, I will second that motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Vicki. All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed same sign. The motion carried. Thank you. Turn the page, Donna.

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.

I will now entertain a motion to adopt these rules. Is there a motion to adopt the Convention rules?

MS. ELLEN TIMMERMAN: Madam Commander, Ellen Timmerman, Unit 9, New Mexico, I make a motion that we adopt the Convention rules.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

MS. IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Iris Brzezinski, Sunrise Mountain Unit 13, Nevada, I second that motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: A motion has been made and seconded to adopt the rules of Convention. Is there any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. And we also need a motion to accept the agenda subject to change. Is there such a motion?

MS. BONNIE CUOCCI: I, Bonnie Cuocci, Unit 18, Maryland, accept –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Make a motion.

MS. CUOCCI: – make a motion to accept –

COMMANDER ADAMS: The agenda.

MS. CUOCCI: – the agenda. Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Is there a second, please?

MS. DOMINIQUE WILNER: Dominique Wilner, Unit 44, I second that motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. A motion has been made and seconded to adopt the agenda subject to change. Is there any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried.

The DAV has changed everything. (Laughter) I think they might change the name before we are done with this Convention. (Laughter) We have – our agenda, unless otherwise announced, will remain as printed. Okay?

So like this morning the DAV met a half-hour early. We are staying – we had our stuff together from the get-go, guys. (Laughter) Okay? So unless it is announced that something is different, everything will remain the same as printed. Is that right? Very cool. We hope.

Okay, I would like to now introduce to you our National Senior Vice Commander for the purpose of an introduction.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Susan K. Miller advanced to the microphone.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER SUSAN K. MILLER: Thank you. I now have the distinct pleasure to present to you our National Commander Donna Adams for the purpose of her annual report.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Susan. You know, I actually wrote my report and it is in your packets. And there are very few things in the world I dislike more than reading so – so having somebody read something to me that I can easily read myself. But I do want to go over a few things in addition to the actual comments that I made in the written report.

And I do hope you will take the time to read all of our officers' reports. A lot of thought and work went into those reports and it's the one opportunity you have to see how our upcoming officers and future commanders will represent you. So I encourage you to read those reports.

It's been an absolutely amazing year. And I shared with you in my report the things that I had done but I wasn't able to share with you the feelings that I had when I did those things.

The very first thing we did – and it's mentioned in the report – is take a riverboat ride down the, out of Pittsburgh. And I want to tell you what. I went up to my room when we got there.

And I practiced for 40 minutes learning how to say Monongahela. (Laughter) I had no clue how to say Monongahela. So I practiced and I practiced it. It was like when I was learning to say Bencivenga and I'm going like Pennsylvania, Bencivenga.

And I'm going Monongahela. And I learned to say it. And then I got down there and found out people in Pittsburgh don't even both saying Monongahela. They call it "The Mon." (Laughter) And, you know, I could have learned that in the taxi on the way to the riverboat.

But it was a wonderful experience. And what they do is they take veterans from all over the VA, the VA medical centers all over the state and they bring them together and they take them on this wonderful riverboat ride.

They provide lunch and then they pass out lap robes to each one of those people there. And it's just – it's a wonderfully heartwarming experience. I will tell you, there were as many volunteers as there were veterans. But that's because so many of those veterans actually need an attendant.

And so we got on this riverboat and it was so cold there were fire trucks lined up along the banks and they had the water spraying this way. And they all saluted.

And it was like it's an annual event that the whole community comes behind to honor the veterans. And it's actually funded in part by the city as well as our various veterans' organizations.

That night we went to dinner at an old, it was the old train depot, like a Union Station type of thing that had been transformed into a restaurant. And it was just absolutely wonderful.

I, from there I went down to North Carolina and I thank those members for their kindness – Ginger Bish, Department Commander was wonderful. And thank you so very much for that.

And I spent a couple of days down there and then went out to their Mid-Term conference. And then I had the wonderful pleasure of attending the Veterans' Day Parade in Birmingham, Alabama.

And our – and my papers here – our Department Commander from Alabama is – in my papers. You know, I met so many of you and I should know everybody's names and I am just so ashamed that I do not. But I do want to thank Carolyn Harris. She and her husband met us. We went out that night. There she is back there, Carolyn.

We went to Golden Corral and I'm going to tell you what. If you are involved in the Golden Corral thing in your area and you're not doing real well, call them down there in Birmingham, Alabama.

I think the night we were there they raised \$8,000 that one night. (Applause) Yeah. And they don't take "no" for an answer. They have a big table with all kinds of DAV and Auxiliary literature.

They welcome everybody to come and then they stand there with a big ten-gallon paint bucket and shake it and they do not let anybody get by without putting something in the little bucket.

So if you, if you're looking to raise some money during the Golden Corral Veterans' Day thing, go talk to Carolyn, she can give you some clues on how to make that happen.

Then it was pretty much off to Fall Conference. And I've got to tell you what, you folks were amazing. You were like little sponges, you know, just soaking up information.

I don't think a lot of you know, I don't know why they happened to look there but our two Executive Directors, Barry Jesinoski and Marc Burgess, at the time, came into the bar looking for me – I don't know why they choose to go in there (Laughter) – but, anyway, and, as a matter of fact they found me (Laughter) – they have the best mojitos at that restaurant. When we go back to Lexington, make sure you get a mojito. Best ones in the country.

But, anyway, Marc Burgess came and he said, "What have you people done?" And I thought like we really did something really bad. And he said, "I walked in and there is an energy level in here that I haven't seen for a very, very long time."

And I want to thank each and every one of you that attended the Fall Conference for making it just an exceptional conference. It's all because of you and I hope when you go back to your states you will encourage other members to come and join us this year in Cincinnati.

Thank you to all the officers for your wonderful job with the carnival and your programs. And through every one of these things, thank you, Pat and Judy, for making it happen. It's just – it's just absolutely wonderful.

I did Pearl Harbor Day in Arizona and I've been – I, actually, organized Pearl Harbor Day for many, many years. For about 12 years I put on the Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies.

And I got to visit with so many of our Pearl Harbor survivors. And I know that each year when I visit with those folks it's going to be the last time for some of them. And it just, it just makes your heart happy to know that we're able to put on a program to commemorate Pearl Harbor and to honor them.

And later on in the year when I actually attended or visited the U.S.S. Arizona in Pearl Harbor I stood there and looking at this wall and I'm thinking of those men and the stories that they have.

I have one friend who was actually on the Tennessee and he told me about standing on deck watching these guys jump off of other ships into burning water because it was preferable than drowning – and most of them did not survive between burns and drowning. So it was just – it was an amazing experience.

While I was at Pearl Harbor – and I know I am jumping around a little bit – but I want to give you some of the stuff that isn't in my report. I went out.

Pearl Harbor has changed, if you haven't been there in the last ten years or so. The Visitors Center has been greatly enlarged. And now you go into a, like a theater and watch a movie on the actual event of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

And so you watch this movie and then you leave there and you go out and you get onto the launch go to over to the ship or to the Memorial. And the launch holds maybe 120-130 you think, Warren? Is that about right?

Anyway, and of course about half of them were men. I was very, very disturbed when we got onto the ship. There was one man that took off his hat out of all the men that boarded the U.S.S. Arizona. And it really bothered me.

But this one man was maybe 26-27 years old. And he was in a wheelchair. I believe he was a returning War on Terrorism veteran.

He was in a wheelchair and our guide had told us when we go in to go right to the back because everybody is going to stop in the front. You go to the back and then when everybody else goes to the back you go to the front and you will see a lot more stuff.

Well, he wheeled himself back there and he just sat there very, very quietly. He had his hat off and he sat there for three or four minutes and he just stared at the rows and rows of names that are carved into this marble frieze on the back wall. And then he saluted and he turned his wheelchair around and went out, or started out.

And I had been standing next to him and I leaned down and I kissed him on the cheek and I said, "Thank you for your service." And he said, "How did you know?" How do you don't know? (Laughter) You know.

And here I'm trying to be nice and give him a kiss and the tears are running down my face and I'm getting him. But it's an absolutely amazing experience.

When I was nine years old I was in about fifth grade in Arizona. We collected our pennies to buy the silver service that was on the U.S.S. Arizona. You know, I have a – for some

reason Arizona thinks they own the ship but, anyway, and that silver service is now on display in our state capitol.

So between having so many friends that are Pearl Harbor survivors and the silver experience I really felt a kinship. And then went over to Hilo and visited with folks there. And Hawaii is everything they say it is, guys. It was absolutely marvelous.

This year I attended nine conventions. And in each one, each state has been so very, very special. I told you at the NEC meeting about going up to South Dakota and how Nancy Worth put the box.

For those of you who weren't there – and this is a good thing to do in your own Unit or Department if you have a need. Nancy Worth came in the room. And I know none of you have ever heard this ever happening in DAV Auxiliary before but they're having some personality issues (Laughter) and some little power struggles and clashes going on there.

And Nancy, the Department Commander, came in with this box. And she put the box on the table and she said, "Here it is. I want everybody to take a piece of paper and write down who you're mad at, what your complaint is, what your issue is and put it in the box. We're going to come around with this box." And they passed the box.

And she said, "At the end of this Convention if you have the need to pull your issues back out of the box, you go for it. But while you're here, all the personality issues and all your junk is going to stay in the box." And what a good idea that was and it really – Nancy, you here? Raise your hand.

(Whereupon, Nancy Worth raised her hand.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Good job, woman. It was wonderful. (Applause) When I was in South Dakota they did take me to see Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore. And, of course, everybody wants to go see Mount Rushmore. Don't go to Crazy Horse first.

Go to Mount Rushmore first because once you go to Crazy Horse, this thing is so huge and so awesome that it actually dwarfs Mount Rushmore. And Mount Rushmore looks exactly like it does in the post cards.

So go to Mount Rushmore first so you're awed by that before you go to Crazy Horse. (Laughter) Okay? And, also, thanks to Carrie Alm for driving us all over, all over the place.

The first convention I actually went to was in Deadwood, South Dakota. And it was – last week I watched a movie about Wild Bill Hickok getting killed with his aces and eights.

And they can't – and it was in Deadwood. And I'm going, "I was there. I was there." All through this movie there is nobody else in the house and I'm going, "I was there. I was there." (Laughter) So it's a wonderful place.

Every place I went was absolutely amazing: Hudson Valley in New York. Thank you, New York. You here? (Applause) Thank you. Oklahoma, you guys here? (Applause) Yell, Oklahoma.

Tennessee. (Cheers) Thank you, Susan, for the wonderful tour to an Italianate home. Is that what it is called? I felt so ignorant. I know nothing about the south. I mean it was really very cool.

Where else did I go? Wisconsin, cheese heads, you guys here? (Cheers) You ever had cheese curds? Oh. (Laughter) Good stuff. They make a pretty good mojito, too. (Laughter) There was just so much stuff. I do want to tell you – what states did I miss? Where did I go?

(Response of "Florida.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: Florida. I went to Florida for their Mid-Term Conference. And I got into the – I got in there and I went, "I've been here before." It was. It was the same hotel. It was wonderful.

Where else did I miss?

(Response of "Indiana.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: Indiana. Did I go to Indiana?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: I went to Indiana. (Applause) Indiana had a fundraising for a women's retreat and it was amazing. And I of course I wasn't there for the retreat but I did sell a dirty joke for \$48. (Laughter) So I did help with their retreat. And it was great. They raised good money. They did good work with it.

It was a women veterans' retreat for the weekend and they completely funded it and have now gotten permission and funding to put it on again next year. (Applause) And we're looking forward to hearing that. Carla, great job. Carla Schwarz headed that up out of Indiana.

Went to an Americanism program in Missouri, good – Missouri, you guys here? (Applause) Yay, Missouri. It was – everywhere I went it was absolutely wonderful, absolutely wonderful.

Utah – Utah, we crashed into the Mormon Temple. It was terrific. (Laughter) Actually, on the way back to the airport they took me by the Temple and we had a little mishap but everything is, it worked out. And it was a wonderful experience seeing that, that building, that structure.

Colorado, (Applause) only time every in my life I really thought I was going to die. (Laughter) Right? Anybody that's been flying lately knows that it's not, you know, flying used to be an adventure, now it's just a pain. Okay? But there was so much turbulence I really, really thought, "I'm not going to make this."

And when we came into the airport we came at such an angle I think that the wing ended up being about a foot off the ground. And I really thought sure the pilot was going to shear it off and we were going to start, start tumbling and I was going to die. It was – it was scary.

And I do want you to know that when I actually get to the point that I'm dying, I'm not a screamer. Okay? I just sit there quiet and wait for the inevitable.

The one thing, also, I want to tell you about was the Inauguration. And as exciting as it was, I think one of the lasting things that I will take as a take-away from that is we were at one of the receptions and this was after – we were late.

Getting in and out of Washington – we came in from Arlington, from Crystal City to go to the reception and the traffic is incredible and the road closures are incredible. If you have not ever been to an Inauguration, watch it on television. (Laughter)

So, anyway, we are creeping along and creeping along and I was in a van with our Executive Director and some of those folks and decided we're not going to make this on time and it was our reception.

So they said, we'll get out and take the BART – what is it called? – the Metro. And so I'm game for this so we all get out and it had been raining and it was rather cold and still a little spitting at us.

So we decided – we get down to the Metro and nobody has got the right change to get the Metro cards but we all ended up with them.

Well, going down into the Metro – did you know terrorists will not use escalators? It must be, because they turned them off. Okay? (Laughter)

So that's my – the only thing I could think of is that they turn off the escalators because terrorists don't use them. And so that was no big deal because we walked down this escalator. You liked that? (Laughter)

So we walked down the escalator and we got on the BART and I didn't have a handrail. There was nothing. But I couldn't fall down because I was smashed in so hard that nobody could fall down. It was like if one went, we all went. (Laughter)

So the Metro stops, we get out where we are supposed to go. The door opens and it's kind of "whoosh." You know? And you know what? When you walk down the escalator, guess what?

You have to walk back up the escalator. We walked upstairs and walked up steps and walked and walked. Have you guys seen that cartoon of that bulldog splayed out on the sidewalk?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: And get a picture of a cowboy saying, "Leave me. Go ahead, leave me." (Laughter) You know? "Save yourself." That was me. (Laughter) It was just – I'm on the ground. "Save yourself. Leave me."

So we finally, we walk about four blocks and we finally get there. And by this time I'm half dead. I'm soaking wet. My hair is looking like poop.

We get in there and the people – they didn't get out. They stayed in the coach, were on their second drink going, "Where have you guys been?" Yes. (Laughter)

But, anyway, I had a wonderful opportunity standing there discussing stuff, just talking general stuff with this lovely lady named Allison. And we had a wonderful conversation.

And, finally, I said to her, "So, are you with a veterans' organization? And she said, "No. I work for the VA." And I said, "Really? What part?" Well, I had become very good friends with General Allison Hickey, the Under Secretary for Veterans' Benefits. (Laughter)

And, as a result of that, that relationship, I was able to make a meeting. When we went back for the DAV Mid-Winter Conference I had a meeting with the Director of Fiduciary and Pension.

And I will tell you, I am still in communication with that director and we are working at getting DIC out of the Pension Center and starting to get those claims resolved in less time than it takes you to lose your home. (Applause)

So hopefully I'm going to continue on that effort and hopefully we will be able to get something done on that.

I have a ton more experiences but we only have three days for this Convention. (Laughter) And I'm out and about. I think most of you know I don't stay in my room a whole lot. I want to be out with you because I just love every one of you. You've been so very kind.

I hope that if you have any questions about where I've been – did you like going with me in the Headquarters News? (Applause) Did you like that? I hope so.

And I hope you shared those with your Units because I'm going to tell you what, Pat puts a lot of work into those Headquarters News. And some of our officers aren't as good at meeting time deadlines as other people are. (Laughter) I wonder who that is. It has something to do with mojitos, again. (Laughter)

But, anyway, do read the Headquarters News because they're worth every bit of it. In the meantime, it's been an amazing, wonderful year.

And I can't begin to thank you for all the pleasant kindness, the memories you've shared, the things of the programs that you're doing, and the things that you shared. And God bless you all and thank you for the work you do. (Applause)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: I will now entertain a motion to accept the National Commander's report. Pat.

MRS. PATRICIA EGEL: Senior Vice Commander Patricia Egel, Unit 20, Glendale, Arizona, is very happy and proud for her Dad and I to accept that, that motion.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Do I have a second?

MS. MABELENE STEVENS: Mabelene Stevens, Pikeville Unit 134, Kentucky, seconds that motion.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you. There has been a motion by Pat Egel and a second by Mabelene to accept the Commander's report. All in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you. And I want to show you. This is – this is the National gavel. This is a backup in case I forgot it and I didn't. It's up in my room.

But this gavel is a very special gavel. And this was given to me by Dorothy Wiesonsen and Cindy Hansen from the great State of Georgia. And thank you. I will treasure it. I have such wonderful gifts. They are all over my house. (Laughter) Thank you.

And if any of you ever want to look, I have a little South Dakota Black Hills gold. Is that what it is called, Black Hills gold? And it's over heart with a skeleton key, "The key is under-standing" key. And I treasure that. Thank you.

So, let us continue. Ellen Timmerman, are you prepared for our Financial report, please?

MS. TIMMERMAN: Yes, I am.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Ellen is Chairman of the National Finance Committee and she will give us the report and the recommended budget for review.

(Whereupon, Finance Committee Chairman Ellen Timmerman advanced to the podium.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ELLEN TIMMERMAN: National Commander Donna Adams, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, family, friends, good morning. (Response of "Good morning.")

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: The National Finance Committee meeting was held April 27th, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel in Florence, Kentucky.

The voting members of the Committee present were Donna Adams, National Commander; Diane Franz, District 7 NEC; Donna Henshaw, District 10, NEC; Lorna Kakesako, District 18, NEC; and myself, Ellen Timmerman, District 17, NEC.

Those present without a vote were National Senior Vice Commander Susan Miller, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper. The purpose of the meeting was set up and adopt a budget for the 2014 year.

At this time I would like to thank the Committee and the staff for all their help.

The budget is included into your registration packet. And at this time I move for the adoption of the budget.

COMMANDER ADAMS: A motion has been made by Ellen Timmerman to adopt the budget. Is there a second, please?

MRS. DIANE FRANZ: Diane Franz, Central Florida Unit 16, I move to accept – I second the motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: A motion has been made and seconded to adopt the budget as recommended by the Budget Committee – Finance Committee. Is there any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. Thank you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIMMERMAN: One of the issues that concerned the Finance Committee is the lack of donations for the Winter Sports Clinic. As a Bronze Sponsor, our organization contributes \$2,500 each year.

And we wanted to bring to your attention with the shortfall that the donations, that we are having with our donations our sponsorship of this wonderful event could be affected.

Of course donations are down in the Service Support and the Education Scholarship Funds as well. These are some amazing programs and we need to find a way to build the funds so we can continue with these programs and continue to help our members. Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Ellen.

(Whereupon, Ms. Timmerman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman please come forward for the first reading of the proposed Bylaws. This will be only a reading. There will be no discussion until we have the second reading. So this is purely for information. And Judy Steinhouse.

(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.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: As the National Commander has stated this will be only a reading of these, no discussion, no voting. You will then caucus at the Commander's discretion and at the second reading we will take these one-by-one to be voted on.

You all should have received a copy of them. They were, hopefully, distributed to the chairs. And it's only one page long this year.

Page U-18, General Instructions for Regular Unit Meetings, Paragraph 3. Delete "shall" and insert "may". Paragraph 3 will then read:

"The Membership Initiation Ceremony may be given to Auxiliary members within their respective Units."

Rationale: To give Units the option of giving the Membership Initiation Ceremony.

Page U-21, Regular Meeting, Paragraph 3, Junior Vice Commander. Delete entire paragraph and substitute the following:

"Junior Vice Commander: The family and extended family members of any person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans or members of the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary – parenthesis, living or deceased, end parenthesis – or a veteran not dishonorably discharged are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary."

Rationale: To clarify those eligible for auxiliary membership.

Page U-22, Order of Business 3. Delete 3 and substitute the following:

"3. Introduction of new members. Initiation Ceremony, if applicable, may follow."

Rationale: To correct 3 to agree with general instructions for Regular Unit Meeting, Paragraph 3.

Page U-32, Ritual for Junior Meeting, Paragraph 2, Junior Vice Commander. Delete entire paragraph and substitute the following:

"Junior Vice Commander. All family and extended family members of any person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary – excuse me – Disabled American Veterans or Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary – parenthesis, living or deceased, end parenthesis – under 18 years of age."

Rationale: To clarify the eligibility of junior membership.

Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Okay. We will now go into our Awards program. Monetary awards are given in each category and the checks will be sent out to the appropriate Units after the Convention, so they will not be given out.

The checks will not be given out but we do have certificates so for you to come up and get them. And the first report we will have, we will hear from Membership Chairman LeeAnn Karg.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander and National Membership Chairman LeeAnn B. Karg advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Lee-ANN B. KARG: Good morning, everybody. How are you doing?

(Response of "Good morning" and "Fine.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Good. Membership Awards for the 2012-2013 year in Group 1, 10 to 50 members – drum roll – William S. Green Number 9, Massachusetts, with an 18-member increase. (Applause) Can someone from the Unit come up or from the Department?

COMMANDER ADAMS: Sharon.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: Nobody? Oh, here she comes. Congratulations.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Group Number 2, 51 to 100, Northwest, Number 66, Oklahoma, 25 member increase. (Applause) Someone from Oklahoma? Congratulations.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Group Number 3, 101 to 200 – oh, this is a mistake – James T. Hall, Number 9, Texas, (Applause) 18 member increase. Anybody – Betty, are you going to come up? Is somebody else here? Okay, here comes someone. Thank you. Congratulations.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Group Number 4, 201 and over, Robert C. Lopez Ernie Pile Cutting Number 3, New Mexico, (Applause) 118 member increase. Wow. Somebody from New Mexico? Okay, come on up. Congratulations.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award, followed by a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: The next group is new Unit with the most new members and this goes to Joy C. Montoya Number 24, New Mexico, with 27 new members. (Applause) So congratulations, again.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Okay, Group Number 6, the Department with the largest percentage increase over quota, the State Department of New Mexico with 113.81 percent over. (Applause) New Mexico is really just off the charts, weren't they? They just really went for the gold.

(Whereupon, a representative from the Department of New Mexico came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Group Number 7, Department with the largest numerical increase over quota, the State Department of New Mexico with 138 members. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Department of New Mexico came forward to accept the award.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: So my deepest congratulations to New Mexico for your three awards. Did you get all three of them? Come on up, hun. (Applause) Oh, they've got them up here. That's okay. But congratulations, New Mexico, what a great job you did. Thank you very, very much. (Applause)

Now we have a special award and this is for the top membership recruiter. That top recruiter is Karla Schwartz, Indiana, Number 19, 39 new members. (Applause) Is Karla here? She just walked out?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She just walked out the door for a minute.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Oh. We'll call her up again, but congratulations to her. That is fantastic.

And I want to thank all of you for working so hard on membership this year and getting our National organization to quota for the second year in a row. That's fantastic.

And it all comes down to all of you, each and every one of you. So thank you so much for all your hard work in recruiting, but don't stop now. Keep on going because we have a lot further to go. Thank you. (Applause)

We had awards throughout the year for Bronze, Gold and Silver. And the silver was the snow globe. How many had got those stars or the globe? Would you stand up?

(Whereupon, award winners stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARG: Thank you so much for all your work. That is awesome.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Karg returned to her station.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And if you haven't seen one of the snow globes, they are very, very cool. (Laughter) Americanism, Fran Costa.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Frances J. Costa advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: I'd like to ask Leslie Sandoval, the chairman of the Committee, to please come forward to give the report.

(Whereupon, the Convention Americanism Committee Chairman Leslie Sandoval advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: And I'd love to thank everyone on that Committee for their patience with the confusion of getting our lists being delayed and starting the Committee and then having the DAV trying to physically escort us out of the room before we were finished.

It was a really tough, tough time on the judging committee. But I thank you for your patience.

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LESLIE SANDOVAL: The National Americanism Committee Convention report. National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 91st National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Americanism Convention Committee met in the Highland B Room at 1:20 p.m. on August 10th, 2013. Our advisor was Frances Costa and Veronica Bergquist elected/appointed secretary.

The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Americanism Awards.

Okay, Group 1, 10 to 50 members was John Woodall, Number 6, Margaretta(sic), Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: Group 2 was 51 to 100 members, West Palm Beach Number 42, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, was Beaufort County Number 48, Washington, North Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: Group 4, 201 members or over Knob Hill Number 26, Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: Our Special Americanism Awards: Group 1, the 10 to 200 members, was Antonio Hernandez Number 25, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: Group 2, 201 members and over, was Knob Hill 26, Colorado Springs, Colorado. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: The Committee submitted the following recommendations: add a line to reflect number of members performing Americanism activities; make sure to use the updated form; make sure form is signed; please put only Americanism information on your report.

It was – our Committee members to stand as we call your name.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDOVAL: District 1, Sharon Dufault; District 2, Josephine Rivera; District 3, Frances Clevette; District 6, Bonnie Cuocci; District 7, Betty – I'm so sorry. I'm reading off of the paper that everyone signed so you signed small. District 9, Clarice(sic) Bryce – Brown;

District 11, Denise Proffitt; District 12, Carrie Willems; District 13, Delores Huff; District 14, Faye Litzinger; District 15 Veronica Bergquist; District 17(sic), Josephine Benner;

District 17, Leslie Sandoval; District 18, Carol Rundell; District 19, Barbara Reding; District 20, Fannie Louis(sic); and District 21, Linda Oliver. I am so sorry if I messed up your names. Thank you. (Applause)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: There was one item that was, that came to our attention. There were a couple of forms that were used that weren't the same as all the others.

If my recollection is correct, it is one of the old Americanism forms where it states how many people did you assist with the citizenship, that type of a question.

So I would like to see that that gets – especially with the situation we're at now with immigration and we have so many non-citizens that are serving in our military that that be put back onto the form. So that's another recommendation that I'd like to make.

I know my husband served in Vietnam. He was not a citizen when he was deployed. And he did not automatically receive his citizenship like they are doing today.

He had to request time off after he was released from medical care to apply for his citizenship with the proper procedure that everyone has to follow. So I'd like to see that put back on there.

(Whereupon, Mrs. Costa and Ms. Sandoval withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Would Karla Schwartz please come up to the podium. You're in trouble now, girl. (Laughter)

MS. KARLA SCHWARTZ: You scare me anyway.

(Whereupon, Karla Schwartz advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Yes, right. You're so easily intimidated. (Laughter) Karla Schwartz is our top recruiter for the year. And she gets this nice piece of paper and a really nicer piece of paper in here is a check for \$250. (Applause)

And now we will hear from Community Service Chairman Craig Johniken.

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander And National Community Service Chairman William Craig Johniken advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN WILLIAM CRAIG JOHNIKEN: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN JOHNIKEN: At this time I would like to call Micki Kraft up. She was the chairman of the Committee yesterday.

(Whereupon, the Convention Community Service Chairman Micki Kraft advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN JOHNIKEN: And I want to thank all of you all for being patient with me, waiting until I got in the room. They all beat me in the room yesterday.

And while she is on her way up here, it has truly been a pleasure to serve this community, serve as chairman.

And once I started receiving all these reports in, it's just amazing how many millions of dollars' worth of time and money that is spent on this particular program. Everybody deserves theirself a round of applause. It's really amazing. Nobody does it better than us. (Applause) It's all yours.

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICKI KRAFT: Thanks, I think. Okay, yesterday we met in the Nona Room A, which I did put down, at 1:00 o'clock.

Craig – what? Well, he's trying to blame everything on me. (Laughter) Craig was our advisor and Gloria Boozer was the secretary.

So the following groups or the following Units 1 through 50 or 10 through 50, John Wood-all Unit 6. (Applause) Doesn't have it down here. Georgia.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN KRAFT: And Group 2, 51 to 100, South Oakland County, Unit 19, Michigan. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN KRAFT: And 101 to 200 members, J.W. Cantrell, Unit 63, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN KRAFT: And Unit 4 or Group 4, 201 and over is Murphy – thank you, Unit 7, Colorado. (Applause) I couldn't have pronounced that if I had to.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN KRAFT: And I'd like to thank – we'd like to thank the members that were on the Committee. District 1, Lillian Halpin; District 2, Lucita Christian; District 3, Ann –

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Schatz.

CONVENTION COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN KRAFT: Okay. We had no District 4; okay, this is the one that is confusing; District 5 is Beulah Scales – no, she is the – okay, Diane Freeman is District 5;

Beulah Scales is District 6; Irene Stevens, District 7; District 8, Carolyn Sensat; thank you; District 9 is Evelyn Bryant; District 10 is Gloria Boozer; District 11 is Darlene Hanneman;

District 12 is Sandra – how do you pronounce – I don't either; District 13 is our – some of these – Gordon – Arveeda Gordon; District 14, Karen Siltanen; District 15 is Kay – we had no District 16, 17 or 18.

I'm District 19. Elaine Moreland is District 20 and Joanie is 21, District 21. And I'd like to thank all of them for serving on the Committee. No, he lost the paperwork. (Applause)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

CHAIRMAN JOHNIKEN: Thank you all for your patience. It's all yours.

(Whereupon, Mr. Johniken and Ms. Kraft withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Good job, everybody. (Applause) Non-VA Hospital, Linda Bailey was our Chairman for the year. Linda, from Tennessee. For those of you who don't recognize her without her leather on, this is one of our biker babes here. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, National Hospital Committee Chairman Linda L. Bailey advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LINDA L. BAILEY: That's right. Could I have my Committee Chairman Roberta Bugbee. All right, I pronounced it right. Let me ask a question while she is coming up here.

(Whereupon, Convention Hospital Committee Chairman Roberta Bugbee advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: How many signed a pledge at Fall Conference? Raise your hands.

(Whereupon, hands were raised in answer to the question.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: How many did it? How many went out and visited a non-VA hospital or nursing home?

(Whereupon, hands were raised in answer to the question.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: Good. Okay. Now, the Line Officers. I gave all those a bag at Fall Conference and I've heard from two of them that told me that they gave their bags away. Did you give your bag away?

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yes, I did.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: You did? Good. How about you all?

(Responses of "I did.")

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: Okay. Well, I'm glad to know that some of them really took the initiative and did it. I'll let you take this one.

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ROBERTA BUGBEE: Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Dick M. Lynch Unit 27, Albany, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUGBEE: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Birmingham Unit 4, Birmingham, Alabama. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUGBEE: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John T. Hensley Unit 96, Lake Panasoffkee, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUGBEE: Group 4, 201 members and over, Francis J. Beaton Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUGBEE: And I'd like to thank the members of our Committee and ask you to stand.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BUGBEE: District 1, Dorothy Raymond; myself from District 3; District 6, Carol Simmons; District 7, Delphia Bare; District 8, Greta Kalk;

District 11, Jody(sic) Lenhart; District 12, Darlene Lukins; District 13, Barbara Fisher; District 14, Jackie Saddler; District 15, Ardith Dillard; District 16, Doris Yuen-Bogan;

District 17, Olive Tomlin; District 18, Patricia Egel; District 19, Linda Heatley; District 20, Heidrun Meiser; and District 21, Margaret Scott. (Applause)

And our recommendations: no attachments – the State chairmen should check that there are no attachments. And if you have over \$1,000 please itemize on the back of the form.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Good job. (Applause)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: I want to thank the Committee and I'm as tall as Donna is now. Lookie here. (Laughter)

COMMANDER ADAMS: She's got on shoes that are this high.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: You don't have any.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Shhh.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BAILEY: Yes. She's running around with no shoes up here.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Shhh. Thank you. Good job. (Applause) Junior Activities, Kim Stake. (Whereupon, as Ms. Bailey and Ms. Bugbee withdrew, National Junior Activities Committee Chairman Kim Stake advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Our Junior Activities Chairman is Ruth Gaines – Gates – from Texas. And let's all keep her in our prayers. She had surgery last Wednesday. She is home and doing well but let's give an extra thought tonight for Ruth Gates.

And her daughter Abby called me Thursday and said she was doing well. But she is supposed to call me back again today because they should have some results from her surgery. So I will let you know.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KIM STAKE: Commander, it was a great privilege for you to allow me to fill in for Ruth. Ruth did an excellent job this year with the kids.

I crashed their Luau party yesterday and we had a ball. So I'm just going to say thanks again and turn it over to our chairman.

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DOMINIQUE WILNER: Okay. Thank you, National Commander, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests.

Junior Activities Convention Committee met in the Lake Monroe A at 1:00 o'clock on August 10, 2013. Our advisor was Kim Stake. And Elizabeth Brown was appointed secretary.

Now, I'm not going to call the Committee's last names because I'm going to butcher them. So when I call your first name can you please stand. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: District 1, Nancy; District 2, Marie; District 3, Deborah; District 4, Mary; District 6, Dolores; District 7, Jean; District 8, Rebecca; I'm District 9; 11, Shari;

District 12, Barbara; District 13, Elizabeth; District 14, Kathy; District 15, Rosemary; District 17, Kathy; District 19 – District 18, I meant, Nancy; District 20, Barbara; and District 21, Carol.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Excuse me, but can we hold down the private discussions while she gives her report, please.

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: Thank you.
The following groups won the activity awards.

Group 1, 1 through 15 members – 1 through 25 members, sorry, Cumberland City Number 46, Fayetteville, North Carolina. (Applause)
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: Group 2, 26 through 50 members, Goshen Memorial, Number 15, Goshen, Indiana. (Applause)
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: Group 3, 51 through 100 members, Titusville Number 109, Titusville, Florida. (Applause)
(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: Group 4, 100 and over, Clarence Tom Lemming – I think that's how you pronounce it; if I've mispronounced it, I'm sorry – Number 24, valley City, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: The Junior Activities History Book was by Unit 41, Portsmouth, Virginia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: And the National Junior Award, Ages 15 through 17 goes to Hannah Joy Reed from General Melvin J. Meisner Number 17, Frankford, Maryland. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: National Junior Award, Ages 11 through 14, goes to Rachel Cox, (Applause) Goshen Memorial Number 15 from Goshen, Indiana.

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: The National Junior Award, Ages 7 through 10 goes to Brianna Kimmell, Number 43, Findley, Ohio. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILNER: And our recommendations that the Committee had was that we would like to have all the forms, the history book, the outstanding and the activity report would, should coincide with each other.

It would be a lot easier for us to be able to judge and look at them all if they were actually the same. Thank you. (Applause)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Thank you, Dominique. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Stake and Ms. Wilner withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Good job. Let's give a hand for all the Junior awards. (Applause) Thank you, Kim. Thank you, Chairman of the Committee. Linda Stake, Legislation. I'm sorry?

MS. ELIZABETH BROWN: Could I make a remark real quick about the Juniors before we move on?

COMMANDER ADAMS: Absolutely.

MS. BROWN: I –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Please identify yourself.

MS. BROWN: I am Elizabeth Brown, Goshen Memorial Number 15 from Indiana. And I am also our State Commander for the Auxiliary. I am very, very passionate about my Juniors. I absolutely love the children. They are our future. They are our everything. (Applause)

And there are so, so many young people out there that deserve to be put in for these awards that aren't being put in for awards.

Please, when you go back home, tell your people to make sure that if they think they have a Junior that has done an amazing job for the year, to put them up for an award because they deserve it so much.

And I am very proud to say that Rachel Cox is from my Unit. She is an amazing young woman. She is our State Sweetheart this year, also, plus she just received the award for 11 to 14.

I am very, very proud of her. But there are so many that don't get put up for awards that should.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Absolutely.

MS. BROWN: These children deserve it. They deserve so much. And I just want to thank all of our Pages that are here today, too, because they have done an amazing job and they deserve a great big round of applause. (Applause)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

MS. BROWN: Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN STAKE: Excuse me, Commander. Kim Stake. We have recommendations.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh, come on back.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN STAKE: Can I just stay right here?

COMMANDER ADAMS: Sure. (Laughter)

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN STAKE: I was so excited. There is three forms that are sent out for Juniors: the Outstanding Junior, ages – you know, the three categories – the Unit and the History Book. So you've got five different forms if each Unit turns one form per kid per Unit and everything.

But those forms don't coincide with things that they do. Like on the Outstanding Juniors it's got like school, church, and everything lumped together. Then when you put it in History Book it has it totally, completely different. And it throws in a legislative part.

So I think we need to take a look at those forms and see what we can do to get those forms to match each other because some of the states and Units that have told me, well, the forms don't match and it's hard to get all three of those to match up so we just do one.

I think if we got those so we can –

COMMANDER ADAMS: All within the Juniors?

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN STAKE: In the Juniors, yes. If we take a look at those forms – and I'd even help – I'd even help get that done because I slept through that the year I was Junior Chair and they said if the Junior Chairs will submit changes you could do it.

Well, I slept through that and it's my fault. So I would be – I would be willing to help the next Junior Chair to get those forms redone.

COMMANDER ADAMS: I am sure that the next Commander is making note of that.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN STAKE: Okay. Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: And will hold you to that.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN STAKE: Okay, thank you. (Applause)

COMMANDER ADAMS: One more time. Our Legislative Chairman, Linda Stake. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander and National Legislative Chairman Linda S. Stake advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN LINDA S. STAKE: Thank you, Commander. And thank you members who sat on the Committee for Legislation.

When I got reports this year, I, after I tallied everything up, do you know only 60 percent of our states reported? Thirty states. And then I got papers – a Unit might have 800 members with zero.

Members, this is a very important program. This is one that the DAV fights for. They go in front of the Congress.

This not only benefits our veterans, it benefits the families. So please, next year make those phone calls, do those computer letters. May I ask this? How many of you are members of DAV C-A-N?

(Whereupon, members raised their hands.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE STAKE: How many of you have no clue what that is?

(Whereupon, members raised their hands.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE STAKE: Okay, I have put – I have tried each where I, everyplace I went to encourage people to sign up for DAV C-A-N. How many of you that raised your hands that don't know what it means, how many of you have computers?

(Whereupon, members raised their hands.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE STAKE: Okay. I'm going to go over this one final time as Legislative Chairman.

To sign up for this you go under dav.org. That is the website for DAV. Hit the tab "Legislation." Under "Legislation" you will find "Join Commander's Action Network" – C-A-N – Commander's Action Network.

When the DAV needs us to act upon one of the bills that is brought forward, we will get an email from them. It will either be from the Commander or from Lisa Bogle. And it will say – it will give you the name of the bill "take action" or "take action immediately".

And as Legislative Chairman of your Units, if you get one of these call all your members and say, "Something is coming up; we have to take action on this."

So I think – you know each year I decide this was my favorite program and this was my favorite program. But I realize legislative is an important program that we can't give up on; our veterans' don't give up on.

So, at this time could I bring up Mabelene Stevens, the chairman of our Committee.

(Whereupon, Convention Legislative Committee Chairman Mabelene Stevens advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE STAKE: Do you all – do you know that Mabelene Cosmetics are made in North Little Rock, Arkansas? (Laughter) Yay, Arkansas.

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MABELENE STEVENS: Thank you. National Commander Donna, National Adjutant, National Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates and guests of this 91st National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Legislative Convention Committee met in the Lake Nona B Room and it was at 1:10 p.m. on 8/10/2013. Our advisor was Linda Stake. Our secretary was Deborah Hall – Debbie Hall, and Debbie if you will stand. Back there.

(Whereupon, Deborah Hall stood and was recognized.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEVENS: Thank you, Debbie. You done great work. (Applause) The following Units were judged to be the best in their

category for the National Legislative Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Scott Vetterling, Number 33, Greenfield, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEVENS: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Antonio A. Hernandez Number 25, San Antonio, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEVENS: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Grand Strand Number 30, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEVENS: 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 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEVENS: I am very proud of the Committee that worked judging these reports. They were very efficient. There were some new folks who joined in.

And there were some pressure, some people there that had previous experience and that always helps you in your committees. I will acknowledge those people who worked in the Committee.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEVENS: District 1, Sandra Fincel; if you will stand, please; District 2, there was no representative; District 3, Aura-Lee Nicodemus;

District 4, there was no representative; District 5, there was no representative; District 6, Mabel Webb and Toya – Lorena? -- Toya, where are you? There she is. District 7, Joann Getchell;

District 8, Juanita Upton; District 9, Ginger Bish; District 10, no representative; District 11, Debbie Hall; District 12, Evelyn Couture; District 13, myself; District 14, Nancy Worth;

District 15, Linda Gerke – Gek – Gerke – Gerke; thank you very much; District 16, there was no representative; District 17, Mary Alderete; District 18, no representative;

District 19, Gerald Royce Sr.; District 20, Ursula Cunningham; and District 21, Misty Summers. And I would like to thank each and every one that participated. (Applause)

Recommendations from this Committee: add to the instructions where the bill number is to put the bill number if it is available.

In other words, you may – you may work on a program or you may be working on something that hasn't been made or introduced as a bill; so if you have, if you don't have a bill number if you just put "if applicable" in that column where it has "bill number" that is all you would have to do.

That way they can add that because people say they don't know that they can add their work onto that form because they don't have a bill number that's associated with that particular work.

The second recommendation: clarify that the report includes veterans' families' bills also. Highlight that area. It has that it has to involve a veteran. But, guess what it left out? Veterans' families.

So if you just add that in that one – there is one sentence that goes across at the top of that form and it reads that the National Legislative Report is for legislation on veterans' bills only. Well, it's veterans' families as well so just add "veterans' families."

Number 3, stress to the Units – and this is for all the Unit Commanders that are here today – go back and tell your people to fill out the number of Unit meetings that they discussed legislative issues. Okay? Just fill in the blank.

That's all I have and thank you so much. (Applause)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE STAKE: I would like to say one other thing on legislative. The last memo that I got from Commander Polzin was alternative care for veterans and that just came out a couple-three weeks ago.

I'm not sure if it has even been that long ago or not. But if you have not heard about that, go under dav.org, look up "legislative issues" and you can take action at this time.

But what this is, they are – I'm not sure which Congressman at this time introduced it but a bill so that there will be an alternative care for veterans other than nursing homes.

And people could – there could be people that you may have if you get certified – and I'm sure the VA will certify the ones who want to take veterans in, into a family home and care for them. You can have up to three; the certified people can have up to three.

Now I think this is a very good bill. And the DAV is supporting it. So please go online and tell your Congressman that you support this bill. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Stake and Ms. Stevens withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: She has been doing this all year long and I keep telling her, bill is a one syllable word. It's not bi-ill. (Laughter) It gets worse. There is two of them very close together. (Laughter) Mae Holmes, Senior Vice, Susan Miller.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander and National Mae Holmes Chairman Susan K. Miller advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AND NATIONAL MAE HOLMES CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Anneliese Rauber, would you come up as the chairman of the Committee.

(Whereupon, Convention Mae Holmes Committee Chairman Anneliese Rauber advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER NATIONAL MAE HOLMES CHAIRMAN MILLER: And while she is coming up, I'm going to give you the totals on the Mae Holmes for Hospital, VAVS and Community Service because it's not in my printed report.

The total value of the Hospital program was \$158,642.65. The hours was 127,254.85 hours. And the miles was 222,019 miles driven.

VAVS value was \$191,065.18 and the total hours was 54,395.75 hours.

Community Service was, the total value, \$14,435,774.25. (Applause) That's a lot of community service work. The total hours for community service was 403,072.9 hours. And the total miles was 754,596.14 miles.

So you all do a lot of work. And I didn't have them from every state so if every state turned in the Mae Holmes report we would have even higher amounts than this. But I wanted everybody to know since I didn't put it in my report.

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANNELIESE RAUBER: Hi. Let me get my glasses on. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Harold L. Huff Jr., Unit 92, Georgia. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RAUBER: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Glass Glow DAVA Unit 20, Kentucky. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RAUBER: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John T. Hensley, Unit 96, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RAUBER: Group Number 4, 201 members or over, Francis J. Beaton Unit 1, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative from the Unit came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RAUBER: At this time I would like to thank all my Committee members. District 1, Donna Horton; please stand as I call your names.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION MAE HOLMES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RAUBER: District 2, Matilda Brooks; District 3, Diana Gehring; District 4, Lelia White; nobody from District 5; nobody from District 6;

District 7, Lea Lettner; District 8, Caroline Harris; District 9, Dorothy Tyson; no representative from District 10; District 11, Marylou Miller; District 12, Betty Frederickson;

District 13, Mabel Holloway; District 14, Nancy Berndt; District 15, Rebecca Bowman; no representative from District 16; District 17, Anneliese Rauber, myself; Nobody from District 18;

District 19, Sharon Thornton – no, I'm sorry; District 19 was Janelle Simpson; and District 20 was Sharon Thornton; District 21 was Jennifer Hammons and she was also the secretary. I want to thank her for a great job. Thank you, Jennifer. (Applause)

We have one recommendation. Do not mail in if you do not meet the quota. Thank you all very much. (Applause) Thank you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Miller and Ms. Rauber withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay, at this time we're going to go ahead and have our – oh, let's go ahead and give everybody – (Applause).

Okay, at this time we're going to have our door prizes and then we're going to recess for lunch and finish up our Committee reports after that.

Are you ready with the door prizes? While they get ready for that we have some announcements from your Commander.

Nor'easter Luncheon will be held in Lake Eola Room on the Lobby Level at 12:00 o'clock noon. When we are through with this meeting we will – we will reconvene at 2:00 o'clock.

The Southern Caucus Breakfast is tomorrow morning. There are tickets still available but, please, they need to get a count in so make sure you find somebody from Florida I think is hosting this –

(Response of "Georgia.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Georgia.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Georgia. Somebody from Georgia who has tickets, you want to raise your hand, please?

(Whereupon, members raised their hands.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Cheryl Fagler, Dorothy Reese, Ginger Bish, you have tickets or you are looking for them? You have tickets from North Carolina. So there are folks – if you want tickets just find somebody and see who has tickets and we'll point you in the right direction. Okay?

And are we ready with the door prize tickets? Do I have tickets to draw from?

(Whereupon, Commander Adams read off pink ticket numbers for door prizes.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay, we will at this time stand in recess until two o'clock.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: What time?

COMMANDER ADAMS: Two o'clock.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:53 o'clock, a.m., on Sunday, August 11, 2013.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hilton Orlando Hotel Orlando, Florida
August 11, 2013
Second Business Session

- - -

The Second Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Orange E-G Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Sunday afternoon, August 11, 2013, and was called to order at 2:00 o'clock, p.m., by National Commander Donna M. Adams.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Apparently – members, apparently we're having some sound issues toward the back of the room. And so if we can all keep our personal conversations to a minimum that would, I think, help everybody. Thank you.

And we are now ready to hear from Iris Brzezinski from the State History Book Committee.

(Whereupon, National State Department History Book Committee Chairman Iris Brzezinski advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And Iris is also the National History Chairman and if someone was more diligent in sending her stuff, she wouldn't have had a problem. I think that person needs to be flogged.

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IRIS BRZEZINSKI: Just so everybody knows, I'm still taking pictures and any memorabilia that you may have for Donna. I will be taking it up until Fall Conference. So if you have anything, please, please, send it to me. Thank you.

I would like to call Judy Uetterling, our chairman.

(Whereupon, Convention State Department History Book Committee Chairman Judith Uetterling advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRZEZINSKI: And if you don't know how to get ahold of me, contact Judy, she will tell you.

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JUDITH UETTERLING: We met yesterday in the Lake Sheen A Room. Our – you know who the advisor is. And our secretary was Sandra Resner.

And we thought we were going to have it really easy because there was only one book laying there. We walked in and said, "That's the winner." And then another one snuck in. (Laughter)

The ladies that served on the Committee, when I read your name would you stand.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UETTERLING: District 2, Janice Bailey; District 3, Ann Young; District 6, Barbara Copeland; District 7, Barbara – not sure about the last name – Kurrasch;

District 8, Ann Devin; District 9, Geraldine Evans; District 11, myself; District 12, Sandra Resner; District 13, Shelba Hunt; District 14, LeeAnn Karg; District 17, Jean Addyman; and District 20, Joyce Humes. (Applause)

We had – before I announce the winner, we had two books and the recommendations that – after looking at the two books we are suggesting that they use the two-sided tape, acid-free, to avoid the smudges.

And each section of the – each section on the first page should just be the Chairman's picture and do not crowd pictures on a page.

And the winner is Michigan. (Applause) They have a beautiful book. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative advanced to accept the award.)

NATIONAL STATE DEPARTMENT HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRZEZINSKI: And that book was put together by Jill Wagner – Wager? – Jill Wager. (Applause)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And, last but not least, Ann Glende is our National VAVS Rep.

(Whereupon, as Ms. Brzezinski and Ms. Uetterling withdrew National VAVS Representative Ann Glende advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And I want to tell you this is a nationally, outside-the-Convention judging Committee. This is a big responsibility.

Ann served as a member of the National Advisory Committee for VAVS. There is also a Deputy Representative and, which is Shirley Ashmore, and due to health reasons Shirley couldn't be here this time.

But Ann did a wonderful job representing the DAV Auxiliary on the (undistinguishable).

And, Ann, thank you for all your hard work. (Applause)

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE ANN GLENDE: Good afternoon, everybody.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE GLENDE: Is Velma in the room?

(Whereupon, Convention VAVS Committee Chairman Velma Steinman advanced to the podium.)

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE GLENDE: And then while she is coming up, yes, Shirley Ashmore could not be here this year due to health reasons but she did want to send her well wishes and her hellos to everyone.

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VELMA STEINMAN: National Commander, Donna, National Adjutant, Judy, National Assistant Pat – or she's not here, okay, National Line Officers, Past National Commanders, delegates, members and guests.

The VAVS Committee met on August 10th, 2013, in the Lake Sheen Room B at 1:05 p.m., in Orlando, Florida. Excuse me. And our advisor was Ann Glende. And our secretary was Charlyn Davis-Hager. Excuse me. And I was appointed the chair.

The following Units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards. Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Scott Vetterling Unit 33, Greenfield, Massachusetts. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Anderson Unit 40, Anderson, South Carolina. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: Group 3, 101 to 200 members, John T. Hensley, Unit 96 – if I say this wrong, forgive me – Panasoffkee, Florida. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: Group 4, 200 members or over, Frances J. Beaton, Unit 1, Fargo, North Dakota. (Applause)

(Whereupon, a representative came forward to accept the award.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: The Committee submitted the following recommendations: Section 2 and 3, each project needs to be separated with a value, one project per line with one value per line and then the grand total.

2. Make sure to accurately fill out every line. We had some reports that on the bottom that had fundraisers announced but not volunteer hours. So we don't know where the money came from.

And at this time I would like to recognize our Committee. Our secretary, Charlyn Davis-Hager; if you would please stand.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: District 1, Sheila McGowen; District 3, Donna Folcarelli; District 4, Kathy Picaroni; District 6, Tess Madelle – if I tore that up I'm very sorry; District 8, Charlene Williams; District 9, Rod Bish;

District 11, Judy Davis; District 12, Patty Davis; District 13, Charlyn Davis-Hager; myself from District 15, Velma Steinman; District 16, Jacqueline Johnson; District 17, Helene Pockrus – Pockrus, sorry; District 21, Ronda Bower. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Glende and Ms. Steinman withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, VAVS. (Applause) I don't believe the microphone is on.

MS. JOANN JOHNSON: Well, anyway, she missed District 20. Oh, it's on now. She missed District 20 and I was on the Committee.

COMMANDER ADAMS: And your name, please.

MS JOHNSON: Joann Johnson.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Joann Johnson –

MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

COMMANDER ADAMS: – District 20. Thank you for serving, Joann.

MS. JOHNSON: You're welcome.

CONVENTION VAVS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEINMAN: I'm very sorry, Joann. She wasn't on the sign-in sheet but she was on the printed out copy.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Would the Credentials Chairman please come forward to give an updated report on the Credentials Committee.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Deborah Parker advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER: Thank you. Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER: Your Credentials report is as follows: total Unit registered, 182; total Department registered, 36; National Officers registered, 7; Past National Commanders registered, 10; total guests registered, 79; total delegates, 376; total alternates, 19; total count 1,243. Total registered, 474. Madame Commander, I move that we accept this preliminary Credentials report.

COMMANDER ADAMS: The motion has been made by Deborah Parker to accept the second reading, report of the Credentials Committee. Is there a second?

MS. LYNN SWANSON: Lynn Swanson, Unit 23, Indiana, I move to second, accept the Credentials report.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. The motion has been made and seconded to accept the second Credential report. Is there any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Deborah Parker withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: The next item on our agenda is a report on the Scholarship Committee. And the chairman of that Committee is our Immediate Past Commander Patti Rapisand. And, of course, Patti is not with us. So I am going to go ahead and give you a little report on that.

The Committee members were Patti, as chairman, myself as National Commander sits on that, and Susan Miller as Senior Vice Commander. This year – and if you have looked through your budget which was on, in your packet, you will see that there was \$50,000 allocated for the National Educational Scholarship Fund.

I don't know what was allocated last year. I don't believe that it was set that rigidly. But in the meantime we did stay within that for this year's scholarship.

We allocated a total of 21 full scholarships, which is \$1,500. We had 8 lesser amount scholarships of \$1,000 and then 11 part-time scholarships or lesser scholarships of \$750 each for a total of \$47,750.

I will tell you that the budget, that the Finance Committee did set a cap on that because if you recall we changed about four years ago from a loan situation to the scholarship.

We still are getting some recuperation on those loans; however, the income coming back is no way going to ever now catch up to the amount of scholarships that we're giving out because there is no recouping on them. Okay? If that makes sense.

We are completely reliant on our Units to make donations to come up with that money. And anyone in your state that is applying for those scholarships, I hope on a state level that you encourage your Units to go ahead and support that scholarship fund.

We did – what we do is copies are made of all of the applications and, boy, I'm thinking there were something like 69-70 applications received, at least. It was a box of applications received.

And the Committee is very diligent in going through those applications and making the best determinations that we can. We are going to continue to get more applications and I'm going to tell you, the judging and the selection process is going to become more rigid.

One of the things that we have done over the last couple of years is allow for people that don't fill in all the blanks or they're missing something. And that will no longer be the case.

A new application will be online by about November 1, at the latest, because it will have final approval in November, in October, so by November 1st there should be a new application. It will be labeled 2013-14 application.

If the incorrect application is sent in, it will not be considered. If the application is not filled out fully it will not be considered.

One of the things that the Committee when the Committee met – whatever today is, a couple of days before this – Friday? The Committee met Friday night. If it's Sunday I must be in Berlin or whatever. (Laughter)

Anyway, the Committee met Friday night and we determined that we need to actually assign values to the application as far as points so the candidates or the people that are submitting the grant application have a better understanding of the weight of each of the questions.

So if something we know is worth 10 points but the applicant doesn't know it is worth 10 points, they may not pay as much attention to that. So that's one of the things that we will do is not only weigh the questions a little bit differently, we are going to assign a weight to them.

We are going to lessen the weight given to the financial need. When we find financial need, what we're seeing is that we have those parents who have made a concentrated effort to provide for their child to go to school and we have those that have not.

We have a child or a young adult or a returning member to school that has been working through the summers, through the school years, or for the last 30 years, and they continue to plan to work while they are going to school.

Those folks should not be penalized because they're going to be doing double-duty of going to school as well as going to work. So we're going to lessen the restriction or the weight given to financial need and gear it more towards their activity and their contributions to veterans and to the DAV Auxiliary programs.

By this time most of the young men that are going, are planning to go to school have been eligible for membership for a very long time. We've changed the – what, eight years ago at least, to allow male members.

So those folks have had the availability to work and to gain the credit for working with the Auxiliary. And, you know, we determined that there is a lot of scholarship opportunities out there. We need to take care of our corner of the world.

So we are going to look to try and support those young men and women and returning old ladies and men that are looking for scholarships, which we're going to try to work to help our own a little bit, a little bit more than we have in the past.

So if you are a grandma or a mom or a member yourself that is looking to go to school, do not take last year's application, re-date it and send it in because it won't be considered. The application will change and it must be in the correct form.

Does anybody have any questions on the scholarship? Okay, the online application, again, should be there by November of this year. More to come at Fall Conference.

At this time I would call forward the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Convention Committee for the second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws, please, Ms. Steinhouse.

(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: Good afternoon.

(Response of "Good afternoon.")

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: National Commander Donna, National Adjutant Judy, National Officers, Past National Commander, delegates and guests of this 91st National Auxiliary Convention.

The National Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Convention Committee met in the Thornton Park Room – we had to find that. It was way down yonder in New Orleans – at 1:45 p.m. on August 10th, 2013. Our advisor was Kathryn Wiley. Carol Gray was elected secretary.

As I call the Committee members would you please stand and I apologize if I murder any of these names.

(Whereupon, the Committee members stood as their respective names were called.)

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: District 1, Gloria Follis; District 2, Sonia Figueroa; District 3, Sylvia Heath; District 4, Sarah Kashner;

District 5, Suzanne Seyboldt; District 6, Verdie Roundtree; District 7, Lucille McCarthy; District 8, Susan Henry; District 9, Lynn Prosser; District 10, Carol Gray; District 11, Maria Tedrow;

District 12, Paula Raymond; District 13, Geneva Walker; I'm from District 14; District 15, Janice Howard; District 16, John Medvigy; District 17 – should I really make her mad at me – Mean Jean Jackson; (Laughter) she will still be my friend now;

District 18, Patricia Dempsey; District 19, Christine Fairin; District 20, Darlene Spence; and District 21, Patricia Logue. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause)

If you have your copy of the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments, we will start at the very beginning.

Page U-18, General Instructions for Regular Unit Meetings, Paragraph 3. Delete "shall" and insert "may". Paragraph 3 will then read:

"The Membership Initiation Ceremony may be given to Auxiliary members within their respective Units."

The rationale: to give Units the option of giving the Membership Initiation Ceremony. Madame Commander, I move for the passage of this amendment.

COMMANDER ADAMS: The motion has been made to adopt the amendment. Is there a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CAROL GRAY: Carol Gray, Michigan 11, seconds the motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Carol Gray Unit 11. Is there any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U-21, Regular Meeting, Paragraph 3, Junior Vice Commander. Delete entire paragraph and substitute the following:

“Junior Vice Commander: The family and extended family members of any person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans or members of the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary – parenthesis, living or deceased, end parenthesis – or a veteran not dishonorably discharged are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.”

The rationale: to clarify those eligible for auxiliary membership. Madame Commander, I move for the passage of this amendment.

COMMANDER ADAMS: A motion has been made to adopt the amendment. Is there a second?

MS. JANICE HOWARD: Madame Commander, Janice Howard, 15th District. I second the motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: The motion has been seconded. Is there any discussion? What Unit and State are you from?

MS. HOWARD: Unit 11, State of Missouri.

COMMANDER ADAMS: The motion has been made and seconded to adopt the resolution. Is there any discussion?

MS. LINDA OLIVER: Madame Commander, Linda Oliver, District 21, Unit 88, Oklahoma. We would like to take – not add the part that says “not honorably discharged” but to change it to “a veteran honorably discharged.”

COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay.

MS. OLIVER: So it would read:

“Junior Vice Commander: The family and extended family members of any person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans or members of the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary – parenthesis, living or deceased, parenthesis – or a veteran honorably discharged are eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.” We would like to add “honorably” instead of the word “dishonorably.”

COMMANDER ADAMS: Linda, the VA recognizes and Code of Federal Regulations uses the term “other than dishonorable” in most of their writings. There are, since Vietnam, a ton of “general discharge under honorable conditions.” Okay?

And that is the reason that they – I believe that that’s the reason that the “not dishonorable” is used, because there used to be two or three classification of discharges. Now there is like seven. Okay?

But as long as a veteran is discharged under “other than dishonorable” they are eligible for all VA benefits, all state benefits, all city benefits or municipal benefits.

And it would be – it would probably not be in the best interests for a veterans’ service organization to dispute the ruling of the federal government, if that makes sense.

MS. OLIVER: It does.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: Madame Commander, Carol Gray, Unit 11, Michigan. Also in the Constitution on Page N-2 it is stated that way in Section 4, that it is “has not been dishonorably discharged.”

COMMANDER ADAMS: Right.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GRAY: So it was for consistency in the Constitution.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Can I yield? Yes, as housekeeping that, that comma that's in there, "or any veteran", that is showing that any veteran is eligible, not the family member of any veteran because it doesn't make it as one clause. It makes it as a separate clause. Miss Literary Genius over there, Pat.

(Whereupon, Assistant Adjutant Kemper addressed Commander Adams' concern.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Really? Pat and I argue commas all the time. It's our favorite sport. Is there any other discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. Thank you.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U-22, Order of Business 3. Delete 3 and substitute the following:

"3. Introduction of new members. Initiation Ceremony, if applicable, may follow."

Rationale: to correct 3 to agree with general instructions for Regular Unit Meeting, Paragraph 3. Madame Commander, I move for the passage of this proposed amendment.

COMMANDER ADAMS: The motion has been made to adopt the amendment. Is there a second?

MS. ARLENE daCORTE: Madame Commander, Arlene daCorte, State Commander, Kentucky, I second that motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Is there any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Page U-32, Ritual for Junior Meeting, Paragraph 2, Junior Vice Commander. Delete entire paragraph and substitute the following:

"Junior Vice Commander. All family and extended family members of any person eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans or Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary – parenthesis, living or deceased, end of parenthesis – under 18 years of age."

Rationale: to clarify the eligibility of junior membership. Madame Commander, I move that this proposed amendment be accepted.

COMMANDER ADAMS: You have heard a motion to accept the amendment. Is there a second?

MR. JERALD ROYCE: Commander, Jerry Royce, Unit 11, State of Oregon, seconds that motion.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay, the motion has been made and seconded to accept the amendment. Is there any discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Thank you very much. Short and sweet.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Good job.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEINHOUSE: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Ms. Steinhouse withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you, Constitution and Bylaw Committee. Thank you to all the Convention Committees and at this time all of the Convention Committees are dismissed. Cool.

Okay, are the Juniors from Oklahoma in the room and ready to do whatever they wanted to do? Yay Juniors from Oklahoma. Wash the shirts separately, they bleed. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Oklahoma Juniors advanced to the podium.)

UNIDENTIFIED JUNIOR: Commander Donna, the Juniors of Oklahoma would like to present you this check for Camp Corral.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Do you want to tell them how much it is?

UNIDENTIFIED JUNIOR: The check is \$650.61. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Juniors presented Commander Adams with a check.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED JUNIOR: And we also have a donation. (Applause)

COMMANDER ADAMS: This is scary. Oh, my. This is scary because this young man really likes hugs, a lot. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, another Junior member advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And another on the way up here. They got another \$5.00. (Applause) So that's now \$620.61 and the Juniors in Oklahoma are absolutely amazing.

They do a great – at the Convention these folks had a separate room for the Juniors and they were busy every minute of the day. The older ones took care of the younger ones, members who were signed in there.

It's absolutely phenomenal what the Oklahoma folks have done with their Junior members. And thank you so very, very much. They have done a great job. Excuse me. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Commander Adams spoke with the Juniors.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Are there any other donations or presentations to be made for the Scholarship, Service Support Fund or the Camp Corral, DAVA for Kids or the Winter Sports Clinic, the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic? Yes, please come up.

(Whereupon, delegates lined up to bring up their donations.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander, this is \$100 from Lexington, Kentucky, Unit 1.

COMMANDER ADAMS: One hundred dollars from Unit 1 in Lexington, Kentucky for Camp Corral. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Hello.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Hello. From Department of Georgia for the National Education Scholarship Fund, \$100. From Department of Georgia for the Service Support Fund is \$100; Hospitalized Veterans Riding Project, \$100; Auxiliary National Fall Conference gifts, \$50. How nice is that?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Very nice.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you very much.

MS. JOSEPHINE RIVERA: Hi. Josephine Rivera, State of New York, Unit 118, \$150 for the National Service Support Fund and another one for the National Scholarship Fund, \$150.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Nice. Thank you. (Applause) Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander, on behalf of the Department of Vermont we have \$100 for the National Service Program and \$100 for the National Education Loan.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Wonderful. Thank you. Oh, they're everywhere. They're everywhere. Look at it.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: We heard the call. The State of Florida donates \$100 for the National Education Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Hi, Madame Commander. This is from the State of Arkansas to go towards the National Service Support Fund.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Two hundred dollars. Thank you. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: From Unit Number 41 in Portsmouth, Virginia, \$20 for the National Education Scholarship Fund. (Applause) Thank you, my dear.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander, this is from Pennsylvania, the Department, \$100 for the National Service Fund, \$100 for Camp for Kids, and \$100 for the Winter Sports Clinic.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Wonderful. Thank you. (Applause) Hi.

MS. ERNESTINE SHOEMAN-HAINES: Ernestine Shoeman-Haines, Unit Number 2, Kansas City, Missouri, \$100 for the Education Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER ADAMS: And I will tell you what, this, Ernestine Shoeman-Haines – I can't even spell it – this lady, this is Department Commander for Department of Missouri –

MS. SHOEMAN-HAINES: No.

COMMANDER ADAMS: For the Unit thingy.

MS. SHOEMAN-HAINES: I'm past-past-past.

COMMANDER ADAMS: She took me to the World War I Memorial in Kansas City and I will tell you what, talking about Education Scholarship Fund, these people gave me quite an education and I really appreciate it. You want to know anything about bunkers, let me know. (Laughter) Thank you.

MS. VELMA STEINMAN: Madame Commander, on behalf of the State of Missouri, I'd like to present \$100 check for the Service Support Fund –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Speak into the mic. They are having problems.

MS. STEINMAN: A hundred dollars for the Service Support Fund from the State of Missouri; \$100 for the Educational Scholarship Fund. This mic is growing. You know that, right? A hundred dollars for the Winter Sports Clinic.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Whoa. How nice is this.

MS. STEINMAN: And this is going to get me a little emotional. I have a very special donation of \$75 for the Educational Scholarship Fund in memorial for our Past, Immediate Past State Commander Glenda Cooper who passed away in February of this year.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Thank you, Velma. (Applause) This is more from Portsmouth, Virginia, Auxiliary Unit 41, \$20 for Camp Corral and \$20 for the Service Support Fund. Thank you, my dear. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: You're welcome.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh, he is a good hugger, too. (Applause) Good Juniors.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: National Commander, from the great State of Texas we have a donation to the Service Fund and for the National Education Scholarship.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh, and these are very nice – (Laughter) \$750 for each one. (Applause)

MS. TIMMERMAN: Ellen Timmerman, New Mexico, Unit 9, this is \$50 for the Scholarship Fund from Unit 9; \$50 for the Camp Corral for Kids, DAV for Kids; \$50 for the Service Support Fund; this is \$100 from Tim and myself for the Winter Sports Clinic.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Wonderful.

MS. TIMMERMAN: And from the DAV and the DAVA Departments of New Mexico, \$229 for the DAV for Kids.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh. Thank you, Ellen.

MS. TIMMERMAN: You're welcome. (Applause)

MS. MARY LOU MILLER: Mary Lou Miller, State Commander of Ohio, and I am presenting you with a check for the Service Support Fund for \$300 and also one for the Scholarship Fund for \$300.

COMMANDER ADAMS: How nice is this, huh? (Applause) Thank you.

MS. MILLER: You're welcome.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander, from the State of Illinois we're giving you a check for \$100 for Winter Sports Clinic; another \$100 for Camp Corral for Kids; another \$100 for Service Support Fund; and another \$100 for the Scholarship Fund.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh, isn't that nice. Thank you. (Applause) Department of Illinois, Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madame Commander, State of New Hampshire would like to give you a donation to the Scholarship Fund and the Service Fund.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh, these are very nice, too. Thank you. Do you mind if I say?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I was being smart I put them in a thank-you card.

COMMANDER ADAMS: What?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I was being smart. I put them in a thank-you card. (Laughter) The State of Massachusetts would like to donate \$100 to the Scholarship Fund and for the National Service \$142 and my Unit 85, this is for Camp Corral.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you so much. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: On behalf of Delaware I give you \$50 for Camp Corral (undistinguishable) how much is that?

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh this is – this is –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Heavy.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Heavy.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: The Scholarship.

COMMANDER ADAMS: And Scholarship Fund. Look at this. They're just taking up collections here.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Camp Corral.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Camp Corral and \$33 for –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Scholarship.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Scholarship Fund. Thank you, my dear. (Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: You're welcome.

COMMANDER ADAMS: And this young lady made me a very, very cool necklace with a key and beads. It is beautiful.

MS. daCORTE: Donna, I had a senior moment. I'm Arlene daCorte from the State of Kentucky. We have money for the Scholarship Fund and the Service Fund, \$50 each.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Arlene. (Applause)

MS. JANELLE STIMSON: I'm the State Commander from Idaho and I'd like to present \$100 for the National Service program, National Education program.

COMMANDER ADAMS: What is your name, dear?

MS. STIMSON: Janelle Stimson.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Janelle Stimson is the Department Commander for the State of Idaho. They have \$100 for Service Support program and \$100 to the Education Scholarship program.

MS. STIMSON: Thirty years ago my mom and dad were state (undistinguishable).

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thirty years ago her mom and dad were dual state adjutants for Department of Idaho.

MS. STIMSON: Commanders.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Commanders. Wonderful. Thank you. Thank you for your continued support.

MS. JANET DARDI: Hi. Janet Dardi, Unit 23 of Indiana, with \$50 for Camp Corral.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. (Applause) DAVA for Kids. Thank you.

MS. BREANNE CHANDLER: Breanne Chandler, Junior Vice Commander for Nebraska. I have three checks for you. Two of them are from the State of Nebraska. One is for the DAVA National for \$50.

COMMANDER ADAMS: For? Education Scholarship.

MS. CHANDLER: And this one is for the Camp Corral fund for \$51.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Nice.

MS. CHANDLER: And this is from the Ponte Chapter Number 20 of Nebraska and it is for Camp Corral for \$69.40.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Wonderful. Thank you. (Applause) Do our Units come through or what? Thank you. That is for Education Scholarship. Thank you so very much. And all of you, give yourselves a big hand for the support of our National programs. (Applause)

Okay, at this time I'd like to call on our National Senior Vice Commander, Susan Miller, for her report of her year.

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Miller advanced to the podium.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: Our report, my report is in the, your handouts so I'm not going to read it to you. But I did forget to put in there that I went to both Donna's and Larry Polzin's testimonial dinners.

While I was in California my cell phone got stolen off the table and it never got returned so I had to get a new one when I got home. Thank goodness my son drove out there with me so we had a phone coming home.

I think the highlight was going to the different conventions that I got to go in Donna's place to Iowa, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio. And I know that Ohio's kids were raising money for Camp Corral.

I don't know when they do their presentation but they raised a lot of money during their convention. And they were so quiet as they were making these wonderful ink pens out of masking tape – every color and description of masking tape you could believe.

They were making roses on the top of these hotel ink pens and just taking donations. You could give them \$1.00 or you could give them \$5.00 or you could give them \$.50 and you got this ink pen. And they were so cute.

And they sat in the back of the main room and were just as quiet as they could be, these girls just going away with these little pieces of masking tape and forming rosebuds out of them. It was just amazing.

So maybe they do theirs at Fall Conference, I don't know. But I know the Juniors have money for you.

And I want to thank Fran Costa. I was unable to go to – yes, Minnesota. My son got deployed out of New York back to Afghanistan and so I asked National if they could replace me so I could go see him. And Fran graciously accepted the extra convention so thank you, Fran. The rest of the stuff you can just read about. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Senior Vice Commander Miller withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: First Junior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg.

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Karg advanced to the podium.)

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: Thank you, Commander Donna. My report also is in the packet that you received so you can read it in detail. But, like Susan, I will just kind of give you a couple of highlights.

I had the pleasure of attending four different states this year. One of them was Nevada, for the second time, and I really enjoyed it very much. I was so thrilled to have them have me come back.

We also went to California, to Georgia, and – who is the fourth one? – oh, let's see –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Somebody help her out.

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: Yes, I'm having a gray moment so, you know.

(Response of "Illinois.")

FIRST JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER KARG: Yes, Illinois. How could I forget that? Everybody was so gracious. I thank you all for being so kind and so generous to my husband and I when we come and visit you.

And everybody is so friendly. And I hope I've helped some of you in some way. If you had questions I hope I helped your Unit out or your Department, whatever the case may be.

This year was the first year at the National Legislative Conference that I attended to the laying of the wreath at Arlington Cemetery, at the Tomb of the Unknown, and was privileged to watch Donna lay that wreath that afternoon, in the rain but it was still very impressive.

If you have ever been to Arlington Cemetery, you must go and watch the changing of the guard. It is breathtaking and it will bring a tear to your eye. It's a very somber moment.

They don't allow you to be noisy or talking, you know, while the ceremony is going on, which is fitting and right. But it was just very much a privilege to be there and watch Donna lay that wreath.

Otherwise, I want to thank you all so much for all your support this year for the Membership program. You all did a fantastic job. Congratulations to everybody that won a star or a snow globe.

We had a little trouble trying to find something that was going to work for gold but Judy pulled it out and we got this beautiful snow globe to engrave to each of you that got it so thank you all so much for helping me "go for the gold." (Applause)

(Whereupon, First Junior Vice Commander Karg withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: You know, I didn't talk at all about the going to Arlington but let me tell you, we had time to spend, a considerable amount of time with some of the guards that actually guard the tomb.

And I'm sure anybody who has read the thing online about that they spend 18 hours doing their uniforms, they can never smoke, they can never drink again, they can never curse, all that. They are wonderful, dedicated young men and all that stuff is not true. (Laughter) Okay?

So I love it when I know stuff that other people don't so now we all know that when you are told all of these restrictions placed on the guards for the Tomb of the Unknowns, all the things that they can't do, you can go, "Un-uh. Not true." Okay?

Next we have Linda Stake, our Second Junior Vice Commander and Legislative Chairman.

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander and Legislative Chairman Stake advanced to the podium.)

SECOND JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN STAKE: Thank you, Commander. And thank you, members, for everything you do because it is you who makes us successful. Our organization, it is you.

If you look in your packets you will see a report that I wrote of the activities that I have done. And I only want to mention just a few of those. I'm not going to go over all of them because I know that each of you can read.

I would like to say thank you to the wonderful states that I visited this year, beginning in South Carolina. South Carolina, that's still in the south so they have the same accent I do. They understood me. (Laughter)

Then I was in Albuquerque and one of the things that amazed me in New Mexico at this hotel, the Elegante, there is this big statue – excuse me – out front of the hotel with the Ten

Commandments, just sounds – so that was, that was just something; got to visit Old Town in New Mexico, also.

And then Nebraska, (Cheers) yes. That was a very good convention and they have a memorial just right outside the hotel honoring all veterans, flags flying all over. When you come to there you have to be patriotic.

And then Massachusetts. (Cheers) Go. That was really a hard one. (Laughter) I learned to drop – I learned to drop those “R’s” while I was in Mass. I never saw such rituals as those.

They are just totally different. It’s a whole different ballgame going to Mass. Thank you for all the experiences. Love you girls. Love you all.

And then I missed my own state convention but Craig filled in. He probably learned a few things. After I got back then I went to District 21, sister State, Oklahoma, always a great time.

I’ve been to their conventions at least ten times. They always do great. They always do wonderful and we always have a good time.

But members, thank you for all you do and thank you so much, members, officers, Past National Commanders, all of you, for your support. I appreciate you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Second Junior Vice Commander and Legislative Chairman Stake withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. I’ve got to tell you, in Oklahoma these folks were so rowdy, they had all these Juniors, they had hospitality coming from everywhere to the point that when we left the hotel at three o’clock on Sunday afternoon they locked the door and put a “closed forever” sign on the hotel. They just couldn’t deal with it any more. (Laughter)

Next we have Fran Costa, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Costa advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: Good afternoon, everyone.

(Response of “Good afternoon.”)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: You think Linda was joking when she said it was difficult for her to learn to drop her “R’s,” by the time she left on Sunday she was doing quite well.

I had a very exciting year, a very busy year. My report is in your packet. And I will just touch on a few items. But I would especially like to thank Ann and Richard Schatz.

I rode with them to the Maine and Vermont State Conventions. And it was such an enjoyable ride up and back. We did a lot of sightseeing and shopping on the way. They know all the places to stop to spend money. (Laughter)

I attended four state conventions. Minnesota was very, very exciting, especially when I arrived to a dark hotel. All the power was out. But that, it was sleet, freezing rain coming from the airport. Everyone was very gracious. I found my room, by flashlight.

In North Carolina I had a chance to reconnect with one of our previous NSOs, Rick Focari, and I was, I presented him with a “Boston Strong” shirt, seeing he was originally in Boston and then in Rhode Island and then he went out to North Carolina. And he loves it there.

I’d like to thank Aura-Lee and Bob for all their courtesies, Sylvia Heath – anywhere you go with Sylvia you have an enjoyable time. (Laughter)

And Ginger Bish and all of the ladies and gentlemen in North Carolina who saw that I was never left unattended I always had a dinner or a meal partner.

But one thing I did find, all these conventions you go to, all you do is eat. (Laughter) And it’s interesting. And thank you all, those of you that submitted reports. In the report I have a breakdown of all of the line items.

And I'd like to encourage more Units and Departments to submit reports because this is how our younger people will observe what we have been doing in the past and encourage them to work harder to meet those goals. So I thank you all very much. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Costa withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: And everybody's favorite from the great State of Texas, our Fourth Junior Vice Commander and Community Service Chairman, Craig – Craig – Johniken (Laughter) from Lufkin, Texas. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander and Committee Service Chairman Johniken advanced to the podium.)

FOURTH JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN

JOHNIKEN: Well, I guess the first thing I want to do is thank this membership for getting this opportunity to be able to serve this great organization the way that, from the level that I have been able to do it in the past year.

Like everyone else, we all pretty much wrote a report as to our activities throughout the year but I got the opportunity to visit North Dakota. That was my very first convention. (Applause)

And that's exactly how they treated me right there. It was great. (Laughter) It was great. We really had a great time. And I actually learned a lot about what I was actually supposed to be doing. (Laughter) Because I had a couple of great mentors there and for that I am thankful.

I got to go to Alabama. Alabama was – (Cheers) – yup, they were also great to me. We, everybody learned a lot. They got all their business done. It was truly a great experience.

Then I went to Indiana. (Cheers) And they were great to me. And while I was there I was unable to finish this convention, their state convention, because my mom passed away so I had to leave. And their understanding of that was so overwhelming.

And I want to thank everybody in this room for the ones that sent me cards. It just goes to show how this organization can come together and, you know, help somebody out when they are down. And for that I am very thankful.

And then I got to go to Arkansas (Cheers) where they taught me to call the hogs. (Laughter) And they all took care of their business and everything was great. And it was, it was truly a great experience. And for that I am very thankful. Thank you all. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Fourth Junior Vice Commander and Committee Service Chairman Johniken withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: You know, when we talk about going to these conventions, you know, I was writing my reports and I got way behind because I forgot how old I am and I took on too much. But, anyway, it seems like everything blends into one but we talk about how we were treated and the fun we had.

And I think all of us really, really appreciate the sessions that you have and the work that goes into putting on those conventions.

And, you know, we all know the conventions are a lot of work and that we all, we all gain the education from them. And we kind of take that for granted so we don't talk about that.

But there are individuals in every state – and sometimes these individuals have served for two or three or five or ten years. Would every State Adjutant please stand – or someone who has served as State Adjutant.

(Whereupon, past and present State Department Adjutants stood and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you all for your service. It's a tough job and we always recognize the Commanders from year to year. We also – we depend so highly on our Unit and our State Adjutants.

We won't even talk about how much we depend on our National Adjutant because I think you already know – our Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant and the gals in the office.

But thank you to all the Adjutants on the Unit and the State level for all the work. And those of you that have served for years, you can tell.

When we go into conventions we know those departments that have their stuff together and we also know that nine times out of ten it is because of the adjutants.

And I mean we got some – Linda's an incredible adjutant. We've – it's really wonderful. Patti Rapisand has been adjutant I believe for 18 years for Department of Texas.

And it really, really does make a difference. If you get a good Adjutant, treat him or her well and don't let them go. (Laughter)

National Judge Advocate, do you have a presentation or something you'd like to tell people?

(Whereupon, National Judge Advocate Kathryn A. Wiley advanced to the podium.)

JUDGE ADVOCATE KATHRYN A. WILEY: Yes I do. Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. (Response of "Good afternoon.")

JUDGE ADVOCATE WILEY: By now most of you know that I am not running for office again. A lot of you do not know why. I was hurt very bad last year after I left Fall Conference. I don't know what I would have done without these two. They saw me through it.

There are about three angels out here in this audience that also saw me through it on Facebook. One of them is Carol Gray. The other one is Mary Bergeron. And then there is – Vern Christianson isn't in here but he is my buddy.

It was a long journey into hell for me. And it still was a long journey back. I need a year off so I can do physical therapy every day. And I am facing a couple more surgeries. But I will get better and I will be back. Okay? (Applause)

This was not a decision that I came to lightly. Judy texted me and she goes, "Are you going to be able to do any conventions this year?" It broke my heart. I could only do one. It was not something that this old gabby box would ever do – one? Please.

So but they were there. They supported me. They saw me through everything. And I will be there supporting them and seeing them through everything. Okay? And I will be here. I will be at the meetings.

I made the decision I am going to try and make that Fall Conference if the doctors will let me. And even if they don't I will just tell them I'm going to go anyway. (Laughter) You know, what are they going to do?

One parting shot as your National Judge Advocate for this year, when I go out of office I want you all to think about it – State Executive Boards are elected by the Units. They serve in your states, representing your Units on the State Executive Board. They are not a state officer.

It is no different than an NEC at a National level. An NEC is elected in the Districts. They serve on an Executive Board up here. They're not a National Officer. These guys are. They've been wonderful officers, too. Okay? And I want to thank them for their support throughout the year as well.

I can't thank all of you enough for what you have given me through the years. It's an outpouring of love that can never be replaced. And I want to thank you for that.

And, Donna, thank you for letting me speak. And I know I didn't say it right because I should have started "Madame Commander." (Applause)

(Whereupon, Judge Advocate Wiley withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: National Chaplain, Carol Goodman – Rundell. You know she has been Rundell for three years, two years and I still call her Goodman. You know this old horse is hard to retrain. Would you, do you have anything you would like to say?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: She's got tickets to Disney. Hurry up.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Oh. (Laughter) Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper. No?

(Whereupon, National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper advanced to the podium.)

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT PAT KEMPER: Okay. Many of you were here last year. You may remember that Sandy Fulkerson, a member from Texas, put on a seminar, a very heart-warming and interesting and informational PTSD seminar.

When she was here she said that she had just completed authoring a book. She wrote the book. It was in the editing process. We have received requests to follow up, "Did that book ever get published?" And it did.

And Sandy, one of the members here – I have to give this back. She brought the book just to show that Sandy Fulkerson did get her story published.

Now, Sandy is not here but she has asked one or two of the members from her state to maybe meet you outside the back door if anyone is interested in learning more about this book or how to obtain it.

And they do have little information cards. It's my understanding they do. So Sandy could not be here. She sends her regrets. But she wanted me to share that information with you. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Fran Costa, our Membership Chairman, was just telling me she forgot to mention Moses McIntosh, who is our National Third Junior Vice for DAV, signed up 29 members, Auxiliary members, this year. (Applause) Every Auxiliary – she was with him in Minnesota?

At every convention he really, really pushes Auxiliary membership. I know that Joe Johnston does as well, very, very supportive of the Auxiliary.

I also, you know, our National Organization offers a prize to the NSO who signs up the most paid life members – and when I say "paid life" that does not include the over 80s that there is no payment for.

But, anyway, they do offer a cash incentive for our NSOs and I don't know if they're not knowing about it or they're not doing it but when you get home call your NSO office and ask the supervisor how many members their folks have signed up. Kim. It's not on dear.

MS. STAKE: Kim Stake, District 21, on those cards for the book, we passed those out already. So they should be in the chair. If you didn't find them in the chair, we'll try to get some back here. But we passed out all we had.

And if, if there are blank chairs back here, these guys have them up here. There are some up through here. But we put them in chairs already, for the book.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Okay. Okay?

MS. STAKE: Okay.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. Okay, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, do we have any announcements?

(Whereupon, National Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: I do have just a few announcements. But I would like to thank each of you. I know this has been a very trying Convention with all the changes in times and rooms and the situations.

And I – believe me. Some of you knew more than we knew. Our Communications Department is not communicating. But it's just – when they have a president come in, which I think we are very fortunate to have had him and his wife, it really changes everything.

They told me before we ever left Headquarters they had four agendas set. They didn't know how things would work out, if he would be delayed in landing or whatever. But I do appreciate your patience, your understanding.

When we went to the Memorial Service rehearsal the other night they passed out the programs that said 7:30. So when they announced it, they said – no, it's 7:00 o'clock. And you know that does make a difference. A half-an-hour makes a big difference.

Those – and I have already heard that they posted it 7:30. The program said 7:30. But they started it at 7:00. That is out of our control. That's a DAV function. And I apologize.

And we're looking at maybe changing our agenda next year – Pat had a couple of suggestions – because we have to meet after the Opening Session. There is never enough time to do our Committees.

So we might change the agenda somewhat next year so look for some changes in that, if we can do it. A lot of it depends on the meeting space and what is available, the different rooms.

There is another group in here at the same time we are in here so we're kind of limited on what we can do. But, again, I thank you for your patience and your understanding.

And another thing, many comments have been made on the price of the Forget-me-Not Luncheon. That's out of my control, also. The hotel has worked with us, somewhat.

But this \$40 price for the Forget-me-Not Luncheon, I realize that's steep and not everyone can do it. But, we are also subsidizing that ticket with some of the registration money so, unfortunately, there is nothing I can do about that.

You have to make your decision and I understand that \$40 is a lot for a lunch. So, again, I ask for your understanding in that.

And I am sure next year in Vegas – now this hotel has worked with us somewhat. The hotel in Vegas did not. It was this – take it or leave it. So, sometimes I think – how many utilized the outside food here today, the setup in the – how was that?

(Response of "Good.")

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Good? Good. Pardon me.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Ten dollars including tax.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Ten dollars including tax for what?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Hamburger, chips, and a drink.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Hamburger, chips and a drink. You can't beat that. And the hotel normally does not do that. Because it was a Convention for disabled veterans and their family they agreed to set that up so I'm glad that you did use it, utilize it. So we can thank the hotel for that.

Just a few announcements.

(Whereupon, a delegate called out comments from the room.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Pardon me? Well, you enjoy McDonalds. (Laughter)

(Whereupon, the delegate continued to speak.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Okay – better than McDonalds. Okay, there were only the two History Books so I hope that they have been picked up.

We still do have tickets available for the Forget-me-Not Luncheon. And I understand there are still some Southern Caucus Breakfast tickets left. The Nor'easter, you can get those half-price because the lunch is over. (Laughter) That wasn't nice. It was a very, very nice luncheon.

Tomorrow morning there will be no business session. Our first activity will be at 12:30 and that will be the Forget-me-Not Luncheon.

And I understand we have some very, very good entertainment that will entertain for our National Commander. This is our way to honor Donna for the work that she has done this year at our Forget-me-Not Luncheon.

We've done the book on Sandy. I thought I was finished. Wow, we've already got totals on the donations.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Wow.

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: Right. I didn't know Bunny could count that fast. (Laughter) And I'll deny that. (Laughter)

The Hospitalized Veterans Riding Project, \$100; the Scholarship Fund, \$2,303; (Applause) yes, that's great; our Service Fund, \$2,287; (Applause) the Winter Sports Clinic, \$400; (Applause) Camp Corral, \$884.49 (Applause) – minus the change. I guess she's not as fast as I thought. (Laughter)

So we will give that total to you on Tuesday. And we did receive a monetary gift for the Fall Conference. She is counting the change. And, again, I thank each of you for what you do to make our jobs easier for us at National Headquarters.

We appreciate all you do for the veteran and their family. And on behalf of National Headquarters and our staff I just would like to thank you. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, National Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Is there anything tonight, Judy? What time? Fun Night starts, she thinks, at 8:00 o'clock. Whatever the DAV says, just add a half-hour to it. (Laughter) You'll probably be in the right ballpark, anyway.

Did anybody find a gold earring in the last couple of days, a gold hoop? If you do, it's mine. If you don't care for the – or if you really like it, I'll give you the other one. (Laughter)

But, it was really kind of cool. Just before I came here I said to my husband, "You know, a couple of years ago you gave me some gold earrings for Christmas and I've never told you how much I really, really like them."

They're just kind of my stand-by because they go in real easy." They've got one of those snap-to-the-back, you know, self-closures. And I said, "I really like these earrings." And then I lose the darn thing.

Dorothy Raymond, we found a badge, Dorothy Raymond. Is there a Rosemary Miller? Is there a person named that?

(Response of "Yes.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: Rosemary, after this meeting could you come up and see me, please? Okay, and other than that we stand – on Tuesday we will reconvene at 9:00 o'clock and at this point we stand in recess except for door prizes.

We will have those. But this business session is closed. If you don't care about a door prize, you are free to go. That will leave more for the people that want to stay.

We still will have a prayer. Thank you. (Whereupon, Chaplain Carol Rundell advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN RUNDELL: As we close this meeting, Lord, we want to give honor to You. Thank You for the time we had today to discuss issues and make decisions.

May You bless each person who took the time to gather here today. Let Your hand of protection be on them, that the work done here this afternoon will come to fruition, that all be for Your glory. Help us each to do our part to bring the plans discussed to life. Amen.

(Response of "Amen", after which Chaplain Rundell withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Please join me in honoring the flag by the numbers. One. Two. We are adjourned until Tuesday or in recess until Tuesday morning.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed at 3:24 o'clock, p.m., on Sunday, August 11, 2013.)

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DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
91st NATIONAL CONVENTION
Hilton Orlando Hotel Orlando, Florida
August 13, 2013
Final Business Session

- - -

The Final Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Orange E-G Ballroom of the Hilton Orlando Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on Tuesday morning, August 13, 2013, and was called to order at 9:07 o'clock, a.m., by National Commander Donna M. Adams.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Welcome to the Final Business Session of the 91st Convention of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Please rise as we are led in prayer by Carol Rundell, National Chaplain.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Carol Rundell advanced to the podium.)

CHAPLAIN RUNDELL: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CHAPLAIN RUNDELL: Father, we, again, seek blessings on the task before us. Bless our efforts with clear insight, our deliberations with wisdom, our work with clarity and accuracy, and our decisions with impartiality.

We gather together with the intent of doing good work. We seek to represent fairly and well those who have given us this task. We seek to serve with respect for all. Amen.

(Response of "Amen.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: And hasn't Carol done a great job as our Chaplain? (Applause)

CHAPLAIN RUNDELL: Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you.

(Whereupon, Chaplain Rundell withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: National Americanism Chairman Fran Costa will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and National Americanism Chairman Costa advanced to the podium.)

THIRD JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER AND AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN COSTA: Please free your hands. Stand at attention. Place your right hand over your heart or render the appropriate salute and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Third Junior Vice Commander and Americanism Chairman Costa led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which she withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Fran. And let's recognize Tracy, our transcriptionist over here who does a great job at keeping track of us for very many years. Thank you, Tracy. (Applause)

We're not going to do anything. We're just going to thank everybody. If you haven't been thanked, please stand. (Laughter) You know, the very first day we introduced our new members, our first-time attendees, do we have anybody here today that this is their first Convention as a newly-chartered Unit?

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

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. And to all you State Commander, Adjutants, just supporters within the community, everybody that has helped or been involved in forming a new Unit this year, thank you so very, very much. You've done a great job. Appreciate it. (Applause)

The National Adjutant will now call the roll of newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates. As your names are 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 1, Sandra Fincel, Alternate Lillian Halpin; District 3, Wanda Furbish, Alternate Sylvia Heath; District 5, Laurie Stopyra, Alternate Suzanne Seyboldt;

Alternate for District 6, Carol Simmons; District 7, Debbera McLaughlin, Alternate, Delphia "Marie" Bare; District 9, Lynn Prosser, Alternate Clyrissa Brown; District 11, Deborah Hall, Alternate Denise Proffitt;

District 13, Mabelene Stevens, Alternate Charyl Davis-Hager; District 15, Linda Gerke, Alternate Breanne Chandler; District 16 Alternate, Julie Weismann-Steinbaugh;

District 17, Earnestine Bennett, Alternate Kathy Phelps; District 19, Barbara Reding, Alternate Micki Kraft; District 21, Linda Oliver; Alternate Jennifer Hammons. (Applause) Way to go, Jennifer.

(Whereupon, Adjutant Hezlep withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation. As newly-elected National Executive Committee members and alternates are you willing to assume the oath of your office?

(Response of "I am.")

COMMANDER ADAMS: Members please stand. Place your right hand over your heart and using your name where I use mine please repeat the oath of your office.

"I, Donna Adams, having been selected as an Executive Committee member or alternate of this Auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all duties of the office I am about to enter.

"I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto to the best of my ability and means.

"When my successor has been duly selected and installed I promise to surrender all property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm."

You may lower your hands. Members, be seated. I am now pleased to present to you officers of your choice. With your help their terms of office will be highly successful. Would you please turn around.

(Whereupon, the newly-installed members of the National Executive Committee turned to face the membership and were recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: If you would all kind of clump together for some, a photo op here – clump, clump, clump, clump, clump. (Laughter) Smooch, smooch, smooch, smooch, smooch. Anybody want pictures, this is your opportunity.

(Whereupon, members came down the aisles and took photographs of the newly-installed Executive Committee members.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Hurry, hurry, hurry. Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one. Would the newly-elected NEC please take your seat. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the newly-elected NEC members withdrew to their seats.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Would our National Credentials Chairman Debbie Parker please come forward to give her final Credentials report. I hope everybody brought their badges today so you can actually vote.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Deborah Parker advanced to the podium.)

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PARKER: Madame Commander, National Officers, delegates and guests, this will be the final reading of the Credentials report.

Total Units registered, 181; total Department registered, 36; National Officers registered, 7; Past National Commanders registered, 10; total guests registered, 84; total Delegates, 375; total alternates, 19; total registered, 478; total vote count, 1,236. Madame Commander, I move that we accept the Credentials' report.

COMMANDER ADAMS: The motion has been made to accept the financial – the financial? – the final credentials report. Is there a second, please?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SUSAN HENRY: Susan Henry, Past National Commander, I second.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Seconded by Susan Henry, Past National Commander. Is there any discussion? All in favor please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. And thank you, Debbie, for a great job.

(Whereupon, Credentials Committee Chairman Deborah Parker withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Before we continue with our elections, I want to take you on the final leg of my journey this year. About three weeks ago I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospital with Past National Commander Jim Sursely from the great State of Florida.

And Jean chose to stay at the hotel and so the two of us took off with our National staffer Chad Moos to the hospitals. And I really thought that I would be horribly, horribly sad the whole time we were there.

And I've got to tell you, I have never seen so many young men and women in, with missing limbs, with traumatic brain injury. It was absolutely incredible. And one of the first things that struck me was a young man that was on a motorized gurney. And it's a short gurney, just about the length of the torso.

And what has happened is that so many of our young service people end up with such trauma to their buttocks that they can't sit down. They have lost that muscle in, where we all sit.

And so they're putting them on these motorized small gurneys and they're just going like crazy all over the place.

Well, we got to Building 62, which is the barracks where the family members come and stay with their loved ones. And you know it is a base, an Army base or an Army post, Navy base.

And so they follow all of the military, you know, you salute, you take off your cover when you go inside, all those things that you associate with a military installation.

But when you get to the area where this Building 62 is, there are big signs "From this point on there is no saluting and no need for wearing a cover inside and out." And that's because this is their home.

The one thing I want to share with you was I absolutely felt no sense of sadness and no sense of pity. These young men and women are – it's – I felt a sense of triumph because they are all restoring their lives and putting them back together.

And we have several Past National Commanders and present officers in the DAV – I think you all know David Riley. David is a quadruple amputee. Dennis Joyner is a Past National Commander, a triple amputee. And, of course, Jim Sursely is a triple amputee.

And these folks in particular, these three people, have spent a lot of time going up to these two hospitals where it's like the worst of the worst injuries and spending time with those soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen up there that they can see that life does go on and there is a better future for them. And they are doing outstanding work.

We went everywhere in the hospital, spent quite a bit of time in the prosthetic area where they are building just incredible apparatus and prostheses for these young men and women.

The one thing that I was very disturbed that we actually met with folks – the smoking area is kind of the social hub of the Building 62 barracks area. And we spent a lot of time out there visiting with folks.

One young man that we came upon had, was on his 147th surgery. He had been there three years. The one thing that I was really struck by, we were able to go with this one patient's mom into their home.

And she took us on a tour of their apartment. The families, what I was really struck by is there is very, very, very little support for the families.

And, you know, the wives or husbands and children are still military dependents because all the folks there, all the patients there are still DoD. They're still active military. And so they have the benefits of family members in the military, like TRI-Care and the insurance and that type of stuff.

But the number of moms that are there with their young soldier, sailor and marine, children, their sons and daughters, they have nothing. They have no benefits. And when they come in to, to Building 62, it's like when you're – if any of you are military brats or traveled with your loved one in the military you know that when you get to a barracks or base housing they're furnished apartments.

But the furnishings don't include pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, washcloths, dishes, soap, toilet paper; none of those things are there. So we have this situation of the families coming in and they're bringing, like you brought to Convention, they're bringing deodorant and toothpaste but who thinks to travel with toilet paper?

So they get there. They've flown in. They have no car to go do any shopping. And there is not a commissary on base or on post. And they do have like a very, very abbreviated Circle K. It doesn't even have as much as they have in a Circle K. So they're pretty much at the mercy of other folks who are already there.

And it's my understanding that they do a pretty good job of passing down the ironing board and the coffee maker and the popcorn maker from one family to the next. But they are in need.

And I took it back to my Unit and we're going to start trying to do some welcome kits with the bare essentials – a towel and a washcloth and a single use laundry detergent, maybe some cup-o-soup and a spoon to get them through the night or through the next morning. And then – and see about getting – they have a pantry and some of the things that, keep those things stocked where they can at least go and get some paper towels and toilet tissue if they need it.

But, at any rate, it was a wonderful experience. I thank our Convention Chairman Jean Sursely. Are you in here, Jean? Jean has done a marvelous job at this Convention but I want to thank Jean – yes, let's give it up. (Applause)

And I want to thank her for allowing me to take time out of their time. Jim was actually in Washington for a reunion of I believe the 196th Engineering Company from Vietnam. And it was a huge convention of all these Vietnam veterans.

But, anyway, I want to thank Jim for arranging that to happen, for, to Chad Moos for making it, for taking us as a guide. And Peter Ahern who is the Transitional Assistance Officer at that Army base, Naval post – Army post, Naval base, for taking us on the grand tour.

It was an incredible experience. And I wanted to share that with you as the final leg of my journey. Thank you. (Applause)

Also, I announced yesterday at our Forget-me-Not Luncheon but for any of you that were not able to go, at the NEC meeting last Thursday night your National Executive Committee

meeting, Committee adopted the new colors of the DAV, the olive drab revisited and gunmetal gray as the official logo colors for the DAV Auxiliary.

And this is a bold step and a move forward for us to completely support the DAV and become branded with those new colors. And I applaud you for that. And it will go back. (Applause)

Please take that back to your Units. We'll have more information on that as everything is developed. But we have, the DAV Auxiliary has gone green. So there you go.

At this time we will have the report of the Nominating Committee. Would the chairman please come forward with the Nominating Committee report – and I see it is Laurie Stopyra from the great State of Pennsylvania.

(Whereupon, Nominating Committee Chairman Laurie Stopyra advanced to the podium to give her report.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LAURIE STOPYRA: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: Our last session. Commander, PNCs, Officers, Units and guests, I had the pleasure to be the chairman for the Nominating Committee. My secretary was Margaret Snelling.

We had a really good Committee this year. And I'm going to go ahead and tell you who the winners or who we suggested to be on the slate, starting with the Commander.

Commander, Susan Miller. And if you will stand, please.

(Whereupon, the officers nominated for the 2013-2014 year by the Nominating Committee stood as their respective names were read.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: Senior Vice Commander LeeAnn Karg; First Junior Vice Commander Linda Stake; Second Junior Vice Commander Frances Costa; Third Junior Vice Commander Craig Johniken; Fourth Junior Vice Commander Ellen Timmerman; she is clear back in the back there; and Judge Advocate, Carol Gray.

This is our slate and I hope that you all would take them all into consideration. The people on the Nominating Committee – you may sit down.

(Whereupon, the officer nominees stood and the members of the Nominating Committee stood as their respective names were called.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: The people on the Nominating Committee were as follows: Nancy Mooney, Linda Trulio, Wanda Furbish, Dot Kashner, myself, Linda King, Kay Egan, Edwina Daganaugh –

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Daugereaux.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: Daugereaux – I'm sorry, Margaret Snelling, Donna Henshaw, Joyce Hutchinson, Kathy Lytie, Arlene daCorte – I'm sorry, Robyn Kenney, Bonita Mitchell, Julie Wisemann –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Julie Steinbaugh.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STOPYRA: Okay, well she didn't put Steinbaugh on the end. She just put the other part. Sorry.

Carlena(sic) Bennett, Lorna Kakesako; Crystal Tomlinson, and Betty Hall, and the last one is Mary Roden. Thank you so much, ladies. (Applause) And thank you for letting me be the chairman. I learned a lot in there.

I forgot, we had some recommendations. How the room was set up it was a little hard for the candidates, for everyone to hear them talking. So we talked about having the room set up where it would be a horseshoe and then have the candidate sitting like in the middle so that everyone could talk with them.

Well, they wouldn't be sitting by theirself. We would have the chairman or somebody would be sitting with them.

And the second one was make sure when you are doing your candidate form use the newest one because we had one that was old. It may not be accepted. It depends on how they're feeling that day if the Committee will accept it or not so make sure you get the newest one. And they're usually online so. Thanks again.

(Whereupon, as Nominating Committee Chairman Stopyra withdrew from the podium Adjutant Hezlep advanced to the podium.)

ADJUTANT HEZLEP: We will take that into consideration but we don't always have a choice as to room setups and how they're done. We do work with the hotel and we try and – pardon me – set up every Committee room very similar. But we will look into it.

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 ADAMS: Thank you. Last time I'm going to say this. Turn the page, Donna. (Laughter) Thank you to the members of the Nominating Committee for your time and effort. And at this time I will discharge the Nominating Committee and all other Convention Committees.

I now ask that the officers all leave the podium and go to your respective Districts for the purpose of nomination and election. NECs please join your District as well.

(Whereupon, the National Officers withdrew from the podium and, along with the NECs, joined their respective Districts.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Debbie McLaughlin, Bonita from Missouri – Bonita Mitchell, Ronnie Bergquist from Kansas, would you please come up and act as tellers. Can you make it up okay, Debbie? Oh, I'm sorry, the table over here, my dears. I'm sorry.

(Whereupon, the tellers advanced to the teller position.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. Susan Miller from Colorado has been nominated by the Committee for the office of National Commander.

MS. EARNESTINE BENNETT: Earnestine Bennett, Colorado, Unit 11. I second the nomination for Susan Miller as Commander and I would like to say that Susan has been a member since – well, she started as a Junior member in Harold Fay Tomlin Unit which bears the name of her late father.

She has went through the chairs –

COMMANDER ADAMS: Excuse me, Earnestine, would you like to come up here? Please. (Laughter) (Whereupon, Earnestine Bennett advanced to the podium for the purpose of a seconding speech.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: She does follow direction well, doesn't she? (Applause) And I'm going to leave right now so she doesn't hurt me. (Laughter)

MS. BENNETT: Earnestine Bennett, Colorado, Unit 11, second the nomination for Susan Miller as National Commander. Susan has been a member – she started as a Junior. She belongs to Harold Fay Tomlin which bears her late father's name.

She has went up the chairs in the state level. She has been adjutant – I don't even know how many years. She is still acting as adjutant. She has been fourth, second, third, first junior vice, now senior vice. And she will be our next National Commander. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Ms. Bennett withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Are there any other nominations for National Commander? Hearing none, I declare that nominations are closed.

All in favor of Susan Miller for the office of National Commander please signify by saying aye; those opposed. So carried.

(Whereupon, Susan Miller stood and was recognized with a standing ovation.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: You know, I've always thought it a bit ironic that candidates for office will go before a Nominating Committee, whose sole purpose is to see if they can make you cry, (Laughter) host a room, hand out gifts, and then we say to them, "Do you accept the nomination?" Well, heck yeah. (Laughter)

LeeAnn Karg from Minnesota has been nominated for the office of Senior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare that nominations are closed.

All in favor of LeeAnn Karg as Senior Vice Commander please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. LeeAnn, would you please stand.

(Whereupon, LeeAnn Karg stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Linda Stake from Arkansas has been nominated for First Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed.

All in favor of Linda Stake as First Junior Vice Commander please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. Linda Stake, would you please stand, First Junior Vice Commander. (Applause)

(Whereupon, Linda Stake stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: She's back there in the back. I knew these people ten minutes ago. (Laughter)

Fran Costa has been nominated as Second Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare that nominations are closed. All in favor signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. (Applause) Fran Costa, would you please stand. Fran Costa, Second Junior Vice Commander.

(Whereupon, Fran Costa stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: From the great State of Massachusetts – I am sorry. Craig Johniken from the great State of Texas has been nominated as Third Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none, I declare nominations closed. All in favor of Craig Johniken for Third Junior Vice Commander please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. Craig Johniken.

(Whereupon, Craig Johniken stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Ellen Timmerman from the great State of New Mexico has been nominated as Fourth Junior Vice Commander. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed.

All in favor of Ellen Timmerman for Fourth Junior Vice Commander please signify by saying aye; opposed. So carried. Ellen Timmerman, please stand.

(Whereupon, Ellen Timmerman stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Carol Gray from Michigan has been nominated for Judge Advocate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed.

All in favor Carol Gray as Judge Advocate please signify by saying aye; opposed. Carol Gray has been elected as Judge Advocate.

(Whereupon, Carol Gray stood and was recognized with a round of applause.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you. At this point the tellers are dismissed. Thank you for all your hard work. (Laughter) And the newly-elected officers, would you please return to your station. Ellen, you can come, too. (Laughter) We made a station for you.

(Whereupon, the newly-elected officers advanced to their stations.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Have a seat. Oh, you do good. The selection having been completed, I would ask the National Sergeant-at-Arms to come to the podium for the purpose

of introducing the National Executive Committee members and those members who served as Pages during this Convention.

(Whereupon, Sergeant-at-Arms Gates advanced to the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: I would also like to acknowledge our National Color Bearer and State Bearer. Are they in the room? They did a great job of presenting our Colors. (Applause) Thank you. Thank you so much. (Applause) Charlyn Davis – there is another name there that I'm not –

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CHARLYN DAVIS-HAGER: Hager.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Hager.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DAVIS-HAGER: Good morning.

(Response of "Good morning.")

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DAVIS-HAGER: Would the following NECs please come up.

(Whereupon, the National Executive Committee members advanced as their respective names were called.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DAVIS-HAGER: First District, Nancy Mooney; (Applause) Second District, Matilda Brooks; please hold your applause until the end and all the NECs are on the stage; Third District, Ann Schatz;

Fourth District, Dorothy Kashner; Fifth District, Suzanne Seyboldt; Sixth District, Ellen Griggs; Seventh District, Diane Franz; Eighth District, Edwina Daugereaux; Ninth District, Dorothy Reese;

Tenth District, Donna Henshaw; Eleventh District, Dorothy Clark; Twelfth District, Paula Raymond; Thirteenth District, Tana Penland; Fourteenth District, Robyn Kenney; Fifteenth District, Rebecca Bowman;

Sixteenth District, Doris Bogan; Seventeenth District, Ellen Timmerman; Eighteenth District, Lorna Kakesako; Nineteenth District, Christina Fairin; Twentieth District, Angelyn Scott; Twenty-first District, Kim Stake. (Applause)

Pages for the National Officers: Donna Adams was Veronica Bergquist and Lorna Kakesako; (Applause) for Susan Miller, Earnestine Bennett; (Applause) LeeAnn Karg, Robyn Kenney, and she is up here; (Applause)

For Linda Stake, Carol Stake; (Applause) for Frances Costa, Nancy Mooney and she is up here; (Applause) for Craig Johniken, Emma Ligon; (Applause) for Kathryn Wiley was Junior Taylor Close. (Applause)

And now if our Junior Pages will come up so they can be announced.

(Whereupon, the Junior Pages advanced to the podium.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DAVIS-HAGER: Jenicia Cannady; Amaya Davis; Lauren Davis; Khyre Hernandez; Niya Hernandez; Olivia Kashner-Forwood; Jonathan Braeder; Colton Myers; Katie Herzing; Alexandra McCray; Corey McCray; Devonte Morgan; Mary Myers.

And we had a few more juniors in the opening session. I would just like to say their name. They are not with us today: Eddie Heath, Tashine Hodges; Bethany Nelson; Daniel Nelson; Maxwell Van Alst; Juan Riviera; Julien Simpson; and Halle Wischmann. I didn't realize they are here. (Laughter) Some of them were. Thank you all. (Applause)

COMMANDER ADAMS: Nine, eight, seven, six, (Laughter) five, four, three, two, one. Thank you. (Applause)

(Whereupon, the Sergeant-at-Arms and Pages withdrew from the podium.)

COMMANDER ADAMS: All Pages are hereby dismissed. Good group. One more time. (Applause) You know, throughout this Convention we have seen DAV staff members scurrying around like little bunnies working their little patooties off to make sure everything at the Convention is going well.

And last night a whole bunch of them were wearing black shirts with a little coat of arms looking thing so you could really identify the number of people in the DAV that it took to put this Convention on together and there had to have been, geesh, 30 of them, 40 of them, 50 of them running around.

Well, on the Auxiliary level we have two and we have always said any time you have a complaint or an issue take it to Judy and Pat. But I'm going to tell you what, every time you have a compliment we should also take it to Judy and Pat. (Applause)

And these two and the gals in the office have done a – Brenda, Melody, and Bunny, they've done a great job. And thank you for everything you have done to make this Convention such a success. (Standing Ovation)

And at this point, you know, my, about six times during the last year somebody has said to me, "You've got your badge on upside down." And I have. (Laughter) And you know when you fly your flag upside down it's because you're in distress. (Laughter) And so today I purposefully put my badge on upside down.

This is it. God bless you all. Thank you. Madame Commander – (Standing Ovation) Thank you. And with that I hereby declare the 91st National Convention of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary hereby adjourned.

We will immediately go into the Installation of National Officers followed by the Executive, National Executive Committee meeting. And, Madame Commander, it's up to you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER MILLER: I'm not commander yet. I'm not installed. (Laughter)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DAVIS-HAGER: I apologize. There were two more Juniors in the Opening Session and one is – one of our outstanding Juniors so I would like to make sure to recognize Miss Rachel Cox and Miss Cecelia Cassity. And I apologize that I forgot them. (Applause) Thank you.

COMMANDER ADAMS: Thank you, Charlyn.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 o'clock, a.m., on Tuesday, August 13, 2013.)

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Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters

Financial Statements as of and for the
Year Ended December 31, 2012, 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, 2012, 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

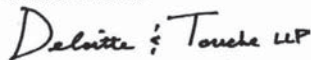
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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, 2012, 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.



March 29, 2013

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
GENERAL ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Cash	\$ 149,668	Accounts payable	\$ 1,369,180
Investments	7,917,685	Contributions distributable to state departments	450,810
Accrued interest receivable	7,310	Deferred membership fees	253,746
Materials and supplies	7,131	Other liabilities	<u>71,765</u>
Prepaid expenses	1,686		
Other assets	218	Total liabilities	<u>2,145,501</u>
SERVICE PROGRAM ASSETS:		LIFE MEMBERSHIP — Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	
Cash	18,767		<u>6,052,333</u>
Investments	307,672		
Receivable from General Fund	31,302		
DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM ASSETS — Cash		NET ASSETS:	
	4,018	Unrestricted	5,938,197
EDUCATION LOAN/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ASSETS:		Temporarily restricted:	
Cash	209,678	Service Program	357,741
Investments	493,748	Disaster Relief Program	4,018
Notes receivable (less allowance of \$57,193)	241,079	Education Loan/Scholarship Program	<u>1,294,528</u>
Receivable from General Fund	350,023		
		Total net assets	7,594,484
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ASSETS:			
Investments	5,802,477		
Accrued interest receivable	5,867		
Receivable from General Fund	<u>243,989</u>		
TOTAL	<u>\$ 15,792,318</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$ 15,792,318</u>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	Unrestricted General	Temporarily Restricted			Total
		Service Program	Disaster Relief Program	Education Loan/ Scholarship Program	
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:					
Membership fees and mandates	\$ 117,693	\$ 2,435	\$ -	\$ 3,558	\$ 123,686
Life membership dues	447,337				447,337
Contributions	312,095	7,913	150	9,141	329,299
Contributed facilities	27,100				27,100
Conference and meetings	21,174				21,174
National convention	34,680				34,680
Interest and dividends	362,802	768		3,156	366,726
Realized investment gains	85,008				85,008
Net assets released from restrictions	19,430	(19,430)			-
Other	7,423				7,423
Total support and revenue	<u>1,434,742</u>	<u>(8,314)</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>15,855</u>	<u>1,442,433</u>
EXPENSES:					
Program services	1,372,125	6		70,161	1,442,292
Fundraising costs	262,393				262,393
General and administrative	314,055				314,055
Total expenses	<u>1,948,573</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,161</u>	<u>2,018,740</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(513,831)	(8,320)	150	(54,306)	(576,307)
CHANGE IN UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS	<u>253,147</u>			<u>(2,262)</u>	<u>250,885</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(260,684)	(8,320)	150	(56,568)	(325,422)
NET ASSETS — Beginning of year	<u>6,198,881</u>	<u>366,061</u>	<u>3,868</u>	<u>1,351,096</u>	<u>7,919,906</u>
NET ASSETS — End 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>

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	Program Services	Fund Raising Costs	General and Administrative	Total Expenses
Salaries and wages	\$ 233,886	\$ 15,401	\$ 73,281	\$ 322,568
Employee benefits	585,538	35,496	115,399	736,433
Distributions to state departments	110,121			110,121
Fundraising expenses		201,973		201,973
Payroll taxes	18,811	1,211	5,740	25,762
Conferences and meetings	78,572			78,572
Expenses of national convention	117,556			117,556
Cost of membership items sold	880			880
Printing, stationery and office supplies	102,445	1,328	1,015	104,788
Expenses of national commander and officers	55,377			55,377
Contributed facilities	18,404	4,929	3,767	27,100
Postage		1,699	23,431	25,130
Travel	11,094		760	11,854
Professional fees			48,289	48,289
Service program benefits	19,430			19,430
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, memberships, and other awards	4,859			4,859
Other	<u>85,319</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>42,373</u>	<u>128,048</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,442,292</u>	<u>\$ 262,393</u>	<u>\$ 314,055</u>	<u>\$ 2,018,740</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Change in net assets	\$ (325,422)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Change in unrealized appreciation in investments	(436,450)
Realized investment gains	(85,008)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Accrued interest receivable	4,984
Materials and supplies	4,249
Prepaid expenses and other assets	5,088
Receivable from General Fund	170,339
Accounts payable	542,212
Contributions distributable to state departments	56,754
Deferred membership fees	(2,662)
Reserve for future distribution of life membership dues	351,407
Other liabilities	<u>3,330</u>

Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>288,821</u>
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CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Purchases of investments	(2,618,376)
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,060,410
Collections from repayment of education loans	<u>68,350</u>

Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(489,616)</u>
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NET DECREASE IN CASH	(200,795)
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CASH:

Beginning of year	<u>582,926</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 382,131</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, 2012

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.

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. The ASU converges fair value measurement and disclosures among accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) and International Financial Reporting Standards. ASU 2011-04 changes certain fair value measurement principles and expands disclosure requirements, particularly for Level 3 inputs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011, and should be applied prospectively. DAVA adopted ASU 2011-04 for the year ended December 31, 2012 and it had no material impact on DAVA's financial position, cash flows or change in net assets.

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 Notes Receivable — Students who receive education loans are required to begin repayment six months after completion of their studies. DAVA maintains a reserve for uncollectible loans. The amount of the reserve is equal to 100% of all loans that have been placed with a collection agency with no payments received and 50% of loans that have been placed with a collection agency and payments have been received.

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 are paid.

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.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes — Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes by prescribing the recognition threshold a tax position is required to meet before being recognized in the financial statements. It also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, disclosure, and transition. DAVA applies ASC Topic 740 and notes no effect on its financial statements.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities 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 2012 in the reserve for future distribution of life membership dues are as follows:

Balance — January 1, 2012	\$ 5,700,925
Additions:	
Membership dues received	353,860
Earnings on invested assets	266,769
Gain on sale of investments	<u>82,271</u>
Total additions	<u>702,900</u>
Deductions:	
Dues to National Headquarters	448,357
Dues to local units	25,187
Dues to State Departments	53,703
Investment fee	<u>9,810</u>
Total deductions	<u>537,057</u>
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	<u>185,565</u>
Balance — December 31, 2012	<u>\$ 6,052,333</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, 2012, are summarized below:

2012	Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
General fund:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 75,755	\$ 75,755	\$ -
Mutual funds — domestic equity	2,896,487	3,115,284	218,797
Mutual funds — international equity	139,170	177,384	38,214
Mutual funds — domestic fixed income	3,892,959	3,935,664	42,705
Mutual funds — international fixed income	<u>642,534</u>	<u>613,598</u>	<u>(28,936)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,646,905</u>	<u>\$ 7,917,685</u>	<u>\$ 270,780</u>
Service Program — certificates of deposit	<u>\$ 307,672</u>	<u>\$ 307,672</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Education Loan Program:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 25,659	\$ 25,659	\$ -
Commercial paper	211,147	208,885	(2,262)
Certificates of deposit	<u>259,204</u>	<u>259,204</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 496,010</u>	<u>\$ 493,748</u>	<u>\$ (2,262)</u>
Life membership:			
Cash equivalents	\$ 89,731	\$ 89,731	\$ -
Mutual funds — domestic equity	1,898,878	2,031,399	132,521
Mutual funds — international equity	137,445	165,677	28,232
Mutual funds — domestic fixed income	3,048,874	3,078,511	29,637
Mutual funds — international fixed income	<u>458,091</u>	<u>437,159</u>	<u>(20,932)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,633,019</u>	<u>\$ 5,802,477</u>	<u>\$ 169,458</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 2012.

The DAVA's policy is to recognize significant transfer between levels at the actual date of the event. There were no transfers from Level 1 to Level 2 during 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 has been no change in the methodologies used at December 31, 2012.

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.

Certificates of deposit, categorized as Level 2, are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

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 during the year ended December 31, 2012, 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	\$ 75,755	\$ -	\$ 75,755
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	3,115,284		3,115,284
International equity funds	177,384		177,384
Domestic fixed income funds	3,935,664		3,935,664
International fixed income funds	613,598		613,598
Total mutual funds	7,841,930	-	7,841,930
Total	\$ 7,917,685	\$ -	\$ 7,917,685
Service Program — certificates of deposit	\$ -	\$ 307,672	\$ 307,672
Education Loan Program			
Cash equivalents	\$ 25,659	\$ -	\$ 25,659
Domestic equity funds	208,885		208,885
Certificates of deposit		259,204	259,204
Total	\$ 234,544	\$ 259,204	\$ 493,748
Life membership — cash equivalents	\$ 89,731	\$ -	\$ 89,731
Mutual funds:			
Domestic equity funds	2,031,399		2,031,399
International equity funds	165,677		165,677
Domestic fixed income funds	3,078,511		3,078,511
International fixed-income funds	437,159		437,159
Total mutual funds	5,712,746	-	5,712,746
Total	\$ 5,802,477	\$ -	\$ 5,802,477

6. FREEDOMS FOUNDATION

DAVA has designated \$5,901 of unrestricted funds for the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

7. DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Education Loan/Scholarship Program — Effective in 2011, the Education Loan Program was discontinued and replaced with a scholarship program. Donations from individuals and amounts received from each unit as a mandate for scholarships are recorded as temporarily restricted assets from which scholarships are awarded to students in accordance with the by-laws of DAVA. In 2012, there were 38 scholarships in amounts of \$750, \$1,000, or \$1,500 issued to selected Auxiliary member applicants for a total of \$49,350. The existing education loans are still required to be repaid in accordance with the terms of the original loan agreements. At December 31, 2012, the total amount of loans outstanding was \$241,079.

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.

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.

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 2012, DAV charged DAVA \$736,433 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 2012, 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 2012 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, 2012, DAVA owed approximately \$771,150 for such costs, which is recorded as a payable in the accompanying statement of financial position.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No events have occurred after December 31, 2012, but before March 29, 2013, 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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